

**Comenius Meeting - Athens/Greece 16-21 March 2011**

**"Diversity in Europe - a common voice for a sustainable development"**

**1° ΓΥΜΝΑΣΙΟ ΧΑΪΔΑΡΙΟΥ**

***1. How do you evaluate the program of the project meeting in Greece ?***

It was very interesting and complete both in the main scope of the project as well as in the cultural side of it. It was very well organized and there was a large variety of events.

The program was very good. It was very well organized and satisfying in every aspect. Our Greek hosts have done the best in welcoming all the guest friends and in letting us to enjoy Greece and Greek culture.

Hospitality was like the Italian one. We felt at home. This meeting was very good for hospitality, hotel position, choice for sightseeing and visits had very good organization, possibility to stay together and strong our knowledge.

Another occasion to see and know a different school realities. The school, the teachers are very nice. The presentation was so nice and students and teachers very good at dance.

We appreciated monuments very much and nature was very beautiful. All the tours were so interesting and let us see and remember the things we studied at school. It is our culture and civilization. Everything was good, the program with sightseeing trips, the good meals and very good time with the colleagues.

The activities at school were involving. All the teachers and families were very kind and offered us a wonderful stay. We enjoyed everything.

The program had a good balance between work with the project and sightseeing/tours around Athens and the district.

**I like the idea that students work together by their own.**

I think that this program was interesting and thanks to it we could meet many people and get to know culture of Greece.

I find the project meeting in Greece as a very well prepared one. Each point of the program was clearly and fully presented that you could really see the perfect preparation of every aspect.

The hosts - coordinators, teachers and students cooperated in the way that you could experience what was shown in a very pleased but also active way. This kind of reception gives you the opportunity to learn and remember what the authors want to transmit.

Because the basic topic of the meeting was how to prevent the pollution of the air from the point of view of traffic, all the participating countries have come to the similar conclusion: more cycling, walking travelling with the public transport.

We came to the similar conclusions and that is:

**We all can do something to prevent pollution.**

## ***2. What did you learn about Greece and Greek people?***

We Greek Cypriots know a lot about Greece and Greek people but always when we visit Greece there is always something new. In this case we learned more about Chaidari in particular and the Greek people in spite of their financial problems they are enjoying themselves a lot.

The Greek people were very friendly and the Greek food tasted very good.

Greece is a very interesting place with its high importance for ancient history and culture in general, full of important sites. I've also to point out strong similarities with our culture and country.

We liked a lot Greek people, girls and boys. They were nice. Parents were very kind with us. We learnt that culture, music and food are very important and people take care about them. Places we visited were very beautiful!

We knew Greek people but this was another time to know more about their culture, their hospitality. We really liked Greece and places we visited.

**We enjoyed very much our visit there.**

People involved in the Comenius project showed us to be very involved. We learnt some more things about their school system, traditional costumes and folk songs and

dances. It is very interesting the difference between modern and ancient traditions, culture, nature and food are wonderful. They are very good organizers.

*The headmaster is a fantastic person with very good staff.*

We learnt very much about both history, geography and people. We were taken around on very interesting tours and visits. Even if some of us have been earlier on every place except the particular local ones, the visit were of great value for us. Special the tour on Saturday had great value, both because of good organization and good guiding.

And of course, *no one can compete with Greece when we talk about history.*

I noticed that Greeks are very hospitable and open minded. Greece has interesting history and many places which are worth to see. I found Greece as a magnificent place to visit. I liked Athens from the first sight. The labyrinth of narrow streets that guides you to picturesque squares, people rushing by, merchants selling the best strawberries you have ever tried...and the ancient monuments rising from time to time of the modern buildings which hide them as they wanted to protect them from such a big number of the visitors. But being one of the visitors I could find out that this protection was apparent - whole Athens wants you to see the greatness of its ancient monuments. And of course while visiting those old and incredible places - you start the adventure of the eldest times.

Standing on the Hill which has hold for so many years the Acropolis, being surrounded by those huge columns, while closing your eyes you can feel those days of past and the magnitude of the Gods the ancient people were praying to. No place ever in my life had impressed me in such way. And the Greek people... They are as Great as their monuments! They are kind, they are happy, they are tolerant, they are valuable.

They know how to make you feel comfortable and safe in the foreign surroundings.

But what I estimate the most is their sincerity - they know perfectly how to show their benefits but they are not afraid of letting appear they defects. And the Greek food is the best food in the whole world!!!

