



ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΗ ΔΗΜΟΚΡΑΤΙΑ
Υπουργείο Παιδείας,
Έρευνας και Θρησκευμάτων



Co-funded by the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union

2nd Junior High School of Amaliada
ERASMUS+ PROGRAMME KA 2 STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP “European Schools Go Green” 2017 - 2020



Erasmus+ programme “European Schools Go Green” 2017 – 2020

3d Year of Collaboration

Goethe Gymnasium Kassel, Germany
Galileo Galilei Technical High School of Genova, Italy
2nd Junior High School of Amaliada, Greece

Renewable Energy Sources – Sustainable Development – Climate change

Scientists, Specialists and activists Interviews 2020

Interview of
Mrs Haroula Kromyadou
Responsible for Environmental Education Projects of Arcturos NGO



Foundation of ARCTUROS



Bear Cubs Rescue, Care and Wild Release by Arcturos

Photo credits : ©APKTOYPOΣ

Video : <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UDpx4uE0rlg>

ARCTUROS is a non profit, non governmental, environmental organization (NGO) founded in 1992, focusing on the protection of wildlife fauna and natural habitat, in Greece and abroad. The foundation of ARCTUROS was driven by constant need to solve the problem of bear and wolf imprisonment; a common occurrence at the time. It was that need, which led to the creation of a complete action framework, under the umbrella of ARCTUROS.

<https://www.arcturos.gr/en/>



Photo credits : ©APKTOYPOΣ

*Functioning of the Environmental Center of ARCTUROS
Among other activities of ARCTUROS, priority has been given to scientific research as well as to providing environmental education and raising*

public awareness on matters such as biodiversity and viability, while practicing political pressure based on complete programs and solutions.



Photo credits : ©APKTOYPOΣ

1. Can you please describe yourself? How did you decide to work on these subjects and how did you decide to work with Arktouros and offer so much to the wild nature and life of our country?

My name is Haroula Kromiadou and I' m a philologist-pedagogist with post-graduate studies in School Pedagogy and Environmental Education. I work at the NGO ARCTUROS, where my responsibilities include planning and implementing Environmental Education projects for children and adults. I met ARCTUROS when I was a student as a volunteer and a short time later I was offered a job to work there. I accepted the job because I always loved animals and children.



Photo credits : ©APKTOYPOΣ

2. How does the Greece 's policies on wild life protection compare with the other European countries?

Greece follows all the European laws and International Conventions for the Protection of Environment and Wildlife. There are a lot of Public and non-Governmental Organizations working to protect wildlife. Due to the Mediterranean climate and its location Greece hosts many rare and endemic wild species. Some of them are endangered and need to be protected. Thanks to ARCTUROS and other organizations Greece is doing remarkably well in the protection of some endangered species and a few years ago became the 1st European and the 2nd country in the world to ban the use of any animals in circuses.



Photo credits : ©APKTOYPOΣ

- 3. What have you observed that maybe connects to the climate change the past years? Is there a climate change effect on Greece's wild life?**

The last decade we have observed that sometimes the bears wake up from their hibernating sleep earlier due to the short winter. We also need to find out if and how climate change is affecting bears' diet. There is a connection to the climate change, but we need more research data for valid conclusions.

- 4. What has made wild animals approach cities and villages more often the last decades? How is this phenomenon managed in Greece and other countries?**

In several areas of Northern Greece, bears sometimes approach the villages. ARCTUROS cooperates with the State and other NGO's and in a short time new guidelines for the management of bear population will be created that will provide the actions necessary for the confrontation of the conflicts. Similar practices are implemented abroad. More details here: <https://www.hellenicbearregister.com/>



Photo credits : ©APKTOYPOΣ

- 5. What do you think of schools educational visits in your center? Do you have any data about the feedback and dissemination of your work to students and their schools and families?**

Every year 10,000 students visit the International Environmental Center of ARCTUROS and another 10,000-15,000 attend the educational programs of the organization. We have a very positive feedback. Some aspects of this feedback are:

- Some schools make a donation or organize supporting events to ARCTUROS' actions.
- Other schools send us creative dissemination and information works on the actions of ARCTUROS.
- A lot of students visit ARCTUROS again with their family and when they grow up they become volunteers.

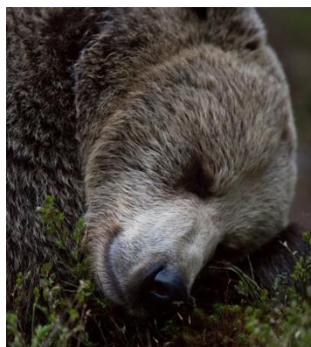


Photo credits : ©APKTOYPOΣ

- 6. What international networks are you participating in? How are you collaborating? What are the differences between Greece's educational environmental projects and other countries similar activities and projects for students?**

ARCTUROS participates in a lot of International networks as:

- The IBA (International Bear Association), <https://www.bearbiology.org/>
- The Society for Conservation Biology, <https://conbio.org/>
- The EARS (European Alliance of Rescue Centers and Sanctuaries), <http://ears.org/>
- The LCIE (Large Carnivore Initiative for Europe), <https://www.lcie.org/>
- The ENDCAP (End Captivity), <https://endcap.eu/animal-welfare-excellence/>
- The IENE (Infra Eco Network Europe), <http://www.iene.info/>

Here in Greece we have a high level of Environmental Education. Maybe, we need more connection to nature.

7. **How can you explain how Greece is left behind in sustainable development and recycling? What are the main problems that become obstacles ? How about financial crisis of Greece and this present Covid19 pandemic? Did they affect your work?**

The recycling and the sustainable development are important and we have made significant progress. More cooperation and communication between the state and the citizens is needed.

The financial crisis and the current pandemic of Covid-19 made the task of ARCTUROS difficult, but a lot of citizens helped us to continue our actions. Despite the difficulties, we are optimistic and continue to protect the environment and wildlife.



Photo credits : ©APKTOYPOΣ/Karamanidis

8. **What is the role of the European programmes in your work? Do they help in protecting wild nature and ecological balance, biodiversity and sustainable development? Do we need to adopt**

different policies and take more advantage of European Programmes?

The European programs are crucial in protecting biodiversity and creating sustainable development. ARCTUROS has implemented more than 22 European programs and it keeps going.

As a member of European Union we take advantage of the European programs, but we need to adopt a more stable policy of maintaining the results of the programs.

- 9. Do you think that Greek students and their families have an idea of all the above issues? What would you think the schools may do better? Are the projects like our Erasmus+ project helping spread the information and change the attitude of Greek students and their families , inspire and activate citizens ?**

The Erasmus+ are significant programs because they increase European co-operation. It would be even more effective if many more schools could participate in such a program.

Every year a lot of programs of Environmental Education take place in Greek schools. A consistent environmental policy (recycling, awareness, voluntarism, etc.) must be established in all schools.



Photo credits : ©ΑΡΚΤΟΥΡΟΣ

- 10. During this 3 year project we learned to communicate , share more, and cooperate with totally different schools , cultures and countries. Do you think cooperation between Greek and International authorities is satisfactory? What can we change?**

The answer is more communication and more cooperation between the citizens and the State. We are at a good level of cooperation, but there

must be a stable environmental policy. When something is to change, the key must be: “development through environmental protection”.



Photo credits : ©APKTOYPOΣ

**Thank you so much for this interview Mrs Kromyadou !!!
We admire your inspiring work and contribution to a better greener
world!**

**The students and teachers of 2nd Junior High School of Amaliada,
Greece**

**Erasmus+ programme
“European Schools Go Green” 2017 – 2020**

**Erasmus+ programme “European Schools Go Green” 2017 – 2020
3d Year of Collaboration**

**Goethe Gymnasium Kassel, Germany
Galileo Galilei Technical High School of Genova, Italy
2nd Junior High School of Amaliada**

Renewable Energy Sources – Sustainable Development – Climate change

<https://issuu.com/europeanschoolsgogreen>

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

https://blogs.sch.gr/samiamidi/?page_id=504