



Lifelong
Learning
Programme

Learners report



HEARTS

2014

Heritage Empowering Affectivity and Revaluing Traditions and Solidarity



Partners:

Romania: Bucovina Guides Association

Turkey: Bolu Halkın Eğitimini Geliştirme ve Destekleme Derneği

Italy: AIM Network

Greece: Computer House





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1st meeting – Italy, Ferrara

December 2012



Aspects of the HEARTS group activities during the December 2012 mobility from Italy

ROMANIA

Gheorghe Constantineanu



“During this mobility we had the chance to see beautiful and interesting places and also to get to know more about their history, traditions and civilization.

As means of transport, we used the most efficient ones, depending on the location of the places we had to reach – cars, airplane, trains, buses (comfortable and at a modest price).

Regarding the accommodation, this was at an elegant hotel, the breakfast being included in the price. The hotel had an accessible central location, being really close to most of our meeting places.

The Italian partners exceeded our expectations, proving themselves as remarkable hosts. They offered us an interesting presentation of their country’s situation regarding the ways in which the elderly people spend their free time. After that, we were offered a delicious lunch during the break time.

On the other hand, the Turkey partners presented us ways in which they help disadvantaged people from their area in order to educate and qualify them.

All in all, I believe this mobility was really productive, both in terms of the aim of the project and in terms of the visit itself. I hope I will keep in touch with the people I met and we are more than anxious to welcome them in Romania in May 2013.”

Cristina Sandur



“This experience was useful as the members got to know each other and shared between each other information about their countries. The cities that we visited had really beautiful architectures and the people who showed us how they live day by day were extremely friendly. All these gave us food for thought and made us compare them with our country.

All our partners were really nice, welcoming and sociable, therefore, we did communicate to each other quite a lot and we got to know better.

The Italian partners presented the point from where they want to implement the project: the day center for older people. The visit in this place was really useful for us, as in Romania this kind of centers for older people who want to spend their time together and socialize, is still at the beginning and needs to be developed. I want to say that this program Grundtvig it’s very useful for



the people which don't have opportunities for traveling and learning new things about new countries and people. "

Emanuel Constantin Teodorescu



"This mobility was something new for most of us. For some: the first flight, the first time leaving the country and for some, first time speaking in English at this level. The theme of the project is extremely up to date and of a large interest nowadays, eliminating that "generation gap" of which people are talking about.

The hosting was excellent, and the place, Ferrara, was of a real beauty. For us, the place of a maximum attraction was Venice, with its undisputable charm.

Overall, it was a successful mobility, pretty exhausting, but everything it was worth. I do hope that we will manage to put every step discussed into action and make a change in each partner's countries.

Thank you Grundtvig for this opportunity, for traveling in Europe for the first time, for meeting great people and very nice places. "

Nicoleta Robciuc



"The Hearts Project experience was very useful and interesting for me. I have met new, interesting and sociable people and I took contact with other cultures and traditions.

I consider that this meeting in Italy was really useful for everyone of us as an individual but also for fulfilling the aim of this project. Every partner actively participated in discussions and each of us tried to contribute as much as possible for the success of the project. We got to know more about each other after every member's presentation. There were also discussions

about the blog, facebook page and the next meeting in Romania was settled in May 2013.

Our hosts were really warm and welcoming. During our stay in Italy, they tried to meet our needs and make our visit pleasant. The visits and the meeting places were a good way to socialize, to get to know each other and also to experience local traditions and food.

In conclusion, for me, this was an unique experience, that taught me what working in a team or representing youth country means and also the importance to be opened to new challenges anytime in order to develop yourself. I benefited a lot from this experience, as I met all these new people with who, hopefully, I will keep in touch in the future. "



Aspects of the HEARTS group activities during the December 2012 mobility from Italy

TURKEY

ISMAIL YAHSI



“My name is Ismail YAHSI and I am a teacher of physical education in a secondary school in Bolu. I am 63 years old. The participation in the HEARTS Project was very useful and very exciting for me because it was a pleasure to work with young people to fulfill the objectives of the project and it was a very good experience to know new things between the young generation and the old generation. The travel to Italy was very interesting. Before departing, I made a short research about the history, culture, traditions and the life styles of Ferrara. I already knew that Italy was famous for cuisine and fashion. Also our contact person – Mesut ARABACIOĞLU- gave us some information about the Project and the partner countries. So we were prepared for what would wait for us there. The journey was comfortable and entertaining. After landing in Ferrara, we met an Italian guy named “Giovanni” on the bus. He was an Italian teacher in an Italian highschool in Istanbul. We had the opportunity to speak with him because he knows Turkish and Italian. It was a very useful conversation between us, he talked to us about Italy and Ferrara and also the generation gap between the aged and the young living in Ferrara.

The host partner – Italian friends - welcomed us very warm and helpful to us. Also we met the Romanian friends. They spoke with us very closely as if we knew each other long before. We talked about our cultures, life styles, and hobbies etc. This conversation was a very useful warm-up fort he tomorrow meeting. On the first day we visited a center for the aged people called – IL MELO – we saw how they spend their time efficiently and usefully. Also the hobby gardens were inspiring for me. It gave me the idea “why wouldn’t happen so in Turkey?” Further more one of the most beautiful places I have ever seen is Venice. This city was wonderful and it was very cultural and smells historic very where. This mobility contributed me a lot and gave me the opportunity to meet different people coming from different backgrounds.”



