

Erasmus Program 2nd EPAL Chania

In the framework of the European Erasmus program entitled "The future of the jobs vs the jobs of the future » the third mobility took place in Greece and specifically in the city of Chania, from 29-11-2021 until 3-12-2021. Teachers from vocational schools in Hungary, Spain, Portugal and Italy visited the 2nd Vocational School of Chania in order to exchange good practices, the implementation of which is expected to replace the traditional and often obsolete methods in the field of education. Everyone's interest was focused in Technical - Vocational education as an important factor for economic development and social cohesion within the society "Of knowledge and information".



Initially, the teachers were presented with the history and development of Technical - Vocational education in Greece and more specifically in the city of Chania. Emphasized was the need immediately after the end of World War II, of technical education in a country with a troubled economy and a large shortage of specialized workers. This was followed by another presentation of the actions promoted by the school as good practices and innovative

programs which are not dictated by the official curriculum, but have as their starting point the initiative, the spirit and the sensitivity of some teachers who struggle daily to change school "from within". Next was presented the Post-Secondary Year – Apprenticeship Program, a program applied under the supervision of teachers of the 2nd Vocational School of Chania since 2017. Mrs. Maria Trikka, who was the administrator for the Apprenticeship program for the prefecture of Chania, highlighted the benefits but also the new perspectives that open up for the students as the center of



gravity has now shifted from knowledge to skills and abilities and the lifelong adaptation of the individual to a society of high risk. She was accompanied by Mr. Kalamaridis Antonios (owner of the business CHANIA CAR & TRUCKS) who testified, in a discussion that followed, about his personal point of view of the program from the side of the employer having employed several apprentices.



The itinerary also included activities aimed at a more essential interaction of our visitors with the area, the history, the culture, mentality as well as their contact modern aspects of Greek society. During their 5-day stay in Chania,



participants had the opportunity to get to know a city with a special appearance, to talk to residents, to walk in the alleys of the Old Town and the Venetian port, to get to know the special architecture of neighborhoods like Halepa, to taste traditional delicacies, to listen to traditional but also

modern Greek music and finally to know its authentic identity. These experiences included a visit to the home Eleftheriou Venizelou, the Venizelos

Foundation and also at the graves of the two well-known Cretan politicians giving the visitors an opportunity to learn about the local history, personality and action Eleftheriou Venizelou who determined the course of the modern Greek state. Everyone was puzzled, impressed and



moved by their contact with a piece of Modern Greek history. The tours also included visits to archeological sites with interesting, rich history, and special

natural beauty and visits to local businesses. In this context, visits were made to the archeological site of Knossos and the Archaeological Museum of Heraklion, to the Monastery Gonias in Kolimbari and to the PNEUMATKAKI Winery in the municipality



Kissamos. The visit of the foreign school representatives was of special importance to the Deputy Regional Governor Mr. Kalogeris Nikolaos. He welcomed them in a cordial atmosphere in his office at the government building and offered them souvenirs to commemorate the anniversary of the Union of Crete with Greece.



The participants, on the last day of their stay in Chania expressed their kind words about the organization of the program and the coordination by Ms. Dourountaki Maria, vice principal of the school. They

expressed their fascination by the natural beauties, how impressed they were by the flavors and Cretan hospitality, and also



expressed their desire to visit our city again. The mobility left the best impressions on both a teaching and a pedagogical level. New ideas were expressed, innovative approaches were presented and at the same time



everyone was eager for the implementation of new strategies in initiating and motivating students. Moreover, the exchange of experiences is one of the main purposes of the specific European programs that target – among other things - future European cooperation and its strengthening intercultural consciousness.

