

Ecological and environmental protection education in a European context!

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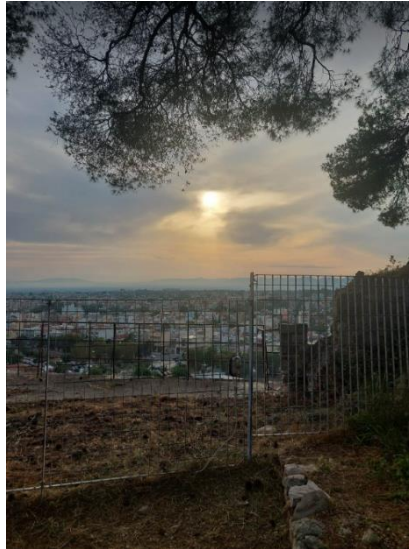
08.05.2023 – 12.05.2023

We arrived and settled in on May 7, 2023. The next morning, according to the program, we were expected at the 5th high school in the city of Kalamata on the Peloponnese peninsula in Greece. The hosts from 5th Gymnasio Kalamatas welcomed us warmly at their school. We settled into our designated seats and familiarization activities with the participants began. The attending students, together with their teachers from Bulgaria, Turkey, Greece, Slovakia and Romania, actively participated in the educational games, which were also directly related to the topic of the environmental protection project. We had a group dance, labeled ourselves, played the ECO-friendly Bingo - find someone who..., worked together to stop the polluting factor enter our jungle-ecosystem, assembled a story divided in advance and distributed randomly, "Agree or Disagree", writing down colored slips and placing them on a common board of expectations (3 pcs.), strengths (2 pcs.) and one concern related to the days ahead, introduced ourselves on a padlet, created the word cloud with the names of our teams, picked a side, had chain reactions. Bulgarian eleventh-graders from 32. Secondary Language School "St. Kliment Ohridski" distinguished themselves with an agile mind and excellent functional literacy. All presented their presentations on the ways of reducing energy consumption in each partner's country.



Later in the day we had the pleasure of visiting the old town of Kalamata, the information center for the various local crafts and traditional products such as olives, olive oil, ouzo, tsipouru, etc.

We also visited the fortress, which offered a view over the entire city.



On the second day, our hosts showed us ancient Messina, where, sitting in the ruins of an ancient amphitheater, we enjoyed the production of Aeschylus's "The Suppliant Women", a performance by a theater company from the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art in London.



Thanks to the colorful Ms. Joanna Ravani who led us through ancient Messina, presented us the ancient city's sustainability and made our journey back in time very pleasant. We saw the stadium where they strengthened their spirit and body, the baths and toilets that had constant running water as they were specially constructed to be oriented between the mountain and the sea, the places of recreation and prayer of the ancients.



On the third day, the program started at the host school. Mr. Nasos Macios was invited, a physicist and MSc Bioeconomy. He introduced us to circular economy. He spoke about global pollution, which is increasing every year, and about its consequences emphasizing on the changes in people's lifestyles that are imperative. He gave examples of what each individual can do, as well as global industrial changes.

The participants under the guidance of Ms. Joanna Ravani were divided into groups for various games and talks on the topic of "Conservation of Nature" and "Tolerance".



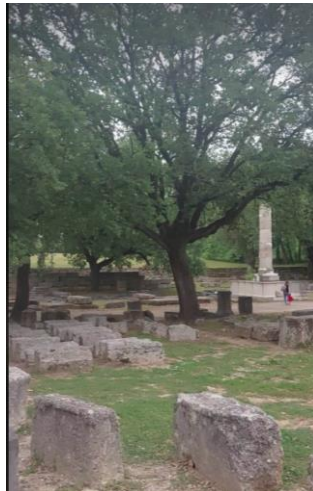
Later we visited the Karelia Museum for authentic clothing/costumes.



On the fourth day we all visited ancient Olympia, where the first Olympic Games were held. The exceptional tour guide transported us back in time, explaining at length glorious and terrifying stories that happened on this land.



Our group at the Olympic stadium and more precisely at the starting line for running.





We also visited the museum where all the remains found at this place are exhibited.



One of the missing wonders of the world is the statue of Zeus, created in this place by Phidias.

From Wikipedia:

In the 5th century BC the citizens of Olympia decided to build a temple of Zeus 64 meters long and 28 meters wide. The height of the inner room was 20 meters. The statue of Zeus was placed at the bottom of the temple. According to the sources, it was over 12 meters high and gave the impression that if Zeus got up, he would destroy the roof. It was made of wood covered with pale pink ivory, and Zeus' clothes were made of gold leaf. In his right hand he held a golden statue of the goddess of victory Nike, about 5 meters high, and in his left - a scepter with a perched eagle.



The seafront is nearby and we took advantage of the hospitality of the Greek fishermen and visited one of their seaside restaurants.