CEMILE BUK



"This project was really awesome for meeting people and spreading different cultures all around the world. There it was present different field of interests for each country and I got the chance to attend a valuable presentation telling what one can do for old and retired people or how some sports can be activated or what kind of activities house wives can do to earn money. I also had the chance to visit Italy for the first time in my life and I was so happy. I would make new friends and it was an advantageous trip for me to get experience about cultures and awareness. Lucky, I was in need of some spirit in those days. Venice was always my dream and that is why I liked most to visit there. The friends were quite companionable and tolerant. The Santo Marco Square, churches, buildings and meals were all different. To sum up, we fitted a small story into a short process.



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2nd meeting – Romania,

Suceava

May 2013



Aspects of the HEARTS group activities during the May 2013 mobility from Romania

ITALY

Luciana Panara



"My name is Luciana Panara and I'm a retired woman. My participation as a learner in the meeting of Suceava was a wonderful experience. We arrived by car from Italy and the journey has been a discovery of territories with very beautiful landscapes. During the journey in Romania we discovered a very different reality . Some of their customs and traditions, such as horse-drawn carts on national roads, have definitively been lost in our country. Even the work of the fields is very different from Italy: we are very automated while in Hungary and Romania are working a lot with the arms.

All participants in the meeting were very welcoming and friendly, the Romanian partners had perfectly organized the working days and the visit to the monasteries of Bucovina, making me enjoy beautiful buildings and a palpable piety of the Romanian people. We also visited a handicraft museum where we saw various works on wood, leather and ceramics that this structure preserve for future generations. The last day we visited an agricultural festival where we saw folk dances, and we ate delicious traditional food.

Furthermore, the other partners, Greek and Turkish team, were very nice and I was able to communicate with them in English cause they were helpful and very kind. By the way, I did practice in English language as English was the communication language and I discovered after a lot of years that I left school I can understand a good deal and take part in a conversation.

This trip gave me the opportunity to appreciate such a different culture than mine, although Romania in the antiquity was part of Roman Emperor and their religion and customs are similar to Italian one of the '50s. I wish to meet again these new friends and exchange new information on the project, hopefully in Turkey."



Aspects of the HEARTS group activities during the May 2013 mobility from Romania

TURKEY

SABATH



"Romania was amazing and very beautiful. The godly, the ungodly, the young and old of Romania are beautiful. I still have a huge heart for the people and the country of Romania. This was the first time in Romania and I learnt a lot about Romania – a new language, culture, lovely people and delicious cuisine, etc. The journey gave us the opportunity to see very beautiful landscapes, huge mountains in the north and a very flat plain in the south. We went through the Romanian plain and Romanian cities. I saw some people working on the farm and harvesting. This showed us something about the farming in Romania.

The Romanian participants were very warm and welcoming to us. They efficiently organized the project meeting and we all together visited the city center and the important monasteries of Bucovina region. Also we met the Italian and the Greek friends. They all were very good and very warm to us. We created a friendly atmosphere together. We talked each other and visited together. We visited the monasteries and the monasteries impressed me a lot because this was the first time in a monastery for me. In the working day of the project we also visited a center for handicraft and we saw people working on wood, leather, ceramics. This center helps the traditions stay alive for the next generations and also this center gave us an idea of creating a similar center in my hometown. Also we visited a local festival which is about agriculture, dairy, local foods. It was very crowded and people from different cities visited that festival too. We learned about the culture of Bucovina region. We watched folk dances, listened local music and tasted local foods.

In conclusion, this experience contributed me in seeing different and beautiful cultures, life styles and sight sightseeing. Also I made very valuable friends from Romania, Italia and Greece."

SEMEM



"The Hearts Project experience in Romania was an exciting experience from the start, hearing and seeing a new language, tasting new foods. Experience of trading lands and cultures was enough to link us together and build the foundation of a friendship.

Visiting Romania was a beautiful thrilling thing and I it show me that visiting a new country can give you the gift of freedom of new beginnings



of curiosity and excitement. There are so much to see and it is a beautiful country to drive through. The Project gave me a chance to see and experience exactly what I wanted. The experience has changed my preconceived view of the country in a most positive way.

Our young guides from Romanian group were very knowledgeable and helpful. They show us around and gave information about their country cultures monuments, etc.

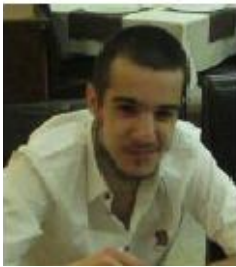
The Italian and Greek group was also great. We had a chance to communicate in English and learn about their cultures languages.

To sum up, it was really a great chance and experience to visit Romania and be a part of this project. And it was really a great pleasure to be with the members of different cultures."

Aspects of the HEARTS group activities during the May 2013 mobility from Romania

GREECE

ANASTASIOS



"The meeting in Romania was something really new for me. I'm 20 years old and I study to be a civil engineer, so it was the first time that came in contact with European programs. I understand from my experience that the European Union finances education and I aim to use any opportunity for scholarships in educational institutions in the European Union. Moreover I had the opportunity to see a culture that is very familiar with ours.

