

Meeting in Greece - Personal feedback - German point of view

According to the COMENIUS Handbook



Greece - a country which is renowned for its hospitality, and this is what we experienced. Again we met – in Palamas, close to Karditsas, in beautiful Thessaly. The welcoming event at school was announced with the subtitle “Meeting old and new friends” and that was true. If not already the case in the evening before in their host families: for pupils friendship started with the first dance after the first lunch 😊



After visiting the school and the ice-breaking lunch, the exchange of our work results started right away: pupils had prepared a poster and explained the heritage of nature in their countries.



Another part of their work was to compare city life and country life in their home countries and the presentation of their lifestyle. And on Friday we finally enjoyed watching the videos about a typical day of a pupil in each of our countries.



Pupils managed well, in my opinion because the topics were close to their interest and they could speak from their personal experience which made the goals really appropriate. One of the German girls, very shy in class since years, succeeded in overcoming herself and made a real effort to present. Back in Germany she showed excellent results in the oral examination – which made herself very proud and both of us very happy!

We were able to follow our intentions according to the work plan, but you cannot discover nature by staying inside and talking. Our colleagues had prepared great excursions to beautiful places, unknown to most of us before. We had a close look at nature's beauty and there were some real highlights.

Being outside, pupils and teachers could take part in lots of interesting activities and at the same time become more acquainted with Greek history, culture and tradition.

On our schedule there were excursions to the monasteries of Meteora, a cruise to the island of Skiathos and a trip to Lake Plastiras.



And yes, they did it again - the others joined, sooner or later ☺

On our way to Lake Plastiras we discovered another area of Greece which you can hardly find on advertising posters in our travel agencies, and there was time for all kinds of activities:





The warm and open-minded welcome, accompanied by all these activities, created from the very beginning of our meeting an atmosphere which was characterized by deep sympathy and friendship – no matter what papers say! And all our pupils had a lot of fun and completely forgot that talking in a foreign language and staying in a foreign society had seemed a real challenge some time ago..... The energy of our Greek hosts spread and caused big smiles!



Our pupils learned a lot, I think, which goes far beyond communicating in a foreign language. They met open-minded partners and experienced from their hosts how easy it can be to make friends – simply by being curious, unafraid of the other one and meeting visitors with sympathy. “Always look at the bright side of life”: guest pupils have hopefully learned a bit about what this song title can mean.

The aims of our work plan have been fulfilled for both teachers and pupils. As before: all project activities were discussed beforehand and regularly in our closed Facebook group and via email, results were collected and published in or linked to the Twinspace. And yes, all our aims still are appropriate.

During the meeting in Greece we also discussed the plans for the meeting in Warsaw. As there are summer holidays in all our countries at different periods,

the task for pupils will be to prepare a text about a famous personality from the field of history, politics or religion, as the topic of art has been covered in Paris. This material will again be uploaded into a Google drive presentation and published by our project coordinator who never loses overview and keeps an eye on all of us. 😊

We were up to spend the last afternoon in Karditsas, but before, the official farewell event took place in the town hall of Palamas.



The report about our visits is not complete in detail, but most important for me were the feeling of the atmosphere and the team spirit!



PS

COMENIUS-Handbook p. 32,

CHECKLIST: INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY IN A PROJECT
No discussion needed – self-understood, known and experienced