

The Cononect Chronicle



September, 2017, 3d edition



Editorial

Dear readers

We proudly present the third edition of our e-zine. With a mix of emotions however. On the one hand we are happy to present a synopsis of a another wonderful exchange, on the other hand we are sad because this was the last of the exchanges, so this is almost the final edition of our e-zine.

This publication is dedicated to the exchange hosted by our Greek friends, which started on the 29th of April and ended on the 6th of May. After the exchanges in Oostende (Belgium) and Karlskoga (Sweden), our Greek colleagues organized a 'double' exchange. Originally we intended a fourth exchange in Burdur (Turkey), but because of the developments in Turkey after the 15th of July 2016 this did seem to be an option any longer. So our Greek friends agreed on receiving a double delegation of Belgian and Swedish students (2 x 8) and the Turkish delegation (5). These 21 students were accompanied by 9 foreign teachers, which made the group quite impressive with a total of 30 foreign participants.

In this exchange in Larisa there were three main themes, namely 'cultural heritage', 'water' and 'recycling'. In the huge auditorium of the 6th Gymnasium of Larisa the students presented the most important historical or natural monuments of their own country. They also prepared Greek drama and we enjoyed the magnificent performance of the various theatrical plays on stage. You will read about these highlights, along with a report of all the activities day by day.

During several months before the exchange the students did research on the theme of water and recycling. In Larisa they debated on the results of the questionnaires they made and found out for example that the high cost of a cubic meter of water does not necessarily stimulate people to spill less water. The results of the research on items such as the quality of water, algal bloom, ... you can read in the fourth and last e-zine, also to appear this month. Enjoy!



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Saturday: the 29th of April : Departure-day!

VOLOS _ This day was quite rough. In the morning we had to say goodbye to our parents for seven days. At 7:10 we had our train to Gent; there we had to take our train to Brussels Airport, where we could take our airplane to Volos (Greece).

When we arrived at the airport we needed to check in our bags. It was kind of stressful, because we were afraid that our bags would weigh more than 10 kilos. Finally we found our place for our journey to Greece. It was petrifying

(especially for me, because never before I had a flying experience).

When we arrived at Volos, the weather was GREAT but we were exhausted. Our hostfamilies picked us up and brought us to our families or to the hotel. Then we ate something and discovered the city a little bit. It wasn't that late to get in bed that night, because we were very tired, and looking forward for the next day.

Kain Ide

„Something strange happened reaching ground in Volos. Local firemen stood ready to baptize our plane, because it was the first flight of TUIfly with that destination.” Watch it here (images Louise Hagers):
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LNyqmqGQ4ik>



Sunday, the 30th of April: Familyday!

LARISSA _ The parents of the Greek students decided to do an activity all together. A good breakfast and an amazing view helped to survive the long trip in the mountains around a big lake. After more than an hour we arrived at a place where we could choose between horse riding, archery and pedalos. Everyone chose to do the archery. The weather was nice. It was not too hot or too cold. We had fun, everyone supported for each other. It was nice to be with the students and parents together. They are so open and warm, we felt us immediately comfortable.

After the activity we tried to find a tavern where we could eat. The parents weren't as prepared as we would be, but they communicated a lot and achieved to find a nice place. At 4pm we could finally enjoy a lovely meal. All the students sat together at one big table. We talked and laughed a lot!! One group of friends ...

When we finished our lunch we went to a dam. There is a nice view and the water is blue. An amazing place to visit. The group took some pictures at the dam. A bit further you could find some souvenirs and food standings. We tried some typical foods of Greece. The most of the Belgium students liked it. Then we tried to find a cafe to drink some coffee.

On our way we had a lot of stops to take pictures of the stunning view. Some people wanted to swim in the lake but the weather was a bit too cold and the water was dirty. Our last stop was in a village near Larissa. The parents drank some coffee and the students went for a walk. We noticed that everyone is outside. All the people are enjoying being together. It is something we could learn from. A wedding couple was taking pictures, kids were playing with soap bubbles and so on. The day wasn't still finished. The students went to the square where we had a great time! It started to be a tradition to go out every evening. We enjoyed every minute of our day!