I met people similar age as me, we exchanged ideas learning practices on technologies which is my study field. I gained ideas about new learning techniques for young people and for elderly students in particular. I saw techniques which are not known in Greece and we came up with the idea to exchange these techniques online.

In Romania I liked the bucolic lifestyle and their customs maintenance. It was very impressive the woodcarving workshop which we visited and the technique which was followed by every person who was responsible for the laboratory. Unfortunately that kind of technique has disappeared in Greece".

KONSTANTINOS & DESPOINA



KONSTANTINOS: "My participation as a learner in the meeting of Suceava was a wonderful experience. We arrived by train from Bucharest and the journey has been a discovery of territories with very beautiful landscapes. During the meeting I really enjoyed the fine cooperation between the members. By the way, I did practice in the English language, as English was the language that we communicated and I discovered that after a lot of years that I left school, that I could understand a good deal and also take part in a conversation. During our tours I really admired the nature. Finally, we visited a local fair that reminded me of the Greek ones and I found some similarities with our traditions. A relevant fair takes place nearby my city, Tripolis.

I have learned recently how to use a computer and since then my horizons have spread. Now I can use Internet and surf anywhere in the world. Before my trip, I surfed the Internet and I knew from first hand all the places we have visited in our trip. I felt more comfortable when I realized that other people, who were the same age as me, from different countries take part on seminars like I do. We exchanged e-mails with them and now we can communicate and exchange ideas.

I was impressed by the Romanian woven, which we saw on the fair and on the flea markets, their colors, their design and quality was unique. Because my profession before I got retired was fabrics, I can say that the Romanian art of weaving is excellent and tradition is kept alive”.

DESPOINA: "My participation as a learner in the meeting of Suceava was an unique experience. Due to my occupation I've travelled a lot but that was the first time that I participated in something like that. I believe that it was a useful experience for me and for the other partners. I was really impressed by the hospitality of the Romanian organizers, the immediacy and the friendship of the Italian partners and the kindness and cordiality of the Turkish members. The organization was excellent and I've only got good memories.

I was happy to see that other women my age participated in the program. Talking with them I realized that we had a lot in common and same interests. The answers we have given to the questionnaires were similar and this show how close all people are. It was my first time that I have participated in a program outside Greece and the experience was wonderful. Our trip to the Romanian mountains was amazing and their landscape was breath taking. Romanian people were welcoming and friendly. I also liked our visit to the exhibit where we saw traditional customs which have a lot of similarities with our Greek traditional customs”.

AGGELIKI & PANAGIOTHS

AGGELIKI: "During the meeting I did practice in English language, which I can understand a good deal and also take part in a conversation. I really admired the nature and I like that we visited a local fair that reminded me of the Greek ones and I found some similarities with our traditions.

I really liked our visit at the ceramic workshop. The lady at the ceramic workshop who was responsible for it, explained to us that the clay techniques they use are based on the Greek ceramic technique that ancient Greeks used. This made me feel proud to be Greek and this proves that Romanian and Greeks had communication from the past and they exchanged knowledge just like we try to do today after all those years. The ceramic's hardware they make look a lot like ours. The responsible at the ceramic's workshop gave me a piece of clay and I tried to make





my own ceramic glass. This experience was great but the result wasn't as good because you need a lot of practice in order to direct the clay with your fingers as you suppose to.

At the meeting I was impressed by my contact with women and men older than me and I realized that there is no gap between generations since all of us have the same passion for learning innovating things, only everyone has their own way of learning.

PANAGIOTHS: "It was the first time that I came in contact with European programs. I was really impressed by the hospitality of the Romanian organizers, the immediacy and the friendship of partners. During the meeting I really enjoyed the fine cooperation between the members. Finally as student I use any opportunity for scholarships in educational institutions in the European Union.

I have tried Romanian traditional food and at the festival where we went I was impressed that most of the people were wearing traditional customs. I was really impressed by the painted eggs which they sell on the flea markets. The egg's colors and variety was very nice. Later on, our partners showed us the unique technique of how these eggs were made and this really impressed us. At the fair I had the chance to contact with young people my age and I realized that we have a lot in common, such as the way we think and hobby wise.

My trip in Romania was a remarkable experience for me. I won't forget my train trip in the inland where we had the chance to admire their natural landscapes and their traditional villages".



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3rd meeting – Romania,

Bucharest

June 2013

Aspects of the HEARTS group activities during the June 2013 mobility from Romania

GREECE

GEORGIA & NIKI

GEORGIA (Greece): "My name is Georgia Christodoulou and I work at Economics. I really enjoyed the meeting in Bucharest because it was something new and pleasant for me. I'm used to my company's meetings in luxury rooms so the fact that I was with the Romanian partners in a small cottage was a unique experience. The meeting took part in a traditional museum. The discussion was simple but substantial. Many ideas and proposals were exchanged and it was so interesting a discussion between different people coming from different backgrounds. Then we had the opportunity to visit the exhibitions and festivals in the museum.



