



The End of an Unforgettable Journey

• The ***Erasmus + 2019-2021 “The Others and Us – Bridges between Us”***

programme successfully concluded activities covering the following topics:

C1 Different Religions, November 2019, Petrila, Romania

C2 The Two Sexes, October 2021, Malaga, Spain

C3 People with Special Needs, May 2022, Varna, Bulgaria

C4 Roma - Gypsy Monday, November 2021, Chalkida, Greece

C5 Immigrants - Refugees, March 2022, Izmir, Turkey

• **Project Summary**

Living in a changing world is affected by certain pressing issues, such as discrimination against people with special needs, those belonging to different religions, refugees, Roma people and LGBTQIA+. All these issues need to be dealt with, in order to give the human race the chance to evolve and survive. Thus, the significance of developing empathy and feelings of acceptance towards discriminated groups has been most evidently brought to light. Most recently, in the shed of the all new status quo of the covid-19 pandemic on the one hand, and the breaking out of military conflicts on the other, the aforementioned issues have become even more pressing.

Taking into consideration this alarming and pressing reality our partnership set certain objectives in the sphere of the horizontal priority of “*Social Inclusion*”, in order to achieve a number of common goals, aiming at promoting peaceful coexistence and elimination of prejudice, stereotypes, fear and discrimination among citizens of the world, notably among younger generations.

The programme’s additional horizontal priority of “*Social and educational value of European cultural heritage, its contribution to job creation, economic growth and*

social cohesion” offered participants the chance to come into contact with civilisations and cultural backgrounds, to realise the educational value of European cultural heritage, to broaden their horizons, to develop a European conscience and last but not least to realise the potential for future job prospects elsewhere than in their homelands.

This project focused on helping participants to:

- identify own attitudes, feelings and behaviour towards what is different and learn to recognize unfair practices, such as prejudice and discrimination stereotypes
- recognize similarities and differences among human beings
- comprehend the means which facilitate the development of stereotypes and prejudices and recognize their negative consequences
- learn how to get in someone else’s shoes, develop empathy and recognize other people’s point of view
- adopt what they have experienced concerning equal treatment and respect
- come into contact with the cultural heritage of partner-countries and realise that they all form a common European cultural heritage
- broaden their horizons and develop a European conscience
- realise that there are future job prospects in labour markets elsewhere than in their homelands.

Our partnership consists of 5 school organisations from Mediterranean countries in and around the Balkans, all facing the pressing reality of integrating refugees and eliminating discrimination among sensitive groups.

The project was implemented by taking into consideration issues that account for minority or “weak” groups, which experience rejection and social seclusion. Such groups include, apart from immigrants and refugees, religious minorities, people with special needs, the Roma people and LGBTQIA+.

Learning, Teaching, Training Activities were designed to achieve realisation of the differences of minorities as well as of the pressing need of incorporating them in the

community and to decrease and/or eliminate minorities' sense of inferiority and help them feel integrated.

LTTAs included:

- ice-breaking games/activities
- educational, art and cultural workshops
- project-related presentations and lectures
- activities promoting cultural heritage
- online celebrating events (Erasmus Days, the International Roma Day, the International Day of People with Disabilities, the World Refugee Day).

Project Results that were produced and are available at Erasmus+Project Results Platform include:

- Feedback resources: digital satisfaction surveys (padlet/lino/thinglink), evaluation questionnaires
- Practical and reusable resources: short drama and musical presentations, digital puzzles and quizzes, a collection of short stories, digital project-related exhibitions (Erasmus Days, the International Roma Day, the International Day of People with Disabilities, the World Refugee Day)
- Community building tools: a social media group, a mobile app and an online platform (eTwinning)
- Dissemination material: the project's website, the project's twinspace, description presentations of the project, a digital gallery of photo/video/screenshot material, a digital e-book, dissemination banners and/or leaflets, utility articles (e.g ecological shopping bags, pens, embroidery pieces, folk art objects, mementos etc.) art and cultural events, press releases and articles.

Activities were designed and carried out based on the educational methodological principles of differentiated and experiential learning, ensuring active involvement of all participants in the process. Evaluation/assessment questionnaires, based on established standards, were used to gather feedback and to assess outcomes, in order to incorporate them effectively in classrooms in the long run and to

disseminate the project's context in wider communities through appropriate dissemination channels.

• **Project Priorities and Achieved Results**

The Project results that were conceived at the application stage were supplemented with more inspiring and high standard material and modified accordingly, since the lifetime of the project coincided with the outbreak of the covid-19 pandemic.

The project results that were finally produced are completely related to the project priorities of *“Social Inclusion”* and *“Social and educational value of European cultural heritage, its contribution to job creation, economic growth and social cohesion”*.

The priority of *“Social Inclusion”* proved to be highly topical and extremely well-served, given the fact that the project was implemented in a period of major upheavals, such as the covid-19 pandemic and the breaking out of military conflict in Ukraine, during which disfavoured groups, such as those with disabilities, migrants-refugees, Roma people and the economically disadvantaged were seriously affected. These two undeniably ominous facts made the context, the objectives and the project results immensely timely.

Participants succeeded in approaching diversity, developing critical thinking, recognising the need for change and challenging others into pursuing this change as it is evident from feedback resources.

The priority of *“Social and educational value of European cultural heritage, its contribution to job creation, economic growth and social cohesion”* proved intertemporal and was well served, since participants through the realisation of mobilities were given the opportunity to come into contact with the cultural heritage of participating countries, to broaden their horizons and develop a European conscience, while at the same time realising their future job prospects elsewhere than in their homelands. Project results related to this priority were short drama and musical presentations, digital puzzles and quizzes, a collection of short stories,

digital project-related exhibitions (Erasmus Days, the International Roma Day, the International Day of People with Disabilities, the World Refugee Day).

Collaborations and contacts with people belonging to different religious doctrines was feasible during the first mobility in Romania but those with refugees, immigrants, people with special needs and the Roma during the implementation of the rest of the mobilities were not feasible, due to covid-19 force majeure restrictions.

Digital Material

- topic presentations
- digital satisfaction/impression surveys (padlet/lino/thinglink)
- evaluation questionnaires
- digital project-related exhibitions
- digital gallery of photo/video/screenshot material covering all implemented activities
- a digital e-book
- dissemination banners and/or leaflets
- utility articles (e.g ecological shopping bags, pens, embroidery pieces, folk art objects, mementos etc.)
- art and cultural events
- press releases and articles
- short drama and musical presentations
- digital puzzles and quizzes
- a collection of short stories
- digital project-related topic presentations (e.g Erasmus Days, the International Roma Day, the International Day of People with Disabilities, the World Refugee Day).