Roan Gevaert

ARCHERY, LAKES, MOUNTAINS, ...





IMAGES OF A 1st OF MAY IN GREECE



Monday the 1st of May: although International Labourers' Day... working day!

LARISSA _ In Belgium, the first of May is a holiday and in Greece it's the same. But because of our visit in Larissa, they opened the school for us. Before the exchange, we all made presentations about our country, so we presented them in the morning.

It was a very large auditorium and it scared me a little bit, but the presentations about the countries and the environment were interesting. The teachers and students were very friendly and we were well received. The school was different than our school, but it was nice to see everything.

At 10 AM we had a break and there was a snack for us. We played volleyball and the sun was shining, so it was a good morning!



After school, we went home for lunch. We walked together with a group of friends. I ate together with Roan and Victoria and her family. It was so good and there was so much food. In the afternoon we took the bus to the



city and we had a drink together. At the end of the day we ate a

typical pita.

Louise Hagers



DION



PLATAMON CASTLE



4

Discovering the surroundings of the Olympus

DION/PLATAMON/PANTELEIMON _ On Tuesday, the fourth day of our stay. the planning was loaded with a good mix of activities. There was something for everybody. The thing we Ostend guys were most excited about was of course the beach.

We started the day with taking the bus to DION, on our way towards this archeological site we got some explanation prepared by the Greek student-colleagues. Once arrived at our first destination we went exploring the ruins of temples, bath houses, theatres aso. We also got a lot of information about what the purposes of everything once used to be and how and the way in which they were used.

After a short break with drinks and sandwiches we went to the archeological museum of Dion that further explained and exposed the secrets and findings of relicts of this ancient place.

The castle of Platamon was up next. After a short but intense climb my breath was taken

away by the beauty of that castle and its view towards the Aegean sea from one side and the mountain of the Olympus at the other side.

After exploring the castle from all sides, we got some freetime when we got to the beach nearby. It was amazing for us to have a swim in the Aegean sea in a long while. Then we finished our trip with a visit to the small but lovely town of old Panteleimon from which you had an amazing view on its surroundings. It's an ancient village of shepherds, built in the early 15th century, on the eastern slope of Mount Olympus. It was very well preserved while being left in the 60s, was later declared National Heritage Monument (2003), thus becoming a popular tourist destination due to the picturesque appearance and now reached about 3,000 inhabitants again.

After that visit we got home again and went out eating with all the students. Then we went home for a good night sleep.

Max Vangeel & Keana Stockmans

The Castle of Platamon (10th—11th century)

Platamon castle was one of the fortified Middle Byzantine cities that were built on naturally fortified sites to control major roads. It stands on the route between Macedonia and Thessaly via Tempe. Ancient sources and modern excavational finds locate the ancient Herakleion here, a city which existed until the early Christian period.

The castle is reinforced by eight four-sided towers. Excavations uncovered the remains of two churches near the north-east and east parts of the city wall, as also the ruins of dwellings. The streets located so far are cobbled. Paved courtyards flank the entrances to the dwellings.

During the Ottoman period the castle wall was not demolished, as happened to other fortress cities. It was reinforced rather and repaired many times to provide a defence against raiders, chiefly pirates.

Old Panteleimon (national heritage monument)



Guided tour through ancient Larissa

On Wednesday the 3d we all met at the hotel at 8 AM. When everyone had arrived we went on a guided tour through the beautiful city of Larissa. The Greek students all prepared some very interesting information about the various monuments around the city, there also was an archaeologist that accompanied us on the tour .

We saw a lot of very interesting places like the church of Saint Achilleus, not one but two ancient theatres and many more interesting sites, such as a Roman cistern, completely underground nowadays, which provided the whole city with water.