The host partners were very kind and helpful and I found their ideas very interesting and the meeting very well organized. Useful ideas and proposals of what to do and see in the beautiful city of Bucharest were given by the partners so we had a very interesting cultural weekend .

It was the first time that I ever participated in a European Educational Program and I would really like to do it again."

NIKI (Greece): "My name is Niki Karachaliou and I'm a teacher of ancient and modern Greek in secondary education in Greece. I have traveled in many places around the world but that was the first time that I visited Romania. Bucharest is an amazing city with a perfectly preserved historic center. The meeting with the Romanian partners was perfect. They had arranged our meeting in Dimitrie Gusti National Village Museum in Bucharest and this was really a wonderful and very innovative idea. Firstly we had a traditional meal at the museum's gardens and later the third meeting took place in a traditional residence, so tradition met technology and all the other modern methods. We talked about the PROJECT and studied some new ideas concerning ways to evolve the program. Directions were given regarding what is going to happen in our next meeting in Turkey. We arranged dates, talked about new proposals and exchanged so many ideas. After the meeting we visited the museum and the Indian festival which was taking place there. It was a other happy surprise! The host partners

were very kind and well organized. I'm participating in this kind of European projects many years now, but this was the first time I saw such a young and full of joy and creativity team. The participation in the HEARTS Project was very useful and exciting experience for me.

SPYROS



I enjoyed very much my visit to Bucharest because it was my first time in Romania. The meeting in Romania was very good and gave me some new ideas in how to be involved with European programs because I educate new workers in my company and I also work in an adult educational center occasionally.

The Romanians were very friendly and dined with us at a traditional restaurant which is open for over a century with traditional music and dancers. I had the chance to communicate with them in English and they were helpful and very kind. By the way, I did practice in English language, as English was our communication language, and I discovered that even though I had left University for many years I could still understand a good deal and have a productive conversation. As a learner I improved my existing skills, I had a productive communication and exchange of ideas with our EU partners. This was a big challenge for me so I could improve myself on personal and professional bases. This experience was very interesting and I would like to continue in this field and have the opportunity for future involvement in projects such as "Hearts". I would like to thank my organization COMPUTER HOUSE who has chosen me and I had the chance to discover other cultures, in other words to wide my horizons and learning.



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4th meeting – Turkey, Bolu

October 2013



Aspects of the HEARTS group activities during the October 2013 mobility from Turkey

ITALY

My name is Aikaterini Drogkari, I'm Greek and the last year I spent some time in Italy. I'm member of AIM Network and through this organization started my acquaintance with HEARTS. I joined to the Italian team in order to participate to 4th HEARTS meeting in Bolu - Turkey as learner. So everything started with this: I met very interesting people from Romania and Turkey and I learnt about EU projects.

Romanian people are very close to us- Greeks- and we have also some common words. I have never met before Turkish people and I was surprised to see how similar are with us Greek people in their culture, food and feelings. The Turkish team was perfect in his hospitality and they conducted the meeting very well. They have also invited two local broadcasts interviewed us and the announcer was amazed, seeing my creations in crochet clothes for baby and my homemade jams that I offered to participants as proof that the old traditions are still alive.



Our Turkish partners had organized a nice trip around Bolu lakes and the Bolu museum as well as the city tour with a visit to a day health care for disable people place where the hosts welcomed us and offered tea. We talked about their country and the opportunities for them under the supervision of Ms. Guler Mert the director of social affairs and culture of Bolu that kindly accompany and show us some local policies for care elderly and poor people such as social market, boutique and restaurant. Turkish religion and culture is very keen to help sensitive categories of the citizens and they do their best in order to maintain these uses. I take this occasion to send my warmer salutations to all teams.

I would like to express many thanks to my organization AIM Network, that gave me the possibility to travel and to discover other cultures, in other words to wide my horizons and learning. Thank you all!



Aspects of the HEARTS group activities during the October 2013 mobility from Turkey

Cecilia Rimbu Ciumasu



The project is dedicated to all types of people! The communication between generations is supporting finding insight and maintains the specific characteristics of each nation participating to the project. All the partners were very friendly, well-prepared and they took us through the history, the civilization and the natural surroundings of Bolu. Turkey is a very beautiful country where civilizations as the Roman, Byzantine and Ottoman comes together. A night on Bosfor

sends you in other worlds.

All the partners with whom we have interacted proved high skills and a very good attitude, leading us through the history, the civilization and the nature surrounding Bolu town. Turkey, an extremely beautiful country, where many old civilizations cluster: the Romans, the Byzantine Ottoman. The specific oriental monuments which can be admired in the museums, moskee?, and palaces are all very charming. A night on Bosfor will send your soul in an extra dimension. The organizers, an association with a dynamic structure, focused on training and education in nature's heart ,and also on developing authentic characters, has proven one more time they excellent service. We have received excellent transport service, food and accommodation but also insight on our way to Bolu. They also demonstrated good care to our 'more experienced' members. I would like to thank European Union but also AGB for offering me the chance to work with an amazing team, which challenges you to learn as much as you can about the great Orient.

