

Erasmus+, KA2, Strategic Partnership, “Young Entrepreneurs – Learning By Experience”

LTTA (Learning/Teaching/Training Activities) in Volos, Greece

On account of the project Erasmus+, KA2, *Young Entrepreneurs – Learning by Experience*, a trip to Greece took place from 19th to 27th February. Six Portuguese students attending the 12th form participated in it.

On the first day, in Athens, we visited the National Museum of Archeology which displays more than 11.000 pieces of art related to several centuries of the Greek antiquity. We enjoyed a lot of artifacts made of gold, copper and ivory; we also admired different types of frescoes, thanks to the amazing work of the German archeologist and a person of reference in investigation of the Mycenaean civilization (1600-1050 B.C.), Heinrich Schlieman (1822-1890), who, after the discovery of extraordinary treasures in Greece, wrote “...that they are the basis of an incommensurable national wealth.” And without a doubt we can say they are. It’s also thanks to him that the grandiose discovery of the Mycenae acropolis (XIV and XII B.C.) charmingly astonished everyone. In this same museum, we got to know the amazing evolution of the statuary along many centuries: in 600 B.C., the statues were huge and they portrayed the athletic masculine nudity. Since 490 B.C., this kind of art also covered the feminist universe, having become generalized the utilization of natural colors in their clothes. Later, the statuary turned out into a more realistic one, in a clear allusion to the need for man to be a thinker, because the practice of democracy demanded this posture towards life. Since 460 B.C.,

the bronze statuary became a representation of the human anatomy in all its splendor, being a understandable consequence of the practice of physical exercise that culminated in the Olympic Games. Since 340 B.C., to make the statues more realistic, ivory started to be used to fulfill the sclera; colors to paint the iris and eyelashes made of silver wires also became common. The statue of bronze *Jockey de Artemision*, of the Hellenistic era (140 B.C.), recovered from a shipwreck in the Artemisia Cape, in Euboea, is also gracefully displayed in this museum. In the third century B.C., the statues made of ivory became common such like the frescoes. In the *spring fresco*, the opulent use of vibrating colors gave to it a great beauty.

In Volos (Βόλος, in Greek), students from all the partner countries of this project (apart from Greece, Portugal, Latvia, Estonia and Belgium) appreciated a graffiti related to *Social Inclusion* done by the Greek students attending the school *40 Geniko Lykeio Volou* and that are part of this project. While in the Chemistry lab, we could see experiments related to saponification. On another day, the Greek students exemplified the richness of some typical dances.

In the Pelion mountain (2800 metres high), in Makrinitza, we visited the *Environmental Education Centre*, where we attended a brief seminar. This centre protects the endemic richness of Pelion and, consequently, signed contracts with notorious cosmetic brands. Still in the Pelion Mountain, we visited an NGO, *Arsis*, which supports immigrants and refugees from different countries. In the picturesque mountain villages, the typical houses show, on the windows, original wooden covers and, on their top, colorful paintings or small stained glasses that make them very beautiful. Visitsa and Millies are quite illustrative examples of this. In the

latter, its beautiful church, built, quite probably, (as there is no historical certainty) in the 14th century, and renovated in 1741, shows, like all other orthodox churches we had already visited before, a marvelous beauty. This church's acoustic conditions are considered the best in Europe, mainly due to the fact that there are three underground wells that drain the mountain's water. As we entered the church, we came across an old tradition consisting of offering traditional sweets to family members of a recently-dead person, to mark the 40th day after his/her death, as well as to anyone who wants to try them, which was what we did!

In Volos, we visited the Archeological Museum that houses important findings of the Neolithic Era. In the name of the project's overall topic, *Entrepreneurship*, we got to know the corporate background of *Epsa*, from its foundation, in 1924, to current times.

The day dedicated to Meteora, over 150 km from Volos, turned out to be really interesting. This huge region, in geological terms, is unique. The visit to the *Digital Museum* allowed us to learn that Meteora was formed 30 million years ago, that it reaches a maximum altitude of 2918m and that it started to be inhabited by human beings 140,000 years ago. Another fascinating aspect of Meteora is that, from the 14th century onwards, twenty-four Orthodox monasteries were built on the top of absolutely inaccessible towering rock formations. Each monastery had a huge basket that was lowered to the foot of the pillar where the monastery had been built, and then the people of the villages would fill it with food; the monks or nuns (depending on the type of monastery) would then lift it. In this way, the subsistence survival of them was assured. Nowadays, there are only six monasteries left. We visited two, one of monks and one of nuns. All these monasteries were decreed by

UNESCO World Heritage. In conclusion, we can say that the lovely and undeniable beauty of panoramic views of various sites of Meteora kind of lead us to a fairy tale. Still in Meteora, we visited the *Natural History Museum* and the *Museum of Mushrooms*. On the way back to Volos, we stopped in Trikala to take a walk in this city.

Again in Athens, the historical and architectural wealth of the *Acropolis*, built around 450 B.C. as well as of the Parthenon (built between 447 and 432 B. C.), dedicated to Athena, Patron Goddess of the city, is unique and unquestionably breathtaking.

It must also be added that the Greek gastronomy is very rich and tasty. Once, for example, at lunch, we were granted with more than twelve kinds of fish!

This trip to Greece was, undeniably, extremely enriching, not only in the cultural point of view, but also in the personal one, to which greatly contributed the friendliness and kindness of the Greek people. It was unquestionably a lifelong experience for the entire Portuguese group and, of course, also for those of Belgium, Latvia and Estonia.