

Cyprus Diary

Monday

After the students' and teachers' arrival on the beautiful Island of Cyprus we met for our first meeting day at "Pallouriotissa Gymnasium" and got greeted by the schools' orchestra and the Headmistress Mrs Eleni Papastefanou.



We had had the opportunity to attend a school tour guided by the teachers as the school is partly situated in the UN Buffer Zone. We saw all the schools' facilities including the Gym and of course the European Corner for our project.



After a short break the Cypriot team had organized a presentation by UNHCR from the Assistant Public Information Officer Mrs Emilia Strovalidou about the situation of refugees in Europe and in Cyprus, which can be seen on our Twinspace.



On the afternoon we got the opportunity to see the beautiful country- and beachside of Larnaca together with the students. After that, the students went to their hosting families to spend the nighttime together, while the teachers had their first “Mezze” at “Mezostrati Traditional Tavern”.

Tuesday

The second day began with the presentation of the movies created by the students of each country. The students had interviewed refugees about their way to Europe. The videos can be seen on our

Twinspace (“Interviews”).

After that, the students had a short break and attended classes, while the teachers had their first meeting, to discuss the topics of the project, the tasks for the next meetings and the extra means of communications. The presentation can be accessed on Twinspace. In the afternoon the students and teachers got a cultural insight of the area in and around Limassol, including the Kourion Ancient Theatre as well as the Kolossi castle and they spend the afternoon in the Limassol Old Harbor and Marina.



Wednesday

While the coordinators were having a meeting, the students and the rest of the teachers learned traditional Cyprus dances.



The coordinators agreed on the following working topics
(presentation on Twinspace)

Each country produces:

- A translation of the presentation “Flight and trauma” seen in Marburg, in order to sensitize the staff of the school
- Try out the “Klassenrat”-concept seen in Marburg, in order to establish democratic ways to include regular students as well as refugees students in decision-making processes
- Prepare a lesson to be held in Seville, which has the aim to specifically include migrants/refugees with language issues and exchange good practices in that topic
- Prepare a presentation how the partners schools manage vocational training in their school community.
- Show how each country disseminate our project to the staff, parents and other means of communications like magazines, newspapers etc.

After this laborious start, students and teachers visited the Old Town of Nicosia the capital of Cyprus and went to the Leventon museum, Shiakolas observatory, the Nicosia municipality and the exchange point between the North and the South part of Nicosia.





We learnt a lot about the special situation of Cyprus as the last divided capital in Europe due to Turkish occupation of the Northern part in 1974.



Walking aside of the border clarified the parallels of the situation in Cyprus towards the division of East- and West Germany.

In the evening we had had another group activity with the students: Visiting the “Escape/Activity-Room” in Nicosia, which increased the students ability to work together in an international group in order to solve problems together.

Thursday

On our cultural day we met at school and drove together to the Troodos Mountains and the UNESCO Geopark, which included a former Asbestos mine. Again we got an insight of the beautiful

countryside and its' diversity. Altogether we had a picnic at the park and spent the afternoon back at the Nicosia Old Town.



In the evening the school community offered a rich Farewell Dinner in the multipurpose room including impressive examples of Cyprus dances, music, culture and traditional food.





Friday

At the “Riverland Bio farm” students and teachers got another example to achieve inclusion of all students regardless of their language skills through manual labor. The students baked bread together and made the traditional cheese “Halloumi”. Although they got an insight of the farming life and had activities like planting vegetables, managing tasks in the green house and getting in touch with the “wildlife”.



Back at Nicosia the students had their Farewell evenings in their families and spent time together. The teachers had Farewell dinner at the Balcony lounge and after that, the partners went back to their home countries.