

5 days in Thessaloniki

28th
Thessaloniki
Lyceum

11-15 of April 2022

Erasmus+
*Let's build the city
of our future*



Thessaloniki's meeting brochure



Enjoy!

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Thessaloniki's meeting

4 cities, 4 schools, 32 students, 8 teachers

PARTICIPANTS OF THESSALONIKI'S ERASMUS MEETING

Bulgaria, 119 Secondary School "Acad. M. Arnaudov"

MARTIN PLAMENOV
METHODIEV
PETAR FILIPOV
VESELIN YAVOROV PINDEV
IVANOVA ILIEVA
VAVASILENA PETROVA
SHEKEROVA
TIYANA NIKOLAEVA YANEVA
IVANA SVETLINOVA
KARACHOMAKOVA
PETYA MINCHEVA
SILVIA MANOVA

France, Brétigny-sur-Orge, Lycée Jean-Pierre Timbaud

GOK SEVIM
COUBARD LYNE
BLOCAIL WILHEIM
PRELE MARTIN
GROUT GAELLE
KHARBACHE SELYA
DULOUNG CORINNE

GHOUBALI LINDA

France, Saint-Benoît (Réunion), Amiral Bouvet High School

LACOTTE ARNAULD
RAHARIMANANA CALLISTE
CHOWBAY EZEKIEL
D'HEURWEIHER ULRICH
CHANE KANE PIERRE BRICE
PLANTE KILLIANE
DANIELE TEVANE
MARIE LAURE SOURIGUES

Greece, Thessaloniki, 28th Lyceum

PELTEKIS VASILEIOS
TSANTILAS ELEUTHERIOS
STABOLIDIS DIMITRIOS
KONTEAS VASILEIOS
KATSI EUTIXIA
KONSTANTINIDOU SOFIA
GIORTSOU EVAGGELIA
CHANTZIDIS THEODOROS



1 month before the meeting



Our first photo!



FIND OUT MORE AT OUR ERASMUS+ SCHOOL BLOG

<https://blogs.sch.gr/futurecities28gethess/>

City of history



On our first day's guided tours in Thessaloniki, despite the really windy weather, we managed to see:

Trigoniu Tower in the city's Byzantine walls

The Trigoniu Tower is the most famous and impressive tower of the wall. It was built in the late 15th century to prevent an invasion of the city and help during a siege. It is a great fortification project that was raised by the Turkish authorities after the occupation of Thessaloniki at 1430. Their purpose was to reinforce with an artillery tower, the sensitive point in which most invasions were accounted for.

The name Trigoniu (= triangle) Tower is due to the text of Ioannis Anagnostou, which refers to the stairs that the enemies touched on the Trigoniu and thus invaded the city. There is also the view that the triangle was called the triangular cantilever of the northern city walls on which the gate of Anna Palaiologina had been opened. In the Trigoniu Tower, which is also called "the balcony of Thessaloniki", we had the chance to enjoy the magnificent and imposing panoramic image of the city hugging the sea.

The Rotonda

The Rotonda (or Rotunda) is one of the most important Roman monuments in Thessaloniki. It stands just next to the Arch of Galerius in the city center and it is also known as the Church of Agios Georgios. This cylindrical structure was built in 306 AD by the Roman tetrarch Galerius, who intended it to be his grave. At first, it worked as a temple but it remains unknown to which god this temple was dedicated. In 1912, the Greeks deliberated Thessaloniki and Rotonda was converted into an Orthodox church again, till 1979, when a strong earthquake caused serious damage to the structure. Presently, the Rotonda has been restored and works as a sculpture museum. Also, it frequently hosts various exhibitions. The Rotonda has a diameter of 24,5 meters and its walls are more than 6 meters thick, which has protected the monument from time, sieges and earthquakes. This is one of the oldest Orthodox churches and has been included in the UNESCO list of the World Heritage Sites.

