

Dissemination of the fifth project meeting, held in Trikala, Greece, September 29 – October 3, 2014



Lifelong
Learning
Programme

Let's First Understand our National Heritage in Order to Define and Build our European Identity

Comenius project meeting

Our second year of the project started very quickly because right at the end of the first school month I had an opportunity to visit Greece. I went there with my teachers Kylli Oja, Svetlana Sarina and our project coordinator Raine Lindepuu. We arrived to Trikala very late in the evening on Monday, September 29, and were quite tired of the journey which we started already during previous night. In spite of that we enjoyed view to Greece through bus windows but I was very happy to get to the family where I had to stay for the next few days.

Next day, we arrived at Trikala but didn't go to school because we had to go to the Town Hall first. There we met the Mayor of Trikala. He talked about the region, what people do around here and how beautiful place it is both for living and for tourists. We received some tourist guides which came handy later.

After meeting we were taken to the Gymnasium of Valtino, which was a bit away from the town centre. We were taken there by school bus. That reminded me of home because back home I have to go to school by bus also. Our partner school was in a nice building together with some other school and I didn't quite understand what was the difference but all that mattered was the fact that everyone was so friendly.

On Tuesday we started with our project work. This time it was about our literature and films. Back home we had to choose one book which would talk about our national traditions or something connected to that and which would also be made into a movie. We decided to choose „Nukitsamees“, a book written by Oskar Luts and the movie with the same name. This book and movie is beloved among children and adults in Estonia and we thought that it would be the nicest way to show our country and customs. Every school had to do the same – first talk about the book and then show fragments of the movie. I was very nervous because there were lot of other people watching and I am not very good in performing. But everything went well because we performed together with teacher Raine. All the other students performed well too and I especially liked Turkish movie about schoolboys and teachers.

On Wednesday we had a trip to Meteora. I didn't know anything about this place before and all those rocks and peaks were very interesting. We visited the monastery on top of one mountain and heard

stories about history of this place. After monasteries we went to the archeological site in Theopetra. The guide said that this is just recently discovered and might be one of the oldest inhabited caves in Europe. It was crazy to see those few thousand years old footprints on the floor of the cave. To finish the tour we returned to Trikala and visited Klifa's History Center, where we heard about the history of Trikala during previous decades. We saw the printing machines and tasted lemonade made according to the local recipe. All those old things seemed familiar because we have similar places in Estonia and it made me feel that although we are so far away from each other, we have so much in common. Even our history.

On Thursday, we had a very long trip to one of the most beautiful islands of Greece – Corfu or Kerkyra as they name it themselves. We had two places to visit. First we went to the centre of the town to visit the place where Philharmonic Orchestra is situated. It is the oldest place there people have been either studying music or played instruments. We saw a lot of old musical instruments and old notes of music. After that we went to the Casa Parlante which looked like a house museum. We could see how people lived century ago, what kind of stuff they used and how town life was organized back then. In Casa Parlante I realized that Estonia is different in that way. We are much simpler and our country life is a bit different.

Friday was our last day and this day we spent at school. First we made some evaluation and teachers were discussing the next meeting and then we had a musical farewell party. The school band was playing and everybody was dancing. Greek dances of course. Even I had to dance because one girl dragged me in the centre of the floor. It was very weird because I don't really dance and all those greek dances are so different of those we have in Estonia. But it was fun and not very embarrassing because nobody else know these dances either. We had great time together.

This meeting was very interesting and I learned a lot about Greece and Trikala and also about how they live and what is important to them. I am happy that I could participate in this project and also go to Greece.

Dissemination made by Rauno Haav, student of Lohusuu School, participant in Comenius meeting in Trikala, Greece.

"This project has been funded with support from the European Commission. This publication [communication] reflects the views only of the author, and the Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein."