

## **SUMMARY OF THE MEETING IN EFKARPIA**

### **ISSUES PROPOSED IN THE SCHEDULE OF THE 2<sup>ND</sup> MEETING.**

#### **JANUARY 21<sup>ST</sup> - THURSDAY**

- **Official welcoming at school: information about the host school and guided tour.**

It was a great honour for the partnership to be welcomed by the Mayor of Efkarpias. Thank you very much for his hospitality and friendly words. Mr. Nikolaos Samarinas, headmaster of GYMNASIO EFKARPIAS, after welcoming the participants, wished everybody success in the work and to enjoy the stay in Thessaloniki. His kind and motivating words were the best way to open the meeting and also helped to make us feel at home.

The guided tour let us know the daily school life, and meet the teachers and the students in their classrooms while they were giving lessons on different subjects.

Greek pupils took the opportunity to show their skills in foreign languages greeting the participant teachers.

- **Presentation of the Greek educational system.**

The presentation of the Greek educational system enabled us to know it, and its explanation facilitated us to understand the education in Greece.

To know the educational system of other European country is always an interesting experience to reflect on the topic of education: its challenges and solutions.

- **Presentation of the Greek team's work.**

After the presentation we all realized that the Greek team had done an excellent work about the communication of universal values through art works. The contents and activities of the didactic unit about the universal value '**joy of life**' were very well prepared and designed, and we perceived the high level of the students' involvement. The students gave us a piece of work they themselves had made. Thanks for this beautiful art work.

- **Surprises from the Greek students.**

We enjoyed a lot with the typical dances some schoolgirls performed, and also with the songs some students played. We all loved the dances and the songs. The song 'Equality', written and composed by Jannis Stratos and Antonis Ezanidis for this project, and performed by the school's musical group 'Every Fear' was the great ending of a marvellous performance: an unforgettable surprise.

- **Presentation of the work done by now by all the other schools.**

The participant schools had many activities to present regarding to the work done and they were eager to show them, but unfortunately there was not much time and each school had to make a selection of the materials they had prepared. We all have the CDs given by each school to view quietly at home the compilation of the work done.

#### **JANUARY 22<sup>ND</sup> - FRIDAY**

- **Evaluation of the work done by now.**

The Turkish school explained and presented the work they have done by now because there was not time to do it the day before.

Then the coordinator school, IESO QUERCUS, made an assessment of the work done by his school:

- Encouraging students to exchange emails.
- Creating, running and updating the partnership's website. <http://www.e-quercus.es/comenius/>
- Producing materials: posters, leaflets, brochures and digital files (Power Points and PDF).
  - a) Posters and leaflets to publicize the project.
  - b) Brochures to inform about the school, the town and the province. (PDF format)
  - c) Power Points to complete the information given in the brochures.
  - d) Power Points to present and summarize in images the meeting in Espoo and to wish Merry Christmas and Seasonal Greetings to the Partnership.

**All these materials are uploaded in the website and some of them can be printed.**

Finally, the coordinator school made a short evaluation of the work done by his school summarized in these points:

- For some teachers is difficult to follow the project because they cannot speak English. But on the other hand they are motivated to learn English and the project is a challenge to do it.
- Lack of time to produce materials and coordinate the work during the school time. It is often necessary to spend extra time, even at home.

But despite this, we consider the experience of participating in the project and the work done very positive, educative and pleasant. The best: the opportunity to meet teachers and students so enthusiastic and share ideas, activities and experiences with all of them, contributing to disseminate the idea of the European citizenship.

- **planning and organizing new tasks until the next meeting.**

According to the schedule of the project these are the activities to be done until the meeting in Constanta, Romania:

**01-Feb-10> Starting to design teaching units on the topics about universal values chosen by each school. This work will continue until the end of the project, combining it with the other scheduled tasks.**

**01-March-10> Creating a blog of the partnership.**

**01-Apr-10> Reviewing, organizing and evaluating the work done so far in each school. Sending the results to the coordinator to be compiled.**

The most important task in the future will be to produce teaching units about universal values using as contents the art works of the culture of each country. In the next meeting, each school should present the work they are doing about one teaching unit. It is not necessary to present a finished unit, but at least to explain how the school is working on this matter and the topics they will study.

At the end of the project each school must have done between 5 and 10 units. The topic of the units will be some of the universal values: peace, solidarity, brotherhood, equality, dialogue, friendship, freedom, justice, happiness... or any of human rights (review the page 12 of the project).

### **AGREEMENTS:**

I remind all of you **to write a short evaluation or opinion about the work done by now**, but only of your own school, I mean each partner has to make the report only of his/her school, and please send to me. We did not have time to do this in the meeting, and we agreed to send it to the coordinator by email.

✎ I also ask you **the email address of all the teachers involved in the project**. I would like to send some information, not only to the coordinator in each school, but also to them.

✎ We also agreed to do our best in order **to encourage our students to exchange emails** among them. The specific agreement was to motivate our students and ensure that all the students will receive at least two emails from each school.

✎ I also remind you that **in the next meeting each school should present the work they are doing about the teaching unit** (also called didactic unit or lesson). It is not necessary to present a finished unit, but at least to explain how you are working on this matter.

- **Guided tour of Thessaloniki (visit to the Upper Old Town, St. Dimitrios Church, the Byzantine Museum and the White Tower).**

Before lunch time we had a guided tour. We visited the Upper Old Town and enjoyed with wonderful views of Thessaloniki. St. Dimitrios Church is a very old church and it is worth to visit the crypt.

Instead of the Byzantine Museum we visited the Archaeological Museum. It houses finds from the Archaic, Classical, Hellenistic and Roman periods, mostly from the city of Thessaloniki but also from the region of Macedonia in general.

The museum is housed in a building designed by the architect Patroklos Karantinos and is a sample of the modern architectural trends of Greece.

### **JANUARY 23<sup>RD</sup> - SATURDAY**

- **Visit to Vergina (the capital of ancient Macedonia)**

Vergina is a small town in northern Greece, about 80 km south-west of Thessaloniki, the capital of Greek Macedonia. The town became internationally famous in 1977, when the Greek archaeologist Manolis Andronikos unearthed what he claimed was the burial site of the kings of Macedon, including the tomb of Philip II, father of Alexander the Great. We visited the Ancient Cemetery of Aegae Royal Tombs in Vergina and were very impressed by the finds and treasures exhibited in the museum.

**VISIT THE PARTNERSHIP'S WEBSITE:**

<http://www.e-quercus.es/comenius/>