When the tour was over, we took a little break to eat a sandwich or something small. After that we took the bus to the museum. The Diachronic Museum of Larissa is the new archaeological museum of the town, dedicated to the history of Thessaly region. The museum is located in the new part of the city . Once we arrived there we got a tour in the museum, so we could see all the pieces of art. When the tour was over, we got divided into two groups: the first got to make their own sculpture made out of clay and the second group filled in a questionnaire, and then we switched.

After the museum, we were free for the rest of the day. We all gathered again at 7 PM to go bowling. We had an amazing day and evening just like any other in Greece!

Tim Devaere

About Larissa:

*„Legend has it that Achilles was born here.
Hippocrates, the Father of Medicine, died here. “*

First Ancient Theatre of Larissa (3d Century BC)



The Mill of Pappas

The mill's history begins in 1893, when Larissa still had the colour of a Turkish city. This mill was from the beginning powered by steam, which constituted a significant technical leap for its era. In 1930 a report of the National Bank: „The mill is automatic, constructed with selected materials, with an electric lighting installation, lightning conductor installation, a network against fire, everything dictated by modern science. The occupation by Italians and Germans during World War II brought many damages. But in the 50ies it became the largest flour mill in Thessaly with a daily production of 90 tons and three work shifts.

Animal rights' activists



EXCURSION TO THE METEORA MONASTERIES

KALAMPAKA _ On the 4th of May, our day started really early in the morning. We had to gather at the school at 7:30 AM which was really early for most of the students. We travelled by bus from the 6° Gymnasio to Kalampaka where we arrived a bit after nine. Most students slept on the bus.

When we arrived we had a short "pit-stop" at the museum and then went to the forest to go truffle hunting. There was a dog, who was four times the European champion of truffle hunting, his owner, another guy and a translator. It was amazing to see how the dog searched for the truffles and dug them up. He found a lot of them and most were really big. After we found a lot of them the owner of the dog led us to a spot where he was going to cook. The meal he prepared was really delicious. There were a lot of mushrooms, pasta, a delicious sauce and the truffle used as seasoning.

After we finished eating, we returned to the bus but we were side-tracked for a while. We had found nine new born puppies and the carcass of a tenth one. We put them into a box, took them to the museum and phoned an animal healthcare centre to take care of them. Meanwhile we visited the museum which was full of stuffed animals.

Then we went to the Meteora monasteries. The view on the landscape of rocks was just amazing. The monasteries were so beautiful. The paintings, the ancient books, the rooms, just everything that was left from old times was fantastic. It is very exceptional how all these things survived the test of time. The rocks and the view that we had from the heights were wonderful. We visited the big meteoron and admired the view of it. After a couple of group pictures we went to the St. Stephan's Monastery.

After the monasteries we went to the city Trikala where we ate and then just roamed to explore it. At 8:00 PM we went back home to Larisa. It was a very beautiful day that will not be forgotten.

Louis & Yoshi



Watch Brio in action: <https://youtu.be/EnT-P91lxJ4>



UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE SITE

The area is characterised by imposing sandstone rocks, on top of which the monasteries stand. These pillars are the result of many geological changes million years ago, during Paleogene period. Today wooded massifs surround the rocks, a rich natural vegetation with forests, shrubland, meadows and riparian woodland. A rich ecosystem in which the Egyptian vulture finds its nesting place, the emblematic vulture of this region. Once the largest concentration of these birds was here to be found. But nowadays there are only a few birds left, mainly due to poisoned bait. The Natural History Museum of Kalampaka tries to rescue and increase the population. Other threats to the area are uncontrolled tree felling, poaching and deforestation for country roads, farming, mining activities and pollution. An important step has been the listing of the area of Meteora and the Antichasia Mountains as a World Heritage Site by Unesco. It is also included in the Special Protection Zone of the Natura 2000 Network and it belongs to the action areas of the LIFE program. People are mostly engaged in forestry, stock farming, agriculture and recreation. A booming business is tourism, whether religious and cultural or nature tourism: rock climbing, hiking, etc.