We visited Thessaloniki's meeting point and the symbol of the city



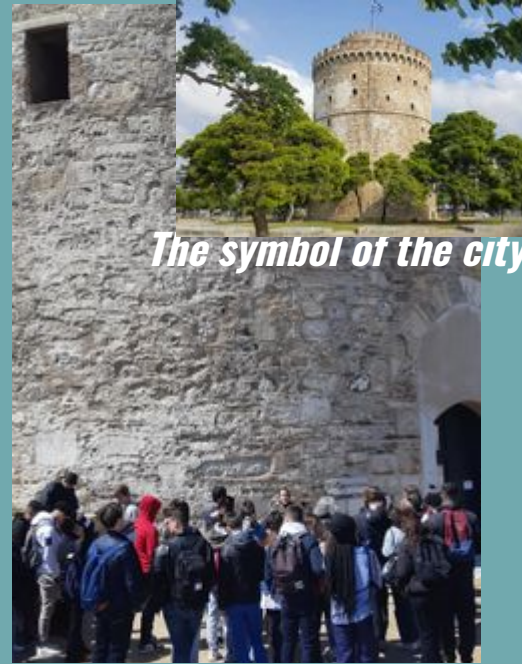
Arch of Galerius "Kamara"

The Arch of Galerius (known today as "Kamara"), is perhaps the most distinctive and interesting roman structure of Thessaloniki. It is also one of the most popular destinations of the city along with the White Tower for both locals and tourists. It was built to honor the Roman Emperor Galerius who

returned victorious to Thessaloniki (about 306 AD) after the wars against the Persians. The triumphal arch was placed vertically on ancient Roman Egnatia Road, passed through the city, and was part of the Roman palace which stretched further southwest, and where Navarinou and Ippodromiou squares stand today.



Kamara's structure was originally an eight-pillared gateway that formed a triple arch faced with brick and marble panels with sculptural relief. Only three of the eight pillars and parts of the masonry cores survive. The two pillars that flank the central arched passageway retain their marble sculptures that depict Roman soldiers fighting against the Persians. The sculptured panels hold the interest of history buffs and art lovers alike. One panel shows Galerius attacking the Persian general Narses. Another depicts the imperial family, including Galerius' wife, Valeria. The arch asserts the glory of the Roman tetrarchy and Galerius' dominance and is located within the ruins of Galerius' palace.



The symbol of the city



White Tower Museum

The White Tower has housed the new permanent exhibition on Thessaloniki from the age of its founding in 316/15 B.C. to the present. The exhibition summarily presents aspects of the city's history, which is distinguished by its long and unbroken historical presence. Over time, Thessaloniki never lost its "urban" and multicultural character.

The goal of the exhibition is to "introduce" the city through a summary "narrative" of its history, above all to its residents, and to focus their interest on becoming further acquainted with it by visiting thematic museums and monuments.

The exhibition is organized thematically. Each floor features one major theme, developed over time. The main theme is briefly presented in the central space, with more detailed treatment in the surrounding rooms.



Coffee at Ladadika with our partners

Nights in Thessaloniki are an unforgettable experience! The most famous travel magazines and websites discovered one after another the nightlife of the city. In fact, National Geographic included Thessaloniki in the list of the top 10 cities with the best nightlife worldwide! In the afternoon after launch we visited for coffee the famous "Ladadika"!

