

Project Overview: Cyprus

Fund-raising and Taking an Active Role in the Community

Paralimni Lyceum

Description of the activity:

- Describe the content, methodology and expected results of the activity.

- How is it going to be related to or integrated with the normal activities of the involved schools?

Offering time to help others for free is a core part of many schools' philosophy and of course this eventually has a huge impact on the local community. Students participating in the project, as young citizens will have a role of community involvement. They will experience volunteering work.

This will not only give students the opportunity to try out theoretical skills in the real world but most importantly will give them hands on experience and add depth to their lives. The intention of this LTA is to familiarize the visitors with the basic concept of voluntarism and to reveal places where it can be found as well as opportunities where it can be applied.

The importance of volunteerism has long been acknowledged by the E.U making constant efforts to raise awareness of the benefits supporting volunteering. With this in mind, as a school, we want to promote social volunteerism by visiting "Agia Skepi", a part of a monastery, which is a long term therapeutic community for adults who are long term depended substance users. The organization is mainly sponsored by volunteers and students will witness how volunteerism urges social

participation/integration and becomes an instrument of active citizenship. Moreover, the institution's programme is based on a bio-psychosocial model through which students will understand all about organic food and ways of organic agriculture which is a project the German students will be working on. The whole learning experience will be experiential as this will be integrated in their lesson-based project. It will be a life changing experience for students who will eventually develop their capacity to operate effectively as active and informed local and global citizens.

Another visit will be The Cyprus Handicraft where students can see the artisans engaged in the traditional crafts at the workshops, and experience the Cyprus cultural heritage. Promoting cultural diversity nationally and internationally fosters social inclusion and equity. The increase in automation is perceived by some as a threat to employment in the future and has stoked fears of a jobless growth economy. At the centre, traditional forms of engagement make workers more flexible and better able to survive in an unstable labour market, where jobs change quickly or become automated.

They allow individuals to employ their skills and to improve society. Students' mobilities being a part of the Erasmus+ project will allow students to develop competences, become aware of socially relevant

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topics/thematic areas, discover new cultures, habits and life-styles. As a consequence, learning during this LTTA is triggered by methods of nonformal education. Students learn about inclusion and diversity issues, taking into account the critical context in Europe and considering the fact that non-formal learning activities and volunteering can significantly contribute to address the needs of people within local communities.

How is participation in this activity going to benefit the involved participants?

Community service is something that schools require. In fact, many high schools throughout Europe require their students to help out the community in some way in order to graduate. In the Cyprus setting it's often on the honour system to report what students have contributed voluntarily in their community.

We expect that this suggested volunteering involvement/participation will have the potential to realise significant benefits for young people in enhancing their learning experience. They support young people's learning and development and provide a means by which students can engage constructively in civil society. In effect, they can be applied in other settings and in the other countries involved in the Erasmus project. In fact, a participation as such will help young people connect with the world and will gain a huge range of skills

starting with industry-related skills, the ability to work in a team, leadership, problem solving, leadership, the ability to plan and prioritise work, report writing and undoubtedly interpersonal skills.

We want students leaving school to be not only knowledgeable but self-directed, creative and adaptable. Finally, community voluntary participation has become an asset in the workplace. Volunteer work on a résumé can unquestionably showcase student's skills, as well as reveal openness to teamwork and a talent for innovation. Employers overwhelmingly look favourably on job applicants who have volunteered. Thus, students enhance their employability matters and become well equipped.