



Erasmus+

**ΑΡΙΣΤΟΤΕΛΕΙΟ**  
ΠΑΙΔΙΚΟΣ ΣΤΑΘΜΟΣ - ΝΗΠΙΑΓΩΓΕΙΟ



**ΚΟΛΛΕΓΙΟ**  
ΔΗΜΟΤΙΚΟ-ΓΥΜΝΑΣΙΟ-ΛΥΚΕΙΟ

# Student's experience from Erasmus+ program

Impressions and activities

Let's Build Europe together

Aristotelio College  
2017 - 2019

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More information on the project is available on the following Internet links:

Project website: <https://lets-build-europe-together.eu/>

eTwinning: <https://twinspace.etwinning.net/37649/home>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/letsbuildeuropetogether/?fref=ts>

YouTube: [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCZ\\_AiqltnbfFPGsx8imPJ-Q](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCZ_AiqltnbfFPGsx8imPJ-Q)

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## Experiences, feelings and activities from the exchange between Greece, Austria and Spain

### 1. Liamou Christina

If I had to describe the experience I had with the Erasmus+ program in two words, those would be *educational enlightenment*. The last two years, we worked on various subtopics of our general theme, the European Union, but we also put a lot of effort into our friendships with the other participating students.

During the 1st cross student exchange, half the students of our Erasmus+ group traveled to Austria, where we were hosted by Stiftsgymnasium St. Paul in St. Paul im Lavanttal. There, not only we discussed on political organization, legal systems, and forms of government in the EU, but we also had the chance to meet Dr. Johannes Maier, the head of the EU Coordination Center of the Government of Carinthia, and ask him questions regarding burning



issues, such as BREXIT. During this exchange, we also took some classes that were specifically aiming at presenting us some key-information on all the participating countries. Interestingly, those classes did not have the same layout as a common high school class would. All the lessons were student-oriented and based on experiential learning techniques.



Our trip to Austria wouldn't be as culturally enlightening hadn't been for all the excursions that were planned for us by the hosting school. During our stay there, we visited the chocolate factory of Zotter, the city of Graz and Klagenfurt. Those excursions helped us feel more connected to the hosting team that pleasantly guided us. On top of that, those trips gave us the chance to enjoy some traditional delicacies that we wouldn't otherwise be able to.

After 5 of the most life-changing days of our lives, we had to return back home keeping our memories as imperishable mementos.

During the 5th cross student exchange, we hosted students from both Austria and Spain, hoping that we will make their stay indelible. The subtopic of this exchange was "entrepreneurship, responsible economy, and processes of

globalization: opportunities and potential conflicts in the EU.” We started discussing and working on this subtopic with fervor from the very first day when we were informed on how to create a successful start-up business from scratch. Divided into groups, we all did our best to find an innovative idea and come up



with a creative and groundbreaking way to promote it to our future clients. Also, we were part of a workshop on green companies from a representative of General Secretariat for Youth and Europe Direct. In addition to that, guided by our IT teacher, we learned how to use Animoto and Canvas as a means of creating posters and videos to promote our companies. The last two days of this exchange we were all engaged in the MUN Conference that our

school organizes learning to express our opinions reverently.

Despite the hectic work, we made some time to walk around Thessaloniki with our guests showing them all its monuments, such as the White Tower, the Arc of Galerius, and the church of St Sophia. Additionally, we traveled to Meteora and specifically to the female monastery of Ag. Stefanos where we were mesmerized by the breathtaking beauty of the landscapes.



As the days passed by, we knew that we had to say goodbye to our friends that accompanied us during this whole educational and cultural journey. But, we also knew that this would not be the last time we see each other. We had well understood that the Erasmus+ program was just the firelighter that kindled our friendship and the fire was in our hands to preserve. And we could keep it on to warm us forever.

## 2. Kanidou Mary

One of the most amazing projects I have experienced organized by Aristoteleio College was the student exchange program, Erasmus Plus. Erasmus gave me the opportunity to learn about other cultures and the institutions that the hood concerning democracy and we learnt how to become active EU members.



In particular, during my time in Austria I learned the habits of the youth through Emilia's daily activities. (Emilia is the girl who hosted me). Moreover, I was given the chance to improve my critical thinking and my imagination by observing the courses at the Austrian school and through the essays that were presented to us (St Paul Gymnasium). But most importantly throughout I realized the meaning of equality and acceptance due to the fact that not all people can have the same opinion. With our visits at the famous museums of Clagenfurt and with the aid of



various guides we were able to learn the history and the culture of Austria and recognize its speciality. Furthermore we had the opportunity to meet with an EU representative. We learnt the purpose of it and discussed about certain issues that EU has to face.

It was a beautiful experience as well when it was my turn to host Emilia. We participated in MUN conference with this year's theme to be "How to be green". Additionally we participated in many activities and group projects concerning the foundation of green businesses to help our planet. Through these projects we became more inventive, creative and team spirited.