This city is never asleep





Reception of partners in the school *day 2*

After the first acquaintance with the city, the day came for our guests to get to know our school. From early in the morning everything is ready in the school event hall. The space has been arranged properly, while a rich buffet with homemade food for the break has been set up with offers mainly from our students. After the reception by the program coordinator Th. Glaraki and the school principal D. Sokoutis, the English counselor and responsible for pedagogical issues for our school Th. Maniakas spoke, whose

communication skills quickly made our guests to feel comfortable. Then, observing in some way the ancient Greek custom, came the time of gifts. To each of our guest students and teachers we gave gifts representative of the city or the program: maps and books about Thessaloniki and the wider area, promotional material from city agencies (Helexpo, EYATH, EOT, OTH) and local products. This was followed by a break where our foreigners tasted the famous bougatsa of Thessaloniki and other homemade delicacies.



meeting's poster, brochure and programme

City of
positive thinking



day 2

 
United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNESCO Chair on Futures Research, PRAXI Network, Foundation for Research and Technology Hellas, Greece

On the second day, a four-hour Workshop on the Future was organized and held by Foresight & Tools Unit, PRAXI Network & Unesco Chair on Futures Research. We were honoured to have with us

E. Christofilopoulos, Head of the UNESCO Chair on futures Research in the Foundation for Research and technology Hellas (FORTH) and his colleagues **J. Andronikidis, A. Papaterpou**

The students were introduced to key concepts such as Everyday Future Thinking, Foresight and Anticipation, as well as writing and artistic practices by. More specifically, the participants had the chance to develop competencies that help them:

navigating complexity, being resilient, responsive to change, innovative and creative. By the end of the training, participants had an overview of megatrends, trends and factors of change and we hope they were able to understand the use and value of different methods and tools for mid and long-term planning and developed their anticipatory skills. Some useful information about the organisation that held the workshop:

The Foundation for Research and Technology Hellas (FORTH) is one of the largest Research Centers in Greece ranking in the top place in Greece between the Research institutions, and in place 55 in Europe and 142 globally (among 7953 research institutes). Collaborating with the Praxi Network, whose activities are now spread over the whole innovation chain, including support for commercialization of research, innovation policy, and foresight, they host the UNESCO Chair on Futures Research. Acknowledging the importance of long-term thinking and strategizing, it is the first institution in Greece to invest in the establishment of a research structure focusing exclusively on Futures Studies and Foresight. The unit offers trainings aiming at the development of anticipatory skills, innovation support, and creative thinking. They design and run participatory "Future Workshops". The deployment of collective intelligence and action learning approaches, facilitates the creation of new knowledge and helps participants master a variety of future-oriented techniques and tools.

workshops!



We tried to have a glance at the future under the guidance of the experts



On the third day we took the bus

to Trikala!

The smart city

Trikala is a city in western Thessaly, the capital of the Regional Unit of Trikala and the Municipality of Trikala.

We had the chance to learn that the wider area of Trikala has been inhabited since prehistoric times and the first signs of life in the area reach up to about 49,000 BC. Neolithic settlements from 6,000 BC have also been discovered in the wider area. The current city of Trikala is built on the ancient city of Triikka or Trikki, which was founded around the 3rd millennium BC. The ancient Trikki is also known as the homeland of the god and doctor of antiquity, Asclepius.

Today the city of Trikala is considered the smartest city in Greece and one of the fastest growing cities in Greece. It is a good example of a city, a guide for how small targeted actions

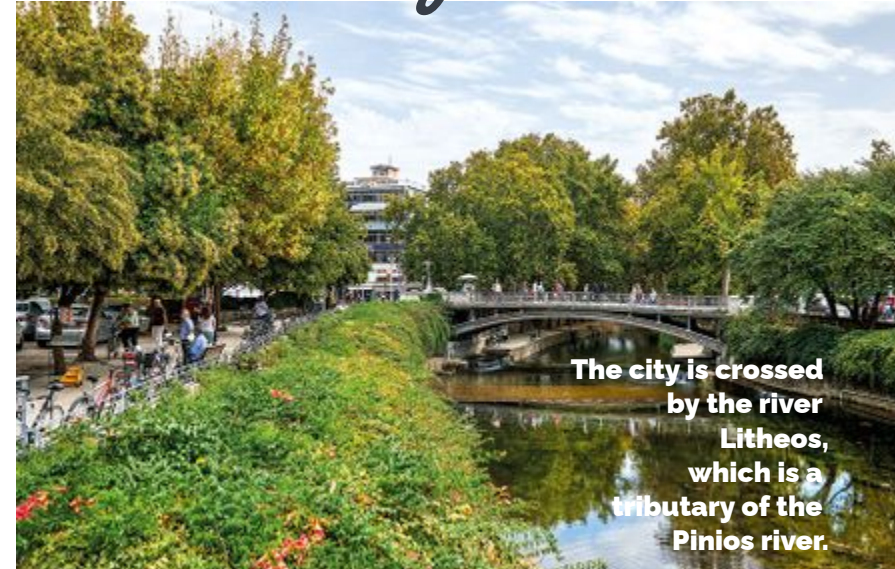
and a framework of action can lead a society in a positive direction. Its goal is smart, sustainable and inclusive development and so far has managed to transform into a municipality, a model for the use of new technologies, but in the service of the citizen and development.