Irina Liteanu



I wanna thank you from the beginning to Bucovina Guides Group for the opportunity which they've been offering me to participate on this project and all staff involved in carrying out this European Educational Program. A few years ago I was travelling to Turkey only for holidays, but now it was great for me to meet turkish people, to talk to them, to see and learn their habits. I was absolutely amazed to visit an old city from



the time of Ottomans Empire. There I had the occasion and I could observed the lifestyle of that people and I had interacted with them. Great museums, houses and a lot of beautiful places.

On this project the beautiful part for me was when I mer othr people from different countries and had the chance to discuss and exchange impressions about the way of life and social life of their countries. I loved the way the activities were made but mostly the ideas of the activities. The group was great, we had an excelent cooperation, nicely people also the girls from Italy, I can't forget them.

They had offered us their traditional tea in sign of their friendship and hospitality. Also the hosts have given all the interest for us and for this I want to presonally thank them. Project development was a real experience, Bolu city and town Mudurnu project.

This trip has been an unforgettable experience with multiple benefits . Ability perceptions and knowledge of other ways of solving social problems occurring in our lives, for example mobilizing to help those in need, as we saw at the relief center.

I wish to thank the European Union for the opportunity to participate in this project. Thanks to this project I was able to know other traditions, other religion , other language and with this experience I was able to discover and learn new things and also I will never forget their food, the best ever!!!

Mariana Darca



I am very glad I was part of the team that represented Romania in this promising project. The HEARTS team was a very friendly and communicative one, which succeeded in compliting their tasks.

The meeting from Turkey was for me the first one of its kind and also the first time out of the country. The participations at this meeting managed to motivate myself to learn English and to use the computer at a begginer level. All this in order to keep in touch with other people from abroad.

A very beautiful thing is sharing about the cultures of each partner through music, dance, language, people. In what the gastronomy is concerned, I was impressed that Turkey has similar basic receipts as us.

The organization was very good, the team was punctual and very friendly. The agenda was presented even before the leaving along with information about the project, activities, partners, all this in order to feel comfortable during the two days of our visit.

Thank you all for this opportunity!



Elena Loghin



The trip in Turkey was my first contact with another culture, and more important with such rich culture as the Oriental one. Taking into consideration the fact that it was my first time out from the country, I had been nervous about the journey, the accommodation and the people I was going to meet, but all these were gone the first time I met the Romanian and HEARTS team. They are really nice, friendly and outgoing people who enjoy a lot sharing their curiosities about each other's countries.

Turkey impressed me a lot because of their commitment to the religion, because of their beautiful mosques and how people are called for praying everyday. Being my first contact with Muslim world, I had lots of questions to which I got answers immediately.

I believe the seminar was a success as each partner had a specific experience, thus they managed to solve the existing problems and to answer the questions. Everything was very well organized as the Turkish partners gave a great attention to details.

The visiting day impressed me a lot as well having to see the Mudurnu city, a very old city full of tradition. There we had the chance to see the breath taking landscapes and two very beautiful lakes, Golkun and Alban.

I want to thank each member of the HEARTS team for offering me this unforgettable chance!
Great experience!

Ioana Florescu



This experience was memorable. Starting with the organizer, the hosts, the aim of the project and the activities, all made us such a nice days. Turkey is one of the most important center of oriental tradition which is very different from Romania one. The people are very kind and they try to be a good host, they given you traditional tea, which is the sign of their friendship.



The aim of the of the project is one actual and I think that it should be more projects like this, because unfortunately we are losing our tradition, the young people forget their origin, the ancestors, the value which made us different.

Thank you the HEARTS team!



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5th meeting – Greece, Tripolis

March 2013



Aspects of the HEARTS group activities during the March 2014 mobility from Greece

ROMANIA

Macri Maria



"I still cannot believe I got to Greece. I wished so much to get to this country, I was curious about the taste of the food, about their religious culture, which I knew was similar with ours, about people, seaside, about everything. But, now, through the Gruntvig programme I did it and I would want to thank the project's team for this opportunity. It was my first time in a foreign country.

I was really nervous regarding the journey taking into consideration my age (70 years old), but everything was beautiful. The first stop, In Athens, gave us a wide idea of the Greece culture. Then, in Tripolis, a very nice team was waiting for us, which helped us with any problem we had. Plus, the meeting with the partners was very pleasant and relaxing.

Another city that I enjoyed a lot was Nafplio, with a fantastic seafront.

Thank you to the association and all the people that made this possible for me! It will always stay with me, especially that I do not if I have this chance ever again!"

Iacoboaia Victoria



"The opportunity of this project was as valuable as we discovered different and positive mentalities, which are willing to change in a good way the environment we live in. I learnt a lot of things from this visit, especially from the people around me. I noticed that the initiative to do good things it becomes stronger when working as a team. I saw people that worked with pleasure and who worked for our wellbeing. I understood how important it is to share the knowledge between the generations in order to build a stronger future. I felt integrated in an apparently new world and this meant so much in the attitude I am planning to

adopt in from now on. Visiting Greece, I discovered the same hospitality and warmth found in my country as well, but I appreciated so much the way in which they made us feel as part of their family. To be a good host, seemed so natural so for them. I want to believe that this union of beautiful, open



minded people is the point from which The European Union was formed and I do consider necessary projects of this kind in order to be educated to have a positive and peaceful attitude towards the other nations. I want to thank the implementing team for this chance to get educated to be a better European citizen, more engaged and for sure more willing to change something."

