

Press Release

A group of fifteen teachers of 1 EPAL Drapetsonas visited Portugal in March 2015, participating in a mobility project of "Vocational Education and Training", KA1 Erasmus +. The aim of our project was the training of a group of teachers on the topic "Making vocational education and training more attractive" and was given to us by our partner agency Follow Up Training-Minho based in Northern Portugal.

It was an exceptional experience that resulted in a remarkable training, but also the acquaintance with the country of Portugal and its people. We met the educational system and the attitude towards vocational education and training. We met their attitude towards educational training and how they are implementing subjects such as the absorption of young people into the labor market, internships and apprenticeship students, private and public sector cooperation in order to better education and provided the highest level of learning outcome.

Our two countries Greece and Portugal share many common elements in the structure of their education systems and the structure of levels of study, from kindergarten through higher education. One of the main differences between them are in private and public sector collaboration to provide expertise and logistical purpose updated knowledge in the workforce, which feeds then businesses of the local community. Another important distinction is the integration section for students who belong to social groups that need support. Impression made us the large percentage of private occupational schools, which are free for students, with a Government grant per pupil that heavily subsidized by EU programmes. Another important difference is the opening of the school in the wider school community and the local community, in hours of downtime and how it generates profits qualitatively and quantitatively in this. The school working hours are expanded and the students are provided free food and transportation.

We have seen in practice through our visits in many Vocational Schools and enterprises which are sites traineeships and apprenticeships, how these are implemented successfully. Result of this is that the absorption rate of the graduates of vocational education in the local labour market is particularly high.



Our experience from this program is evaluated as very positive because seeing the similarities but also the differences between the two Educational Systems; we have found grounds of optimization and progress on our existing system with zero cost.

More information on the Erasmus programs + can be found on the website of the State Scholarships Foundation – IKY the national institution that has undertaken the implementation of the Erasmus + programmes in Greece:

<http://www.iky.gr/erasmusplus-ka1/epagelmatikatartisi-ka1> and on our school website:
<http://1epal-drapets.att.sch.gr/autosch/joomla25/index.php/en/>.