Among smart sensors, driverless buses, sustainable development and ecological agriculture human is always in the center.

We visited the Municipality building of Trikala and we were informed about all the innovations and pioneering actions of the Municipality by mr Athanasios Mihalakis, the Press representative of the Municipality. His presentation was followed by a constructive discussion with the students.



day 3



The city is crossed by the river Litheos, which is a tributary of the Pinios river.



Meteora



We had the chance to visit one of the most sacred and serene places of our country

The second most important monastic complex in Greece, after Mount Athos.

Meteora is a complex of dark sandstone rocks that rise outside Kalampaka in Thessaly, near the first hills of Pindos and Hassia. It has the form of steep peaks with a height of up to 200 meters and a width of up to 300 meters. The monasteries of Meteora are built on the tops of some of the rocks. Of the thirty that have existed historically, today only six are in operation, which, since 1988, are included in the list of UNESCO World Heritage Sites. The wild and inaccessible landscape was a suitable place for the Christian ascetics who settled in the area. According to various

opinions of Byzantine scholars, it is claimed that it started before the 11th century.

Meteora, due to their morphology, offered during the Turkish occupation an ideal refuge for monasticism and saved cultural monuments and works of post-Byzantine art. At the beginning of the 19th century many monasteries were looted by the army of Ali Pasha. In the 1920s, ladders and tunnels were carved into the rocks, making the monasteries accessible from the neighboring plateau, and so the traditional method of communicating and supplying the monasteries with escalators, ropes, pulleys and baskets was gradually abandoned.



Meteora, The rocks of God

We visited the monastery of **Agios Stefanos** or St. Steven. It is by far the most accessible monastery, where instead of steps we simply crossed a small bridge to reach the entrance. It is ideal for visitors with mobility issues who cannot use the steps and yet wish to have a real experience of a Meteora monastery. The beginning of the Agios Stephanos monastery, the only female monastery of Meteora, dates back to the early 12th century and the first hermit monks who settled on the cliff. Centuries later, Hosios Antonios, in the first half of the 15th century, and Hosios Philotheos, who

renovated or rather rebuilt from its foundations the old small and elegant Catholicon, the present church of Agios Stephanos, in 1545 are mentioned as its founders. We were guided to the unique and historical monastery by a very kind nun, who answered all of our students' questions. Then, we reached the Monastery of the Transfiguration of the Savior, also known as the Great Meteor and had a quick stop there. It is a male monastery which is located at the highest point of Meteora, at an altitude of 534 meters. It is the largest of the six that continue to be active in Meteora.



Vergina



The capital of the ancient Kingdom of Macedonia

On the fourth day we took the bus to the most significant of all the places we visited with our partners.

