



## REPORT PIREUS VISIT 9<sup>th</sup> -16<sup>th</sup> April 2016.

### Monday, 10<sup>th</sup> April 2016

It was the first day out of 7 days in Greece, the third meeting of our Erasmus Project MAP.

In the morning, at 8:15 we were already at school. Our day started with the headmaster's greetings to the Erasmus Plus group and after it, we went to the auditorium where a questionnaire game had been done with the purpose to better know each others. We were supposed to ask different questions to the other students, question like "What kind of music do you like?" or "Which is your best and worst quality?".

At the end of the game we presented the articles from 9:30 to 10:30 each country updated the other groups about the migrants situation in their own country. Later we proceeded with the Books report, because since the 2nd meeting in Hamburg each country had to read at least one book and share their opinions with the other countries.

From 13:00-14:30 we had lunch. And then we did the role play guided by Amnesty International, the role play was called "PASSAGES". In the role play, we were supposed to act like real refugees who were trying to escape from their own countries. We were split into different groups (families) and we had to create an identity to our family our origin country, our own names, our story and we went through some feelings which a refugee feel during his migration. feelings like confusion, fear, sadness, but also motivation to get a better life.

This game in my opinion was a very important experience for us because even if that was a game it allowed us to experience some real feelings and it was a very very intense experience. We were supposed to leave our country to arrive into a temporary refugee camp where the smugglers could take us away and split our families "at the sun rise" then we started again our migration to a better country, but we reach our country borders so we had to negotiate with the soldiers to let us to pass the borders without any documents. When we passed the boarder we had to wait to be accepted by the host country because we were illegal. Some of us were accepted some of us weren't.

After the role play we went to Piraeus to discover the city. We were split into different groups and we had to reach different places in Piraeus and take different photos as a trip diary.

At the end of the day we went out with all the Erasmus students to eat something in Piraeus just to finish in a good way a very good day, and after it everybody went home.

## Tuesday 11<sup>st</sup> April 2016

The third day, Tuesday 11<sup>st</sup> April 2016, in Greece was a tiring one. In the morning we worked in different workshops: the role-play one, the photo exhibition one and the professions one. In the first workshops there were two groups and they had to understand the different passages an asylum seeker goes through and make a role play game for the others, in the second one, the group had to make a poster with the photos every nation had brought about migration waves in the past, in the third one, students discussed about the interview every country had made back in their own country and made a presentation.

After the workshops, we all departed with a coach to the Acropolis. When we arrived at the slope of the Acropolis, we had a quick lunch and then we walked till the peak and we saw the Parthenon and the Old Temple of Athena. Afterwards we visited the Acropolis Museum with a guide and then Monastirakii.

After the visit, we had free-time: we spent the rest of the day in the centre of Athens, in pubs and in restaurants. At the end of the day, we got back to Piraeus by underground and bus.

The Parthenon in the Acropolis.





Greek, French, Lithuanian and Italian guys in front of the Greek Parliament in Athens.

### **Wednesday 12<sup>nd</sup> April**

On Wednesday morning we split into the workshop's groups. Me and the other students in my team tried to find a "theatrical" way to present the interviews we did with a pilot (from Italy) and a doctor (from France). We came up with the idea of taking a "second level" interview, asking questions to the interviewers. Kids from each nation then exposed their research about how life changes for an immigrant that comes to their country (for example we talked about how two immigrants found their jobs in Italy and if they had been able to do what they studied for).

Other students worked on a big poster with the photographs of the migration at the beginning of the 20th century.

They drew the map of Europe at the bottom, represented by monuments that were built in that time. They put on them pictures showing the conditions of the people before they had left. Then, they drew three roads as the symbol of their routes, they were as the typical American roads. On then we put the photographs of their journey through the ocean.

At the end of their journey we drew the "American dream", represented by the statue of the Liberty and an eagle. The statue was the first thing that migrants were able to see getting to America. We represented America in a cloud, as the dream and the point that the migrants were dreaming of and

wanted to reach. We put in the cloud the pictures of their arrivals and of their lives after that. They wrote near each of the three steps of the travel a hopeful sentence, as the thought of migrants or just as a simple encouragement.

It was pretty satisfying seeing the work done, almost as a homage to the courage of migrants, and a mourning for those who had lost their life with the hope of reaching a better one.

In the afternoon we walked through the neighborhood of Kokkinia, an area where refugees from Asia Minor were hosted when they arrived in Greece. We saw the architecture of refugees' houses and then we went in the centre of Piraeus to take some pictures with the most important monuments of the city.





## Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> April

On Thursday we had one-day excursion, the first destination was a hot spot, there we met refugees who arrived there one month before. We talked to them, we met people coming from Syria especially women with their families. It was moving... many children were attracted by our group, so they gradually came to meet us, in the end we involved many of them in a game, we talked to them and played with them.



A boy spoke English and translated what his mother wanted to tell us, two women talked to teachers one of them wanted to reach his eldest son in Sweden, another woman was there with her whole family, they were waiting to be moved to a refugee camp.

Our Greek partner started to go to the hot spot as volunteers when some months before there was a huge arrival of migrants. We brought some water and yoghurt to show our solidarity.





After this touching experience, we left for Sounion to visit the majestic temple of Poseidon. On our way back, in the afternoon we visited the Metropolitan Health Centre of Hellicon, there we met volunteers both doctors and civilians who told us about the origin of the centre and about their experience there.





## Friday 15<sup>th</sup> April

The last day, Friday 15th April 2016, we spent together was a really special and tiring day. In the morning there were all the presentations of the work “How migrants keep in touch with their roots” each country had prepared, the report of the interview we had on Wednesday and the presentation of what the workshops groups had prepared, that is the role play, the poster and the Power Point presentation. We were involved in presentations all the morning.



The view from the beach in Aiyiva.

Afterwards, most foreigner students with their teachers and a Greek girl took different taxis to get to the port in order to get on a ferry for Aiyiva, an island. After an hour journey, we landed and we had free time for the afternoon: we spent it in pubs and on the beach. Then we got back to Athens by ferry and we took taxis to go back to school for the farewell party. We took a photo all together. Some Greek parents prepared us really tasting food. We had all the evening to dance and sing, even the parents who were there danced with us mostly Greek dance and on modern songs and also the teachers danced too! It lasted till after midnight and when the music was over, the Greek students and teachers surprised us giving each of us a little present, sand and shells in and on a little bottle, and the photo we had taken before the party started! It really surprised us because in few hours they prepared the photos! It showed us how gentle the Greek are: they are really open hearted and they also know to party! Then, the German teacher thanked the Greek for their hospitality from all of the hosted people. Afterwards everyone started crying because we had to leave and we weren't going to see one another anymore. In the end, everyone went back to their home after one o'clock a.m.