

THE PROJECT MAGAZINE 2020-2023

CLIMATE CHANGE AND BIODIVERSITY



With the support of the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union



FOUR MOBILITIES

The five schools from Cyprus, Finland, Iceland and Portugal gathered together in four short-term mobilities during the project.

MANY ACTIVITIES

There were plenty of learning and educational activities in this project. Through all these activities, hundreds of students in all five schools had the possibility to be a part of this Erasmus+ project and increase their knowledge on the topic, climate change and biodiversity.

RESULTS

Everyone's effort and work is needed in saving the planet.

100+ NEW FRIENDSHIPS

Do you remember the pandemic? Covid-19 tests, wearing masks and having vaccines? Each travelling plan was darkened by insecurity. While saying goodbye at the end of each mobility, with the tears in our eyes, we knew that the struggle was worth of it.

The information of Erasmus+ project Climate change and biodiversity

This Erasmus+ project was founded in 2020. The project ended in autumn 2023. The partners of the project are Cyprus, Finland, Iceland and Portugal. The partners made contact with the help of eTwinning. The main coordinator country of project is Iceland.

In our project there are five partner schools. Altogether, the project's mobilities involved around 100 students and teachers from different climates.



Planting a tree in Cyprus.

PROJECT PAGES IN WEB



We live on the same Earth



- Gymnasio Latsion, Cyprus
- Gymnasio Geri, Cyprus
- Keminmaan Keskuskoulu, Finland
- Grundaskóli, Akranes, Iceland
- Agrupamento de Escolas de Ponte de Lima, Portugal



KEMINMAA,
FINLAND

AKRANES,
ICELAND



PLEASE WATCH OUR SCHOOL PRESENTATION VIDEOS

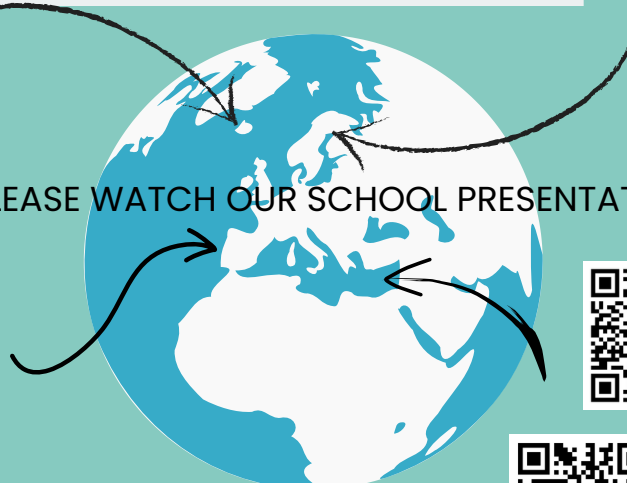
PONTE DE LIMA,
PORTUGAL



GERI,
CYPRUS



LATSIA,
CYPRUS



We want to protect the Earth

The targets of our Erasmus+ project are important.



The insect hotel in Facha Eco-School in Portugal.



To become familiar with the topic of climate change and biodiversity



To make all participants aware of the importance of studying and sharing knowledge about climate change and biodiversity



To get to know the biodiversity of each country and the main threats to its preservation



To make all participants reflect upon daily actions and the things to be done to lessen one's planetary waste contribution



Our project description says the following:

“

Students will also make friends in different countries and develop tolerance and respect for people from different cultures and backgrounds.

”

Is it true, students?

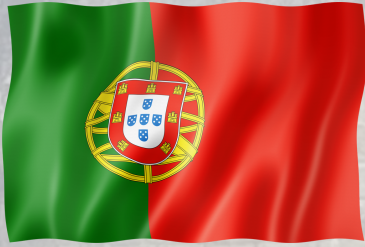
– Yes, it is so true!



We join the same Earth



Cleaning the beach in Cyprus. Cleaning the beaches was one of the activities during the project in every partner country.



Thank you, Portugal

Four short-term exchanges of groups of pupils were made in this project during 2022 and 2023. The first mobility gathered students and teachers in Ponte de Lima, Portugal, in March 2022.

Obrigada

The topic of this mobility

The title of this mobility was Healthy Outdoor Activities in Harmony with Water. The aim was to experience living in harmony with mountains, the countryside, the sea and the river. The mobility was hosted by Agrupamento de Escolas de Ponte de Lima, Portugal.

This lovely group picture was taken in Ponte de Lima on the first day of the mobility. It is the first group photo of students and teachers in this project. We consider it as a significant memory and also a statement of a lot of work and struggle with the covid virus. The travelling was possible after all!