Cornea Mariana



"I believe that the Tripoli, Greece experience was a very good one as we got to know other culture and met new people. Having the chance to visit different parts of Greece gave us a broad idea of how it is like to live in that Mediterranean lifestyle. Visiting the historic attractions, we got an idea about the Greeks' ancestors and about how these influenced the life of nowadays. While experiencing their gastronomy and music, we got familiarized with the Greek hospitality and culture, which I found it as a similar aspect with Romania. The both size organizers did their best to facilitate us with the best conditions and information

which made from our trip a very relaxing and interesting one. They formed a great team and this could be noticed clearly as the events during the visit went smoothly. I do want to thank you for this opportunity to get to know another country, another European culture."

Luben Ana Maria:



"Initially, I was a little bit reserved in what concerns this project as I was not really familiarized with it. Knowing the team, a very united and organized one, I got used with the environment; I communicated with people with different life styles and made me want to get to know more in the future. I visited Greece, a country that surprised me of how similar it is to Romania. Their architecture attracted me a lot; I looked the small streets which even though pretty crowded, kept a special silence of the place. I have met people with different occupations who were so happy to share their stories. Their hospitality, their diverse food, their dances and their way to receive guests, it gave me a general idea that they are a nationalist country and very proud of who they are despite the hard times they went through. Passing the border of my country, I also passed the border of my comfort zone and these made me want to repeat experiences of these kind and also to go and tell other what

is Romania like. This experience was not only a touristic one, but an educational one as well. I learnt how a group formed of strange people can be homogenized, how these cultural exchanges take place,



how to present our country and also how to learn what is good from others. Thank you HEARTS team for their opened heart to the people around me and to Europe. “

Luben Mihail:



“Having this project opportunity, I succeeded to taste better the idea of the European Union. I understood even better the necessity of the collaboration between the European states and the benefits of these exchanges. I met young people, open minded and who combine very well the old traditions with the new forms of technology evolution. It determined be to get more familiarized with the online in the future, as this is also a good way to discover more about other cultures. In the future, I will be more receptive regarding the online tools that create links between people beyond the territorial barriers. Visiting Greece and seeing their architecture I understood again what amazing things men can do in the environment the live in. Their architecture combines so well the marks of the past with the adaptation of the today’s needs. For sure, their buildings become alive because of the generosity, harmony and the willingness of the people to be natural and to share with others the

beautiful from their lives. The idea of this project happened really well because of the voluntary and professional implication of some very well informed people and focalized on their aim – to make this communication between generations possible. Thank you for this opportunity to visit a new place, to get to know a new culture with so much emotion and for the appetite of being more engaged the HEARTS experience offered to me.”

Constantineanu Brandusa:



“Even from early ages, when I was reading the Legends of Olimp, I got fascinated about Greece and its antic history. I have always dreamt about having the chance to visit this place and now, because of this project, my dream became true.

Travelling all the way by car from the North to the South of Greece, at Peloponnese Island, where we had the pleasure to meet with our partners, I had time to admire the breathtaking surroundings: totally different mountains types with less vegetation, huge plantations of olives and fruits, everything was fantastic. The villages and cities we passed by were so beautiful with those similar size, white houses that looked as if they were just been painted. And the Greek people were so friendly and hospitable from what I could notice in our



meetings, restaurants or on the streets. Also the others partners from Turkey and Italy were very kind and all together made a nice meeting. The organizer show us that the greek people are very hospitable and they show us nice places from Greece, like Nafplio and Micene. This opportunity gave me the amazing chance to gain more knowledge about this country and its culture and to get more experience in interacting with new people. Thank you for making my dream come true and thank you for the great memories!"

Chelariu Elena:



"This experience was extremely beneficial to me, as I have never been there before. I was very happy that behind this project it is the initiative of some young people to diminish the gap between generations. I took this occasion, to escape the dull everyday life and I met new people with different life styles and different ideas about life. I was happy to see that our generations it is not neglected and

that the young generations are aware of the fact that they can still learn a lot from us. I was even more excited when I saw how open the Greek people were with us. I saw then hospitable and willing to share their life style with us. The tourist attractions we visited reinforced in my mind the history of Greece and the marks left by the ancient Gods on this territory. The traditions and the life style of the Greeks grew an interest in me to research more about these. The days I spent with the project coordinators showed to me the new way in which European countries collaborate, realizing that it is so necessary to get familiarized with the people from the other European countries in order to understand them and to be able to respect and help each other no matter what the political situation would be. I want to thank all the people involved for succeeding in making us feel like home, even though we were only some strangers there. Everybody encouraged us to express ourselves and we totally were ourselves in this visit. I do encourage the organization of these kinds of activities in the future, both international and local."



