



ΙΝΣΤΙΤΟΥΤΟ ΜΕΤΑΝΑΣΤΕΥΤΙΚΗΣ ΠΟΛΙΤΙΚΗΣ
HELLENIC MIGRATION POLICY INSTITUTE

The project "ACE" / Το πρόγραμμα "ACE"
ACTIVE CITIZEN in EUROPE
Ενεργός πολίτης στην Ευρώπη
"Active European citizens building"
Οικοδομώντας ενεργούς Ευρωπαίους Πολίτες

ΕΤΑΙΡΟΙ, PARTNERS

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Key Competences

Communication in mother tongue

The participants used their native language in various situations within the project since the preparation until the evaluation of its results. Primarily in the preparatory phase the members of each native group communicated, discussed and exchanged and expressed ideas and opinions concerning the interactive exercises, debates, role-plays, simulations, and other informal methods used in the indoor workshops, as well as their feelings, needs and facts related to outdoor activities, in the mother tongue both orally speaking, or in writing, listening and reading. Additionally, they had to present the concept of the project in their local environment and to different kind of audiences (parents, friends, mates, fellows) which required skills in speaking and/or writing in their mother tongue.

Although during the main activities of the implementation phase their communication with their peers was mainly in English language, they kept using their own language in contrast to the language which was fluently spoken by the other groups. This made them to learn some foreign words and phrases but also to ameliorate the way they looked at their own language and think more carefully about how they could use it in the same expressions and sayings explaining them clearly to the others in native language and of course in English language. An example is the introductory workshop where they felt more self-confident and increased their self-empowerment when they expressed themselves and their opinions and reflections about their future in Europe, their access in labour market and their involvement in society and Democracy in mother tongue.

Next to that, by entering the world of the “ACE” project and its thematic topics for development, all young participants were introduced to and deepened in new words and expressions in their own language.

All the participants would like to work further to increase this competence through taking part in the future non-formal education projects after this mobility period abroad in the framework of the “ACE” project.

Communication in foreign language

From the starting point of meeting and living together with their peers from other countries to jointly carry out the work programme and the workshops of the project “ACE, the young participants were confronted with their native languages.

Already in the preparation phase of the actual exchange the other languages had been explored and practiced through communication by e-mails, Skype, mobile phones, through reading information on websites about the countries of origin of their peers, etc.

However, foreign language, mainly the English language, was used by the participants for the communication with their peers during the main activities of the implementation phase. This communication didn't differ to the communication in their mother tongue owing to that it was based on their already ability to understand and express thoughts, feelings and facts orally speaking, or in writing, listening and reading according to their wishes and needs. But it improved and / or provided them mediation knowledge and intercultural understanding and awareness skills and competences, it supported them to understand others' cultures, habits, life-styles, traditions and realities, it strengthened values like solidarity, democracy, friendship, etc. and their willingness to discuss about inclusion and diversity issues. At the end, this learning performance increased more their self-empowerment and self-esteem.

Next to that, talking in English as foreign language the young participants ameliorated the way they looked at their own language and at how they could use it in a better a clarified way to the others.

For all of them, speaking another language consisted one of the biggest challenges in the “ACE” project as it helped them to express their ideas, opinions and thoughts on important topics such as Citizenship, EU awareness and Democracy and Migrants' issues, as well as their needs and feelings about their future in Europe, their access in labour market and their involvement in society and Democracy.

All the participants would like to work further to increase this crucial competence through taking part in the future non-formal education projects after this mobility period abroad in the framework of the “ACE” project.

Digital competence

Within the project “ACE”, in all its phases, for preparing, realising, disseminating and evaluating it, the participants used confidently and critically different media of information technology such as their mobile phones, digital cameras, personal computers etc. as means to retrieve, assess, store, produce, present, analyze and exchange information, **questions/queries/ concerns or findings/assumptions/ thoughts or ideas/suggestions on specific issues** and to communicate and participate in collaborative networks via the Internet in order to share this information.

Especially in the preparatory phase, the Internet had been used a lot to communicate among them. For example, they used various online tools to prepare the travel to Greece, as well as their outdoor activities such as their **visit and guided tour to the Hellenic Parliament, the permanent exhibitions and to the Parliament’s Plenum Hall, to the Representation of the European Commission and to the European Parliament Office in Greece, to the historical center of Athens, to the Metropolitan Community Clinic, responsible clinic for the poor and homeless people and for migrants and refugees,** to the Acropolis Museum and **to the archaeological site of the Acropolis of Athens and of its Slopes, Parthenon and Herodion, etc.**

Additionally, they made short clips to present themselves to the other groups putting these pictures on-line, and they started to communicate through social networks (facebook, instagram).

But also during the actual exchange, different media were used:

- **video screening concerning some of the outdoor activities for better understanding of the guided tours (e.g. outdoor activity to the Old Parliament House and the National Historical Museum of Athens),**
- software for publishing press releases and / or other official statements on the particular matters and thematic, free and / or focused discussions **that should be held as well as on questionnaires had to be filled,**
- online tools for promotion leaflets and posters,
- digital platforms for discussion e.g. “VouliWatch”,

- internet applications for participation in public consultations, e.g. for the European Solidarity Corps as well as for Photography competitions, such as this entitled: "What does Europe mean to me?",
- digital tools for better understanding, e.g. the Certification of Qualifications via Europass, Youthpass, e-portfolio etc.,
- You Tube for communication campaigns,
- interviews on TV, etc.