During this wonderful week the students were offered a lot of outdoor activities related to the mobility title. The students had the possibility to canoe, to hike, to pick up trash and also learn Portuguese history and culture and everyday life in the families. The students also participated in school lessons and workshops. The photomosaic picture was made up of all the pictures taken during this mobility week.

Our hiking route followed the River Vez up to Sistelo village. The River Vez belongs to an EU-funded project that has helped to promote the natural, architectural and cultural heritage associated with the River Vez and its tributaries in the North Region of Portugal. The River Vez Open-Air Water Museum has around 20 km of paths running alongside the river, and six observation points from where visitors can view native flora and fauna.

IN HARMONY WITH WATER



NEW FRIENDS
DURING PROJECT?
YES, OF COURSE!





Thank you, Cyprus

The second mobility gathered students and teachers in Nicosia, Cyprus, in May 2022.

ΕΥΧΑΡΙΣΤΩ!

The topic of this mobility



FOLLOW THE
WHOLE MOBILITY
BY WATCHING
THE VIDEO.

The title of this mobility was Organic Farming and Cooking. The aim was to get insight into the changes that have been in Cyprus due to climate change and how it affects the flora and fauna and also to learn about what the locals are doing to preserve and slow down the impact on the climate change. The mobility was hosted by Gymnasio Geri and Gymnasio Latsion.

One of the main visiting places during the mobility was Riverland Bio Farm located in the village of Kampia. It is an organic farming farm, animal breeding facility, producer of organic products, and offers various recreational activities. The farm also houses the first and only fully organic greenhouse in Cyprus. In the farm, we had a tour from the owner about the farm facilities and then we tasted fresh and bio vegetables from the greenhouse and tried fresh homemade 'halloumi' and other organic products. We had the chance to see animals in the organic farm and feed them. We had lunch with bio and organic ingredients, too.

We also visited the water purification plant and planted trees in the school yard. We did a lot of team work during the week.

LIFE IN ECOLOGICAL BALANCE





During this great mobility, we visited many interesting places. A great amount of history and culture was shared. We learned about the importance of increasing the production of sustainable agriculture and reducing everything that has a bad impact on the environment and the earth so that all living things, both humans and all living creatures, can live a healthy life. With solidarity, cooperation and understanding, people can better raise awareness about our own behaviour which will benefit the future generation.



NEW FRIENDS
DURING PROJECT?
YES, OF COURSE!





Thank you, Finland

The third mobility gathered students and teachers in Keminmaa, Finland, in February 2023.

Kiitos!

The topic of this mobility

The title of this mobility was the 3 R's – Reducing, Reusing and Recycling. The mobility was hosted by Keminmaan keskuskoulu. The aim of the mobility was to get to know the 3 R's in practice and learn ways to reduce consumption, reuse old in a fresh way, and have an experience of recycling plastic, metal, glass and cardboard at home. We also visited the Eco-Center Jäkälä which is the big local recycling center and learned how it works.



FOLLOW THE
WHOLE MOBILITY
BY WATCHING
THE VIDEO.



Plenty of outdoor activities were also tried out during this memorable mobility: skiing, skating, snowshoeing, slalom and snowboarding. We understood how reasonable it is to recycle, for instance, sport equipment between families, relatives, friends and neighbours, and also between unknown people with the help of social media. It seems that everything related to sustainable development is not just a part of the everyday life but also a way of thinking.



NEW FRIENDS
DURING PROJECT?
YES, OF COURSE!





Thank you, Iceland

The fourth mobility gathered students and teachers in Akranes, Iceland, in May 2023.

Takk!



The topic of this mobility

The title of this mobility was Renewable Energy. The mobility was hosted by Grundaskóli in Akranes.

The renewable energy related field trips took us to many interesting places. Deildartunguhver is the highest-flowing hot spring in Europe and is widely known for its rapid flow rate of 180 litres (380 pints) per second. The water at Deildartunguhver hot spring emerges at a constant 97 degrees Celsius making it incredibly dangerous for those who venture too close. The water is piped from the hot spring and most of the water used for central heating in the towns of Borgarnes and Akranes is taken from Deildartunguhver. The hot water pipeline to Akranes is 64 km long, the longest in Iceland and the water is about 78 – 80 degrees when it reaches Akranes.

We visited also one of the largest single-site geothermal power plant on the planet (Geothermal exhibition), Hellisheiði ON Power plant which is located in a stunning setting surrounded by lava and moss. There, we learned about geothermal power and sustainable energy in Iceland. We looked into the turbine halls of the plant, and enjoyed interactive and educational displays.