Aspects of the HEARTS group activities during the March 2014 mobility from Greece

TURKEY

MRS. OYA YILMAZ



My name is Oya YILMAZ. I am so happy to be a participant of this project and the journey. This trip gave me the opportunity to meet new people from different cultures and have some first experiences. The Romanian, Italian and Greek people are all very nice and helpful during the meeting and we could easily communicate and change ideas about our lives, cultures, hobbies. We created a long term friendship with the participants. Furthermore I was so attracted by the hospitality and the hard work of the Greek friends. They tried their best to accommodate us very comfortably, to help in any case and in order for the meeting to pass very well.

I got surprised that Greece resembles to Turkey. Greece's both cultural and historical tissue impressed me a lot. I observed that the relationship between Greece-Turkey is warm and powerful. The trip which provided my cultural development was an incredible and unforgettable experience. The marks of Greece's rooted history can be easily seen in their architecture and the types of buildings. They are so loyal to their history and they try to preserve everything which is old. Especially, while I was visiting the art museum, I saw a lot of historical objects. Greece's cuisine was specific but there were also some similarities with our cuisine. For example we went to a patisserie and prepared a dessert which was so similar to one of our traditional ones called "bü l bü l yu v" in Turkish. Thanks a lot for choosing me as a member of this mobility to my teacher Mrs. Fatma Isnik and to the organization. The Greek group hosted us very well, a big thank to them for friendly smile and everything.

MRS. HATİCEZER ALPMAN

I became very happy when I learnt that I would take part in this mobility. I had never been to Greece before. Moreover I hadn't travelled anywhere in abroad. We were coherent, extrovert and active altogether with the participants from the partner countries. Everything was exciting, interesting and enjoyable for me. I am glad to get the chance to experience a different culture and meet new people from Romania, Italy and Greece. They were really great friends often trying to talk about their culture and lifestyles, exchanging their views and emotions. While





speaking together, you see some differences between the cultures and lifestyles but it is not any difficult to create a friendship because we are all human beings. As long as we want to create a warm atmosphere and cooperation, nothing could present an obstacle. I believe that this project showed us this. So the Project meeting was very useful and enjoyable because of the big effort and solidarity of the Greek partners and the other friends. As a result of this mobility, I learnt much about EU projects, project implementation and the valuable outcomes obtained during the project process.

Greece preserves its history fairly well, which attracted my attention. I realized that history and nature combine in Greece. Everywhere is green and full of trees of citrus. They also smell wonderful along the streets of Athens. Also I was greatly attracted by the ancient Greek city Mycenae. Mycenae smells history with his every piece of architecture. By the way I have learnt that the first capital city of Greece was Nafplion for the first time here. While I was buying some souvenirs in Acropolis, I found out that the Greeks are friendly and sincere. They always try to help each other. Greek is a fluent and sympathetic language and I wished that I had known Greek in order to be able to contact them better but anyway we could communicate in a lovely way by using our body language. I want to go to there again and see the places which I couldn't. At last, thanks a lot for the hospitality of the host partner.

MRS. SEMİHANUR SERİN



This trip was a different experience for me in terms of seeing a new country which I had never been. Greece was a historical and ancient place. The people were really helpful towards foreigners. We had a good time there and I met lots of new friends. I am very happy for being a part of this Project as a participant. This is a good memory for me to tell my children during my life.

Greece was a touristic place. I went to a lot of cities within several days. But Tripolis was the best. It was a small and silent cottage especially for people who are in need of a quiet place to rest. My group and I spent a good time. We realized that Greece's both location and culture are close to us. In other words, Greece can be a good option for a holiday. We bought some presents for our families. Its sea and nature were incredible. Additionally Greece's streets and general environment are very clean and well-planned. During the meeting we visited many places which are related to the project activities and also related to culture and history of Greece. We went to a pastry shop and I saw there are some similarities between Turkish cuisine and Greek cuisine.

Another place we visited was a home which exhibits old time handmade metal works. There were old clocks, trays, cameras, mortar and pestle and chandelier etc. which took us to a time journey. That home was very important and exciting for me to remember and revive the heritage and also it gave us an insight into how the old people live in the past. Finally I want to thank to my Italian, Romanian and Greek friends for showing us a nice friendship and behaving us as if we had known each other for a long time. Also big thanks to the host country for their hospitality and their organizational skills. We felt as if we were in our own houses thanks to their close interest and friendly attitudes.

Aspects of the HEARTS group activities during the March 2014 mobility from Greece

ITALY

ILARIONI MILENA



“I was very happy to take part in this project with my husband as learners. I appreciate being together with people with different cultures and languages. It was surprising the fact that we were able to communicate beyond the barriers that constitute the different languages. Sometimes I also tried to speak English and I had some results. The well coming on behalf Greek organization was excellent and all people was warm and helpful. It was amazing to visit a Greek pastries laboratory, wearing suitable outer garments in order to warrant laboratory hygiene and see how prepare traditional sweets. I also tried to wrap some sweets and I found nice this opportunity for learning to prepare Greek sweets. Then we visited a the house of a local collector became a little museum of traditions and we have the opportunity to talk with him. Later we visit a local basket ball organization. The last day we had the chance to visit the Ancient city of Mycenae 40 centuries old and its museum with the treasures find in the tombs. Consequently, our partners brought us to the nice and graphic city of Nafplion, the first capital of the Greece.