We expanded our spiritual horizons and creativity not only through these activities but from educational executions as well. All in all, Erasmus Plus was an unforgettable experience for me because it taught me the meaning of friendship as we built friendship that will continue in the progress of time and I am grateful for the countless emotional moments and hours of laughter that will stay in my heart forever.

### **3. Kyriakou Chrysanthi**

Aristoteleio College by giving us the chance to participate to Erasmus Plus program, it offered a unique experience in our country as well as abroad.

The student exchange and specific activities, Erasmus Plus brought us closer to different cultures and taught us equality and diversity. It helped us to understand and support our rights as students and as humans. Through activities and conferences, we learnt about EU governments and how to become active EU members.

Furthermore, this program improved our critical thinking and our social behaviour. We built close relationships and powerful friendship with different people from us in just a few days. In addition, we practised the English language and we improved our technological skills since with its assistance we managed to finish our projects.



The achievement of these targets, became through workshops, excursions and conferences. Inside the classrooms at school we worked on group projects concerning the EU characteristics and actions and we got familiar with new cultures by visiting landmarks and by organizes guides around cities. Furthermore, specialists about EU subjects talked about the latest issues

concerning the EU and we discussed about possible solutions on certain political and social problems.

In my opinion, Erasmus Plus is an excellent experience for the youth because they adopt values such as hospitality, cooperation, acceptance and equality. I am positive that these elements will become parts of our lives throughout the future and will make this program an unforgettable part of our school years.



#### **4. Zerva Anastasia**

In January 2019 I travelled to Sevilla, Spain as part of the erasmus+ team of Aristoteleio College of Thessaloniki, Greece. The title of our project was "Let's build Europe together". There we met the Spanish and Croatian team and all together we worked on the ways we can improve Europe by being volunteers. Through our presentations we learned about volunteering in school, in the local community and about the European Year of Volunteering 2011. Also we talked about the environmental problems and their solutions. Moreover, we visited and met some non-governmental organisations like OXFAM, CEAR and UNICEF. They informed us about their actions and with some educational games we learned how we can also help to make a better world.



Outside class, we visited famous monuments and the city of Corrdoba, where we visited the Cathedral of Sevilla and Medina Azahara. With our host families we had a great time learning about their culture ,religion, history and tasting their traditional food.

Two months later, in March 2019 we welcomed in Greece the Spanish and Austrian team. Here we presented and learned about startup businesses. An expert visited our school and through projects we shared our innovative ideas for a startup business. We learned the ways we can create and promote a business. Also, we visited the town hall, where EU experts informed us about the current situation and some important facts. It is important to mention that we also participated in "Model United Nations" which our school organised.



In our plans were also excursions to the city center to see the most important monuments, like the White Tower and churches. We visited the city of Meteora and Trikala, known for their monasteries. In our free time we visited the shopping mall and the city center, where of course we tasted traditional greek food.



## 5. Triantafyllidi Elena

This year my school Aristoteleio College participated in an Erasmus+ program titled "Let's Build Europe Together". The countries that took part in this project were Greece, Spain, Austria and Croatia.



On January 20<sup>th</sup> we arrived in Seville, Spain. There, with the help of presentations and excursions to volunteering headquarters, we were informed about the act of volunteering and we were taught to pay more attention to the environment. Our school had made crosswords about volunteering and we also informed the rest of the students and teachers about the forms of volunteering, how the school and the local community can help and about the European Year of Volunteering in 2011. Afterwards we presented solutions in order to save the environment, such as recycling, being careful in forests in order to prevent mass fires, etc.



When we were there we visited the city center and saw many sights, such as the University of Seville, Santa Cruz, Real Alcazar of Seville, the Cathedral of Seville, where we also went up to the Giralda to see the view of the city and lastly the Spain Square. In addition, we travelled to an ancient city where we watched a documentary about how the city functioned years before and later we went to see the ruins. Afterwards we went to the city of Cordoba and saw

its monuments.

In Seville we were able to learn a lot about the Spanish culture by visiting their monuments and staying with their families for a week, trying traditional food, like paella and tortilla and meeting new people with different ways of life and ideology.



Then it was the turn of the Spanish team to come to Greece and so on March 3<sup>rd</sup> they arrived. Here we educated ourselves and the others about Green Development and Growth, Green Development in Greece and in the EU and the Results of Sustainable Development. Moreover a professional visited our school and taught us about entrepreneurship and startup businesses. We created our own business and had to promote our product. In order to learn about entrepreneurship and the EU better, we visited the town hall and attended a lecture about those subjects. Last but not least, we took part in an MUN, where we had to create a product that would be eco friendly.