Vergina is best known as the site of ancient Aigai (Aiyáι, Aigai, Latinized: Aegae), the first capital of Macedon. In 336 BC Philip II was assassinated in Aigai's theatre and his son, Alexander the Great, was proclaimed king. The most important recent finds were made in 1977 when the burial sites of several kings of Macedon were found, including the tomb of Philip II which had not been disturbed or looted, unlike so many of the other tombs there. It is also the site of an extensive royal palace. The archaeological museum of Vergina was built to house all the artifacts found at the site and is one of the most important museums in Greece. Aigai has been awarded UNESCO World Heritage Site status as "an exceptional testimony to a significant development in European civilization, at the transition from classical city-state to the imperial structure of the Hellenistic and Roman periods". Everyone was astonished and we were all standing speechless in front of the live history

of Greece.

Museum of Royal Tombs of Aigai Aggeliki, our tour guide mentioned that inside the museum there were four tombs and one small temple, the heroon, built as the temple for the burial cluster of Philip II. The two most important tombs were not sacked and contained the main treasures of the museum. Tomb II of Philip II, the father of Alexander was discovered in 1977 and was separated in two rooms. The main room included a marble chest, and in it was the larnax made of 24 carat gold and weighing 11 kilograms (24 lb), embossed with the Vergina Sun symbol. Inside the golden larnax were found the bones of the dead and a golden wreath of 313 oak leaves and 68 acorns, weighing 717 grams (25,3 oz). In the room were also found the golden and ivory panoply of the dead, the richly carved burial bed on which he was laid and later burned and exquisite silver utensils for the funeral feast. Other magnificent items include several gold-adorned suits of armour, weapons and bronze funeral utensils.

day 4



The museum of the tumulus of Philip II, which was inaugurated in 1993, was built over the tombs leaving them in situ and showing the tumulus as it was before the excavations.



The City of Veria

A beautiful historical town

We couldn't leave without visiting an, even by the standards of Greece, really old city, Veria. First mentioned in the writings of Thucydides in 432 BC, there is evidence that it was populated as early as 1000 BC. Veria was an important possession for Philip II of Macedon (father of Alexander the Great) and later for the Romans. Apostle Paul famously preached in the city, and its inhabitants were among the first Christians in the Empire. Later, under the Byzantine and Ottoman empires, Veria was a center of Greek culture and learning.

Today Veria is a commercial center of Central Macedonia, the capital of the regional unit of Imathia and the seat of a

Church of Greece Metropolitan bishop in the Ecumenical Patriarchate, as well as a Latin Catholic titular see.

There we had a tour guide of the old city made by the students of the 5th Lyceum of Veria and their teacher, Franka Karagianni, who also runs an erasmus program. We had a tour in small groups at a place that stands out for the unique proximity of a Christian church (the Old Cathedral), the Jewish Synagogue and an Ottoman Mosque. We also had the opportunity to walk in the picturesque Barbuta, which crosses the Tripotamos River, and visit the old Jewish Quarter. Everybody enjoyed the day in Veria and left with the best memories.



The Jewish Synagogue



Apostle Paul's Step

Last day at 28 Lyceum Thessaloniki



Presentations

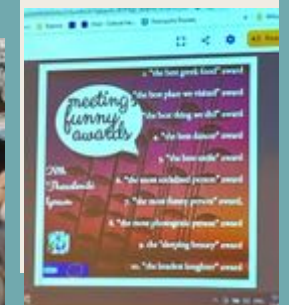
day 5

All of our partners and our students did an excellent work making their presentations on the topic "what to keep, what to change in my city, so it becomes my dream city". The topics were explored in depth and the students, very well prepared, presented their work in an exceptional way.

28th
Lyceum
of
Thessaloniki

We had prepared an online quiz (kahoot) with 20 questions, where every partner country could vote and give its answer. The team from Reunion, France emerged victorious, as it had the majority of the correct answers and collected the most points.

Then we had our funny meeting's awards. Every country voted for the highlights of the meeting and gave rise to a discussion between the groups.