In the Perlan Museum, we saw many of Iceland's wildlife, watched short films about the country's volcanoes and the history of the Northern Lights. We were thrilled with the indoor ice cave which is 100 meters long and built with over 350 tons of snow and provides insight into Icelandic glaciers.





During the fascinating week we got an honor to meet The President of Iceland, Guðni Thorlacius Jóhannesson.



NEW FRIENDS
DURING PROJECT?
YES, OF COURSE!



Activities during the project

There were plenty of learning and educational activities in this project.

The activities were done mainly in the schools between the mobilities.

Some of the activities were part of the mobility programs like activities related to renewable energy, organic farming and outdoor activities.

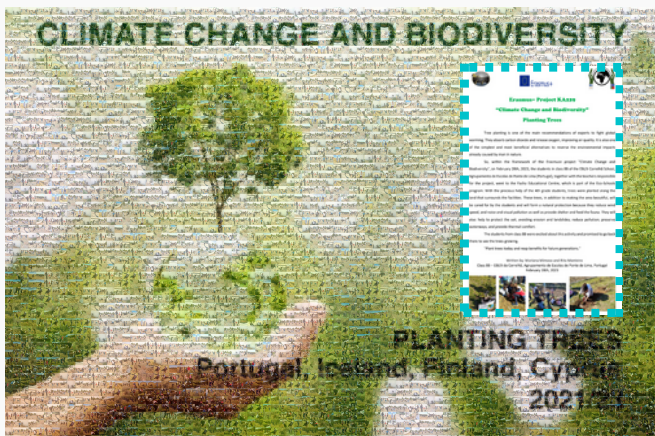
Through all these activities, hundreds of students in all five schools had the possibility to be a part of this Erasmus+ project and increase their knowledge on the topic, climate change and biodiversity.



"Plant trees today and reap benefits for future generations."

Planting the trees

The students learned that planting trees is an effective weapon in the fight against climate change and in the promotion of biodiversity, with the ultimate goal of fostering environmental awareness for the protection of the environment. They realized that planting trees offers a wide range of benefits to both the environment and society. These benefits include among others air quality improvement, climate change mitigation and biodiversity support. Trees absorb carbon dioxide and release oxygen through photosynthesis. They help reduce the levels of harmful air pollutants like sulfur dioxide, nitrogen oxides, and particulate matter, improving air quality and human health. Moreover, trees act as carbon sinks, sequestering carbon dioxide from the atmosphere. Trees also play a crucial role in mitigating climate change by reducing greenhouse gas concentrations and helping to regulate global temperatures.

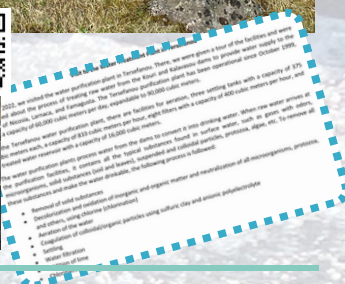


In addition, trees provide habitat and food sources for various wildlife species. Trees contribute to biodiversity by supporting birds, insects, and other creatures, thereby promoting ecological balance.



Visiting water treatment plants

The visits to water treatment plants and water sources were extremely interesting. It was important to see the process of how water is treated and made available in our homes, for consumers to use. During the guided tours we learned that an infrastructure of this type has as its main function to receive and treat wastewater in order to return it to the environment, in environmentally safe conditions. We also saw the various stages through which the water goes through until the final process.



Cleaning the environment

Cleaning the environment and especially beaches was one of the activities in every project country. We learned that proper disposal of garbage and recycling helps to prevent pollution of land, water, and air. When the waste is left unattended or improperly disposed of, it can release harmful chemicals and greenhouse gases into the environment. Keeping that in mind, students and teachers had cleaning activities with good motivation.



Christmas campaigns &

Three R's in action



The Christmas Campaign activities in the years 2021-2022 implemented our goals of reusing, reducing and recycling - and helping. Campaigns succeeded. Students made Christmas decorations by using recycled material. They also brought to school recycled clothes, books and toys, which were given away to new owners in many ways. Here is an example story of a recycling from Iceland:

"One of our projects was to use the clothes we have more, buy less clothing and keep them in use after we stop using them. A market was held where students brought complete clothes from home that they had stopped using. The clothes were arranged neatly on a table in one of the classrooms, and then everyone was allowed to take the clothes they thought could be useful. The kids also took clothes that they thought could fit their younger siblings. The kids were very happy with this and there was a lot of excitement when choosing their clothes. The project was extremely successful and a good way to bring clothing that we have stopped using back into circulation and reuse and spend less."