We had nice time all together and I think that is unforgettable. All these experiences for me are new and I wish to do it again. I'm really thankful to Greek partners for kind hospitality and all their big effort to organize all. Thank you AIM NETWORK, thank you COMPUTER HOUSE and LLP.”

ALEANDRI GABRIELE



“My name is Gabriele and I come from Italy, firstly I would like say thank for this opportunity given to me by my AIMNETWORK to visit Greece and to be in contact with such amazing people from all over Europe and learn a lot of things on EU projects. The meeting was very explicative and we had the possibility to see the products of the project, firstly the digital literacy course designed by the Greek partner and secondly the presentation by Turks partners of the final agenda. We had the opportunity to attend three workshops in Tripoli: firstly in a pastry shop, involved the preparation of traditional sweets, secondly in a home museum of a local collector and at the end visit Arkadikos, a local basket ball club. We were received by the Major of Tripoli who welcomed us in Town Hall by offering an aperitif and a commemorative gift to every group. I was very impressive to see the first capital of Greece Nafplion as well as Athens. This experience was



very interesting and I would like to continue in this field, including the organization of a project centered on my experiences and knowledge. I would also like to thank the organizers of the meeting, the Greek partners, for their professionalism and efforts for organizing everything and for choosing to show us the most interesting antiquities of their country like the ancient city of Mycenae by the help of a guide that they have hired. I felt welcomed and I attended with care, although with some difficulty because I know little English; I was greatly helped by AIMNETWORK's staff, who has translated to me as much as possible. I would like to thank my organization to have chosen me and my wife, by giving us this interesting experience and to LLP."



Lifelong
Learning
Programme

5th meeting – Greece, Tripolis

April 2013



Aspects of the HEARTS group activities during the April 2014 mobility from Greece

ITALY

Giuseppe Torrisi



"I come from Italy and this is the first time that I take part in a European project. My position in this meeting is learner and trainer in the same time. My task is to explain the use of e-learning digital platform in order to upload on it the course of digital literacy designed from Greek partner.

The audience was made from Greek partners in face to face and other partners which were connected via e-learning platform. From Romania attended the meeting Ms. Nicoleta Loghin, the coordinator of whole project and from Italy, Ms. Maria Kavouri. As the project is in a preparatory phase we meet some problems but the Greek partners helped us to solve. I was very happy to be in Greece and work together with Greek staff. For me and other learners was very important this meeting of mutual exchange. I was pleased to exhibit our digital platform for e- learning teaching and try the product on digital literacy for elderly elaborated by Greek partners. We spoke English and was very important for us to expose data and terms in English and listen to our partners doing the same. We measured ourselves with a foreign language and we managed to overcome our problems.

The climate of the interior of a European project has been very interesting and hope to participate again or contribute to create another project. Then we visit all together Mycenae a very important archeological site, dated 40 centuries and we saw the Mycenaean Tholos tombs and their treasures. I would like one more time say thank to AIMNetwork that they choose me, to Greek partners that they arranged a so interesting meeting and the Grundtvig European projects for this big opportunity."

Claudio Ghiani



"My acquaintance with AIMNETWORK and Network revolution brought me and my wife in Greece. This is the first time that I visit Greece and I take part in a European project. I work as computer programmer and I helped for the realization of Athena e-learning digital platform. I arrived in Athens by plane with my wife and we were impressive about the nice weather and all these archeological sites. Although the crisis that pass

Athens the people maintain the kindness and the smile. When we reached Tripoli we were welcomed by the Greek partners always kind for every our request. They arranged some visits of



their nice city, very alive and then we started the meeting. I was very anxious to see their reactions and ideas on the platform and I was very happy to see uploading the last version of their digital literacy course. It was a good possibility to talk in English with all partners and discover that my English language skills in those days was really improved.

The visit in Mycenae was very interesting and especially the museum with all treasures. We learn a lot of things on modern Greece and what are their expectations and wishes for the future in a such difficult crisis period. They taught us also some common words with Italian language such as “una faccia una razza” that Greek people use for underline the similarities between them and Italian people. I’m very thankful to Greek partners for arranging so good all meeting and gave us the possibility to know their city and their culture by choosing the most relevant and interesting things to show us through the workshops. I’m also thankful to AIMNETWORK for choosing me and my wife for this training trip in Greece. A big thank goes also to LLP.”

PAOLA BANDIERA



“I come from Italy and I have never been in Greece before. I studied at school about ancient Greek literature and philosophy and always have promised to myself to visit Greece. This occasion was perfect for me because of Easter Holidays and I could take some days from my work. Visiting Tripoli a nice city in the inner Peloponnese was very interesting for me. My acquaintance with the Greek partners was very easy and joyful thanks the openness of the hosts. Eleni , Matina and Christina were really very nice with us and explained some elements of their culture. We talked also about Greek Easter during our visit in the pastry laboratory and I was amazing about these traditions that they maintain during the centuries. The meeting also was very interesting in the school of computer and we learnt a big amount of interesting things.

The visit in ancient city of Mycenae and the museum was very nice, my dream since years to visit some archeological places of Greece become truth.

I would like to say thank to AIMNETWORK for choosing us, to Greek partners that they did their best for us and of course to LLP.”

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