Cities' creation



The past and the future



imagination, cooperation, discussions



farewell party

Taste of Greece

What followed the presentations and the workshops is hard to describe. You can only see, hear and taste the party that every partner of the programme will never forget! Greek traditional dances and music by a very well

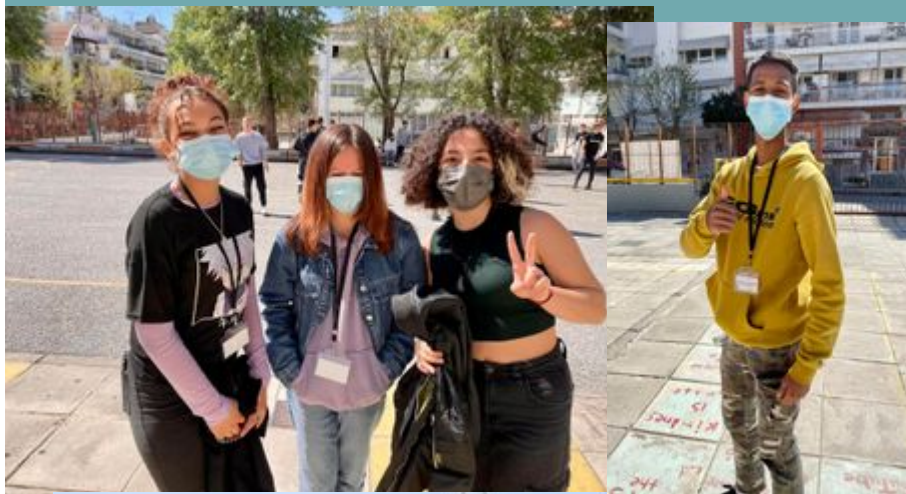
prepared group of students-dancers which turned in a big, impressive, circle syrtaki dance, that all the students enjoyed very much! After the party it was the turn of Greek cuisine to steal the show.



Delicacies of all kinds filled the tables. Village pies, mousaka, pastitsio, spetsofai, meatballs, salads and a variety of sweets were only a part of the delicious meal that impressed everyone!



Parents, teachers and students did their best to satisfy our guests and give them the original taste of greek cuisine.



*changing lives,
opening minds,
spreading love!*



Days at school you remember for a lifetime...



In the end we gave parting hugs and we all promised to continue communicating, despite the distances, because we became friends. The purpose of the program was achieved and the satisfaction and enthusiasm of the students gave us the strength to continue bringing together students from all over Europe and enjoy the benefits of such an event! Thank you Erasmus!



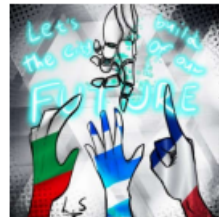
Farewell party is over



*We had to say goodbye.
We are friends now...*

Every day is unique. It has its own color, light, taste and sound. We hope everyone enjoys erasmus experience as we did!

The **Futures Thinking Workshop** is conducted under the auspices of the UNESCO Chair on Futures Research (FORTH/PRAXI Network) and the Special Secretariat for Strategic Foresight (Hellenic Republic, Presidency of the Government)



Let's build the city of our future

PARTICIPANTS



France

Lycée Jean-Pierre Timbaud
Brétigny-sur-Orge



Bulgaria

119 Secondary School
Academician Mihail Arnaudov
Sofia



France

LycéeAmiral Bouvet
Ile de la Réunion



Greece

28th Thessaloniki Lyceum
Thessaloniki

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Oliana Antonopoulou, Journalist and Head of Press Office. Public Relations & CSR Dept. at Thessaloniki Water Supply & Sewerage Co. S.A. (EYATH SA)

Tourism Promotion and Marketing Organization of the prefecture of Thessaloniki EOT (Greek National Tourism Organization)

A. Grammenos from HELEXPO (leading Greek organizer of exhibitions & conferences in Thessaloniki)

**F. Karagianni and her students from the Erasmus team of 5th Lyceum of Veria
Parents, colleagues and students of 28th Lyceum of Thessaloniki**