All the participants would like to work further to **improve** their use of digital media and tools through taking part in the future **challenging** non-formal education projects after this mobility period abroad in the framework of the "ACE" project.

Learning to learn

The young participants in the framework of the project "ACE", since the period of preparing it until the realisation of the main activity, the dissemination of its results and the evaluation of it, learnt to organise their own learning and manage their time and information, both for their selves and in groups.

They have been also aware of their learning process and needs for a creative thinking and free discussion and expression. Thus, they identified different opportunities available to learn further about:

- The Lisbon Treaty, its clauses on European Integration and Active European Citizenship and the importance and benefits for all citizens inside EU, including people with migratory background
- the activities, tools and methodologies being to young European citizens' disposal in order to they may be informed and participate in the democratic life of Europe as well as about best practices of participative democracy for the young generation
- The "Initiative of Citizens" as the best method of participative democracy and the New forms of interactive communication between young European citizens and European institutions.

Doing so, the young participants

- made a better use of the information, knowledge and skills given to them from the visits to the Hellenic Parliament, the Representation of the European Commission and the European

Parliament Office in Greece, and to the Metropolitan Community Clinic, as well from their guided tours to the historical center of Athens, the Acropolis Museum and the archaeological site of the Slopes of Acropolis, etc.

- filled more easier the requested questionnaires
- prepared more diligently questions/queries/ concerns or findings/assumptions/ thoughts or ideas/suggestions on the particular issues in the daily workshops of **exchange of views, critical thoughts and reflections, smooth communication and multifaceted interaction among them**
- managed more effectively the topics for the free and / or focused discussions undertaking and the conclusions of them as well as the material used (**photos, press articles, videos of archive, slides, images, interactive maps, animations, readings, comments of journalism, news by the electronic media, etc.**)
- understood fully the value and the process of their **Qualifications' Certification at the end of the project**
- involved more actively to the presentations, lectures, exercises, role-plays, simulations, **entertainment events**, etc, and in general in **team working** during the realisation of the main activity
- enjoyed the **participation in Public Consultations, in European competitions and / or in Internet voting using hashtag on Facebook, Instagram, etc.**

As a conclusion, the participants as individuals as well as their groups learnt:

- setting learning aims and planning objectives based on already achieved competences and experiences from their personal, professional and social life,
- reflecting upon their learning abilities and strengths and weaknesses,
- monitoring and evaluating their already reached learning process as well as the unexpected and challenging learnt things,
- discovering new, modern, innovative, alternative, interactive and / or cooperative information ways and learning opportunities,
- organising their learning and managing their optimum learning time,
- evaluating better and estimating the **supportive** things, and situations in their learning and methods that assisted their growth and development

- motivating themselves and being more self-confident persons, being aware of being a learner and taking responsibility for further development on already gained experience and competences, and collected outcomes and changes they went through.

All the participants would like to work further to improve this crucial competence called as “Learning to learn” that helped them so much to reach all other knowledge, skills and competences through taking part in the future non-formal education projects after this mobility period abroad in the framework of the “ACE” project.

Social and civic competence

The young persons, engaging actively and interactively in all the events and indoor and outdoor workshops of the main activity of the project “ACE”, succeeded primarily their empowerment to participate as much as possible in society and civic life at local and national level as well as their enforcement to involve fully in democratic life inside the European Union.

Analytically, they succeeded:

- a substantial and in depth understanding of the European history,
- a familiarization with the European ideal, the past and the memory of the united Europe,
- an important knowledge about the European achievements for the society, economy, culture and democracy,
- stances, attitudes and behaviors compatible with the founding and fundamental basic principles and common European values, such as solidarity, state of law, justice, equality, respect to human rights and public freedoms,
- skills and competences to exercise like an active citizen their rights based on European citizenship, so as the cost of no Europe should be eliminated,
- qualifications for a more democratic, accessible and intercultural Europe.

Next to that, the young participants approached alternative learning ways, such as informal education, as a collateral method used for their lifelong training, mostly requested by the competitive sector of economy and labor market as an interesting and important methodology for the

amelioration of their access in the employment and the promotion of the employability and their career prospects.

Additionally they became able for participating in social, civic and working life as they:

- learnt the significance of the sense “teamworking” and “integration”,
- increased their willingness for cooperation and smooth communication with their peers on a constructive way without conflicts, as well as the sense of initiatives and responsibilities and the expression of critical thinking and acting,
- increased their self-empowerment and self-esteem and their skills for further growth of their personality,
- strengthened values like solidarity, democracy, equality, non-discriminatory behaviour, tolerance and friendship particularly in increasingly diverse societies where there are people with special needs and / or fewer opportunities coming from different social, economic and educational environments and people from different cultural backgrounds with various codes of conduct, customs and **living conditions**
- learnt to compare realities from the different countries of origin of their peers, share their experiences and ideas with them, see their own reality in a broader perspective and bring that international dimension back to their local reality,
- deepened effectively in inclusion and diversity issues in general and enhanced their intercultural awareness.

All the participants would like to work further to improve this Social and civic competence **that** is linked to personal and social well-being through taking part in the future non-formal education projects after this mobility period abroad in the framework of the “ACE” project.