I was impressed by the rich history, which the Greeks respect very much. The Greek

are friendly, relaxed people, very hospitable and always willing to help. We learnt some about their school system, history, culture, cuisine, traditional costumes and folk songs and dances. Parents were very friendly with us.

### ***3. What were the best aspects of taking part in this project meeting?***

We as newcomers to this kind of meetings was great experience for us and very enjoyable. Also we had the chance to get more involved in matters of climate change. The project itself, the cultural and personal enrichment with such an exchange among the different countries, the way you can make new relationship and friendship. The other very interesting and important thing is meeting boys and girls, tasting new food and learning **new words in a different language**. Seeing a different school, learning different ways of living and studying are some of the most important aspects of the project.

When we met during the other meetings we knew that the meeting in Greece, as it was one of the last ones, would represent the **friendship** that had already established during the other ones. We think that now there is a very **strong relationship** with the other colleagues and friends. We spent very special time together. The good organization of Greece helped to do this. Every meeting is so important to see some of the most important places for history and culture of the world. It is an occasion to take part in people's lives and to know differences and similarities in education, school organization, teachers behavior and didactic methods.

We can know better a country and a population. The project gives us the possibility to know and grow as persons. Our objective is to stay with people from different cultures. The Comenius group is very nice. The students can improve their knowledge about different countries and schools.

Special for the young ones, the meeting with Greek culture is of great value. We may think because of globalization that our cultures are more similar than they really are. And also for the adults this cultural experiences are of great value.

I really liked integration games, sightseeing and time spent with girls which were

hosting us.

I think that the best aspect of this project meeting was to cooperate with various nations. I travel a lot. I have visited countries of distant cultures.

**But I have never in my life experience being in one place with people from seven different countries!**

You talk, you hear stories, you observe, you learn and eventually you discover:

*"Yes, in some ways we are different but in the others we are alike..."*

I really enjoyed the plant a tree project. Besides of the ecological aspect it also demonstrated in the symbolic way the importance of showing differences. Even if not every of those plants would grow in the new conditions - different soil, different air, different climate - you should always try to "plant" the difference because in other way no one could get know it and have possibility to understand it.

Socializing of young as well as adult people from different countries will help us to achieve better understanding and respect of the differences of other nations who share similar problems.

***4. Is there something you were particularly satisfied or not satisfied with about the project meeting?***

The visits were very good as well as the special plantations and painting competitions. It was something that will stay in the school so as to remember this project. Generally it was very well organized and the Greeks showed once more their hospitality.

Everything, as I've already said before, was satisfying. I really appreciate our Greek colleagues' effort in letting everything go in the right way and the way they succeeded in doing it. The central position of the hotel was particularly comfortable and I also enjoyed the food and wine in a particular way.

We were all satisfied about the welcoming and the hospitality of people and teachers. We liked staying and visiting Greece very much.

Way of living, school activities, ways of teaching and studying are for us always very interesting aspects of the project. Meeting people, different and similar to us,

tasting new food and learning new words in different languages is beautiful. Students can see and live European history and culture. Teachers and students can live the real other country's life. We liked Greek people, parents, girls and boys very much. They are so warm.

*(Personally I thank Kalliopi's mother that organized a dinner for Rosella, Maria and me to thank our hospitality in Sardinia during a lunch at my home, this is Comenius!)*

The tour on Saturday as mentioned above, the guide was excellent. We also enjoyed all the meals, especially Thursday night, with the authentic Greek music. Also the hotel had an amazing localization.

In my opinion there wasn't any bad aspects of project and I regret that meeting couldn't be longer.

Whole meeting was very satisfactory. As it had to be while working with young people. I want to emphasize the importance of achieving these kinds of programs among the youngest participants - the pupils. They, with their spontaneous look on what surrounds them, have a chance to receive the different worlds in a very natural way. Even if at the beginning they have some doubts, and maybe they feel insecure, with few minutes they forget of being afraid and behave as they have always known their colleagues from other countries - the curiosity wins!

The friendship, the love is there a better way to get to know each other better!!!

I can only congratulate our Greek colleagues on their excellent organization, hospitality, educational excursions, the final performance, the accommodation in the centre of Athens, and much more.

**In spite of that, that we were all from different countries, we had a good time together. We were satisfied with such a positive experience .**

***"Evaluation from European colleagues , pupils and teachers"- April 2011***