EURIPIDES AND AESOPUS ON STAGE

LARISSA _ Friday the 5th of May was our last whole day. This was kind of a relaxing day. In the morning we had to prepare some theater roles. Our play was about Melenaos and Helena. Also we had an English lesson and a lesson of physics and chemistry. It was a relaxing morning. Between the theater and the lessons we had the possibility to go to the museum The Municipal Art Gallery of Larissa. It has one of the biggest collection of Greek modern paintings in Greece.

After school we had dinner at our hostfamilies and in the evening there was a farewell party with some (actually a lot of) food the parents made. After the party the students of the hostfamilies spent their night on the square (Napoli) with their hosts and the students who stayed at the hotel spent their night going out with the Swedish students. It was a late but amazing last night!

Kain



MUNICIPAL ART GALLERY OF LARISSA



Helen by Euripides: <https://youtu.be/VafOTgult2k>



Aesopus' tales: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MIMzQYQiLc&t=438s>



FAREWELL TO LARISSA

<https://youtu.be/e7Jil1g6D-I>



LarissaFarewellDinnerConoect



Learning about Plato's Allegory of the cave in the class of Mina

In the local press:



Studenten en leerkrachten tijdens hun bezoek aan Griekenland. (GF)

Leerlingen Atheneum ontdekken Griekenland

OOSTENDE Met een boeiende en fel gesmaakte uitwisselingsweek in Griekenland waaraan negen leerlingen van het Koninklijk Atheneum Centrum Oostende deelnamen, werd het Erasmus+ project CONONECT afgesloten.

Conoect staat voor Connected en Natural and Cultural Heritage. In dit project werkte het Atheneum uit de Spilizerstraat samen met Möckelingsgymnaas uit Karlskoga (Zweden), het Cumhuriyet Anadolu Lisesi uit Bursa (Turkije) en het 6de Gymnasio uit Larisa (Griekenland). Het was de laatste uitwisselingsweek in een reeks van drie. In maart vorig jaar waren de Zweedse, Turkse en Griekse leerlingen al te gast in Oostende.

GASTGEZINNEN

De studenten werkten grensoverschrijdend rond de thema's natuurlijk en cultureel erfgoed. In Oostende werd er vorig jaar gefocust op cultureel erfgoed: architectuur en monumenten, terwijl de kunst als natuurlijk erfgoed met de gastgezinnen en haar toeristische functie volop aan bod kwam.

De leerkrachten en studenten van Larisa werkten rond waterverbruik, de vervuiling van de zee (natuurlijk erfgoed) en het Griekse drama (de fabels van Aëolus en Euripides' komedie Helena). De leerlingen verbleven grotendeels in Griekse gastgezinnen, wat voor hen een unieke ervaring betekende. De warme ontvangst en hospitaliteit van de Griekse ouders was enorm. Tussen de werksessies, lessen, conferenties, presentaties en debatten op school doort die in de Engelse vertaal werden gehouden, hadden de Griekse leerkrachten en leerlingen ook uitstapen gepland in Larisa en omgeving.

TRANEN

Het Koninklijk Atheneum was met dit Erasmus+ project allerminst aan zijn proefstuk toe. Europese uitwisselingen en zelfs

daarbuiten zijn een constante geworden in de school, met scholenvrienden tussen Marseille, Pesaro en Oostende; eender met de Banjal eendenband; Siclie (Pabernel) en ook dit jaar werden er opnieuw projecten ingediend binnen Erasmus+. Hoe beleefde Yoshi Boussie uit het vijfde middelbaar de uitwisselingsweek in Larisa? "De week was gewoon fantastisch! Wa. De uitstapen waren zeer uiteenlopend en allemaal stuk voor stuk interessant. Zo zijn we de zondag op stap gegaan met de gastgezinnen en zagen we de mooie streek, zijn we naar musea gegaan, naar de Meteora-kloosters..." "We hebben heel hechte banden gemeend. Op de dag van vertrek bleef niemand gespaard van tranen. Mocht ik kunnen, dan zou ik alles weer opnieuw doen. Deze week was een unieke ervaring", aldus Yoshi. (GLO)