We showed them our city, by visiting famous monuments. We went to the White Tower and also to two of the most famous churches in Thessaloniki, Mitropoli and Church of Agios Dimitrios. We also showed them the Aristotelous Square and

the port of Thessaloniki and took them to try some of the most famous Greek foods, like gyros and souvlaki.



We also visited Meteora, where we saw a documentary about the history of Meteora but also about the different monasteries that exist there and their history. Afterwards, we went to the city of Trikala and walked around.



## 6. Gkanatsiou Vasileia

From September 2017 to March 2019 my school, Aristoteleio College, took part in Erasmus+ Program whose main subject was "Let's build Europe together". The countries which took part in the exchange were Greece, Spain and Austria.

Our trip to Seville was definitely an unforgettable experience. We visited Spain in 20-26 of January, 2019. We attended the participating school, IES Joaquin Turina.



There we discussed on the topic of volunteering answering questions such as "Why do I want to participate in a volunteering organization?" and "What does volunteering offer to people?". The views we heard were very interesting and the experiential activities were very constructive. In addition, we exchanged ideas on how we could save our environment through volunteering. Finally, we learned a lot about refugees by visiting a non-profit organization.



When in Seville, we went sightseeing to some of the city's most famous monuments. We went to the Cathedral de Sevilla, Real Alcázar, Parque de María Luisa and Plaza de España. Moreover, I really enjoyed it when we visited Ramón Sánchez-Pizjuán Stadium and Estadio Benito Villamarín



as well as Metropol Parasol, which is a huge sculpture of mushrooms in the city center.



In Spain we had the opportunity to taste some of the country's delicious traditional dishes such as Tortilla de patatas, Paella and Jamón Iberico.

Last but not least, our trip to Cordoba was equally great! We crossed the Roman Bridge, we visited Mezquita of Cordoba and Alcazar de los Reyes Cristianos and we had lunch at a traditional restaurant.

Spanish and Austrian students came to Greece in 3-9 of May,2019.



After welcoming, we did ice breaking activities and workshops about how to create and promote a start-up business. We also presented our videos and presentations about Green Development in EU, Green Development and Greener Enterprises Prerequisites and Results of Sustainable Development, Sustainable development in Greece and new jobs. In addition, we visited the Town hall to have a workshop about the EU from Europe Direct and General Secretariat for Youth representative.



In Thessaloniki we visited some of the city's most famous sights such as Aristotelous square, the White tower, Agia Sophia church, Nea Paralia and the Port of Thessaloniki. Erasmus+ students had the opportunity to taste some greek traditional dishes such as souvlaki, gyros, mousaka and pastitsio.

Furthermore, we visited Meteora, the female monastery of Ag. Stefanos and the city of Trikala, where we learned a lot about the city's history.

We also took part in the 17th ArcMun with a committee adopted to the topic of the exchange.



Finally, we had ICT classes about using software tools to promote business and e-twinning work.

In conclusion, I believe that participating in an Erasmus+ program is an amazing experience which I will never forget!



## 7. Kanidou Elisavet

My school Aristoteleio college took part in an Erasmus + Project which started in February 2019 and ended in March 2019. The countries which took part are Greece, Austria and Spain. As far as our main subject is concerned, the title is 'Let's build Europe together'.



Specifically in Spain we showed a lot of ways of how to improve Europe and we paid attention to the environment and volunteering. As far as the volunteering is concerned, at the first place we presented a crossword about volunteer and then the forms of volunteering, the volunteering in schools, the European Year of Volunteering 2011 and the voluntary actions in the local community. Furthermore we spoke about what actions we should do in order to save the environment. For example one good idea was to do recycling. Moreover to care when we are in the forest in order not to burn.



In addition we watched a lot of churches and a lot of sights and we learned a lot of things about their religion and history.

Moreover we learned a lot of things about their culture because we lived with them and their parents for one week so we watched their usual and we tasted a lot of traditional dishes like paegia, tortigia tomato soup.

When they came to Greece we presented to them a video for the Europe in which we showed subjects like: Green Development in EU, Green Development and Greener Enterprises Prerequisites and Results of Sustainable Development, Sustainable development in Greece and new jobs. In addition we went to the town hall of Thessaloniki and we played a lot of games in order to learn more things about the Europe Union.

Moreover in our school came a professional and he spoke to us about the entrepreneurship and we made teams in order to make our company in which we promote our products. And last but not least we took part in the model of the United Nations (MUN)

Furthermore we showed them our city. Specifically they watched the White Tower and they learned about our history, they watched two of the most famous churches in Thessaloniki, the port of Thessaloniki, one of the most famous places in Thessaloniki which is the Aristotelous Square and last but not least they watched a lot of statues.

In addition they tasted some of the most famous food in Greece which are gyros, soublaki, kalamarakia, tatziki, pastisio, tsoureki and a lot of more.



Generally I believe that the Erasmus + project is very good experience and all the people if they have the chance they should not lose it because you earn a lot of things which you are not able to earn them with other way.

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