- Icelandic team -



Christmas decorations



Students in four countries invented and produced a huge amount of new Christmas decorations by using recycled material. There was no lack of imagination while reusing, recycling and reducing Christmas decorations in a climate friendly way!

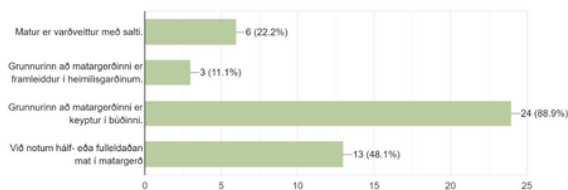
Christmas period was more festive with our Christmas decorations, made with recyclable materials and love.



Activities with a healthy and climate friendly lifestyle



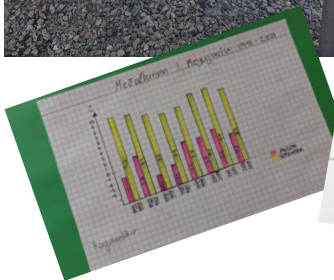
C3 - Landbúnaður og matvæli
27 responses



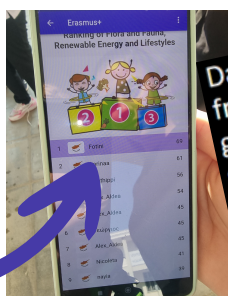
One theme of our project was to respect a healthy and climate friendly lifestyle, and experience many kinds of outdoor activities during our project, in schools and within mobilities. We wanted to learn to respect nature more and more. Many trips were made under this theme: hiking, paddling, swimming, biking and playing, in all four countries. In this project, we also made a questionnaire for seniors and young people on this topic.



We studied the migratory routes of the birds and how climate change will effect biodiversity. We also measured outdoor temperatures and compared them to the temperatures in previous years. We discovered ways to reduce the carbon footprint, too.



We made questions of our countries for Kahoot and the Game App called Reduce Carbon.



Data collection from my grandparents' and great-grandparents' generation

Icelandic Pancakes, Cyprus Pastitsio, Finnish Karelian pie or Sweet Rice Pudding from Portugal?

Would you like to try traditional recipes
from Cyprus, Iceland, Finland and Portugal?



Cookbook Calendar



made by our project will make it possible for you to cook something new every month.
Twelve months and twelve recipes. Sounds like a plan for the next year!



pönnukökur
pastitsio
Hjónabandsæla
vappumunkki
Arroz Doce
"Caldo Verde" Soup

Pilafi Pourgouri
Skyrkaka
mustikkapiirakka
karjalanpiirakka
bolo de castanha
Anarokrema





Conferences



The students and the teachers increased their awareness of climate change and biodiversity by being a part of these mobilities and Erasmus+ project. We all learned and grew together. Though we realised that the climate change is being visible in many indicators, we learned that we can still prohibit it with our daily choices, like for example eating and heating habits.

The last activity of this project was to tell other students, teachers, families and citizens in our municipalities about everything we learned and how we experienced other countries and cultures. So, at the end of the Erasmus + project, we all had the conferences for the people who did not know the project.

At the conferences, students talked about climate change and biodiversity, and tried to have an influence on the listeners. Everyone's effort and work is needed in saving the planet. Even the smallest one's.



FEELINGS FOR THE ERASMUS+ PROJECT

"From the moment we heard that there was a possibility of participating in this adventure, everything was lived with great expectation and some anxiety. The frenzy started the week before with preparations for the trip. That "see you soon" moment at the airport leaves us with a heavy heart, but at the same time very proud of our children's courage, their boldness and desire to grow and know more about the world and others.

We always encouraged participation, to have the opportunity for personal and social growth and development, which we understand this experience represents. We believe that contact with other cultures and realities, active participation and sharing of experiences enhances the awareness that we are ALL part of the same world. A world/house where we all have our place, but also the duty to respect, care for and protect. It is an experience that promotes empathy and respect for cultural and social diversity, but also self-confidence and autonomy. --"

- Joana Sousa,
the mother of the Erasmus students -

"What do the new friendships in this project represent? There it is, what actually makes the difference, the friendships that were made, which I can't talk about without getting a little emotional. I say again that the speed at which we became a group was truly incredible. These friendships mean everything. We can see the laughs, the tears, the happy and sad moments that every student lived during the week and that made us cry until we got in the car to go home."

- Erasmus student Lara Quintela, Ponte de Lima -

FAREWELL GOODBYE



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THANK YOU FOR EVERYTHING