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Educational Three days trip in Pedoulas village to the area that belongs to Geopark of Troodos.

Club of research projects and European programs in Agios Ioannis Lyceum



The Club of research projects and European programs in collaboration with the students of the Erasmus Plus program team entitled GEOPARKS - NATURAL AND CULTURAL HERITAGE THAT JOINS EUROPEAN STUDENTS AND TEACHERS, 2018-1-PL01-KA229-050575_5, and a group of teachers of the World Program Education and Environmental Center "Stelos H'Ioannou" in Pedoula (Pedagogical Institute Environmental Education Department) organized a three-day training session with the group of students of the group. In the framework of this program and in collaboration with the World Education Program of Agios Ioannis Lyceum and the Department of Environmental Education of the Pedagogical Institute, a group of teachers of the two programs and officers of the Pedagogical Institute of Cyprus organized a three-day educational trip to Pedoulas, the students of the program team together with students who are doing

research on various subjects during the school year 2018 - 2019 at our school (the students of the research group and European programs). The educational trip took place

from January 19 to January 21, 2019, and the students were accompanied throughout the three-day course by project coordinator Mr. Nikolas Nikolaou (group and World Educator program teachers were present in actions taken the duration of the three-day course). The following is a detailed curriculum of the educational excursion with explanations and pictures of the actions taken by the students.



Saturday, 19 /01/2019 – First Day

At 9 am we left Jumbo's parking by bus to Pedoulas and arrived at the environmental center at 10.30. Immediately upon our arrival we settled in the dormitories and prepared for the first activity of the program where in the form of play the students were informed about what is a geotope, for the Geodarco Troodos and for the Geomorphology of the area. The pupils were divided into groups and passed from all positions so that they could mix their knowledge with the Geoparks. The discussion that followed drove the interest and increased their active participation.



Getting acquainted with minerals

After the first activity ended, the meal followed and it became a second activity that had to do with acquaintance with minerals. This activity was done in the center's laboratory

as it was experimental and the students through their contact with the minerals experienced some properties of the minerals.

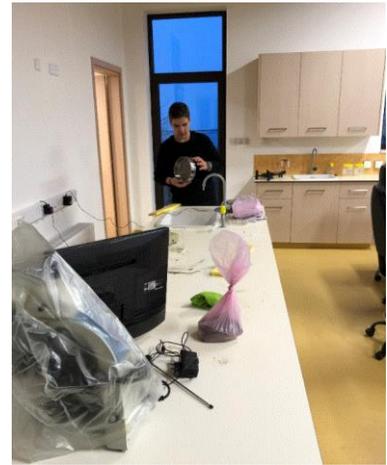


Then in the afternoon until lunch time, the students took up their research teams by doing a group work that they had to do on the basis of the timetable set by the Coordinating Professor of the research teams. In particular, the following research groups took part in the three days education trip activity:

1. Geology of the Troodos Geopark - Minerals and origin. (3 high school students)
2. How does the subsoil affect vegetation in a region - compare to the subsoil of the Troodos region. (experimental research - two students and one student of the 1st Lyceum)



3. What are the differences in the chemical composition of the water of the natural sources of the Geopark Troodos and how these are affected by the altitude of the area. (experimental research - 3 students of the 1st grade of Lyceum)
4. Social research in connection with the extensive use of the mobile and how it affects the students of St. John's Lyceum in their health, psychology and learning. (2 pupils of the 1st Grade and one student of the 2nd Grade).
5. Skills acquired by students through their involvement in the Erasmus + Transnational School Programs. (research work - 3 students from the 1st Grade)
6. An alternative proposal for the utilization of the rubbish of Cyprus (Bibliographic analytical research - 1 student of the 2nd Grade)
7. Construction of posters for the Geoparks and the Geopark Competition (2 students of the 2nd Grade).

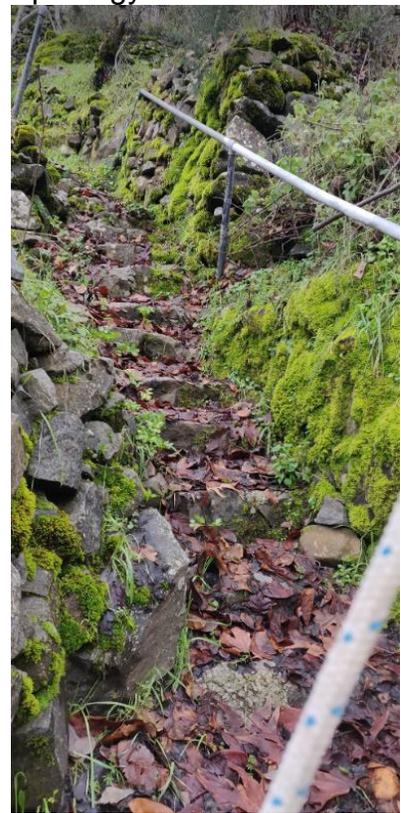


As we can see, all the students had a job to do and brought their personal computers with them. The experimental investigations that were conducted had been planned beforehand so that they could work and have the necessary reagents. In the evening, the students attended a film about earthquakes after dinner.

Sunday 2nd day of educational trip 20th of January 2019



The students continued their research activities in the morning in their group work until 11.30 am when we went to Pedoula village to see the Geomorphology of the area and to deal with another topic that interests us in the program that is Geotourism. The pupils see the photos pleased with the walk in the village of Pedoulas and they took thousands of photos from the enchanting landscapes of the village. In the afternoon the students completed any work they had in connection with their group research





Together with us in all our activities, Mrs. Shimoni Partakidou, Environmental Education Teacher, whom we warmly thank for all the hospitality and knowledge she provided to students of Agios Ioannis Lyceum and especially to the Association of research and European programs of the School.

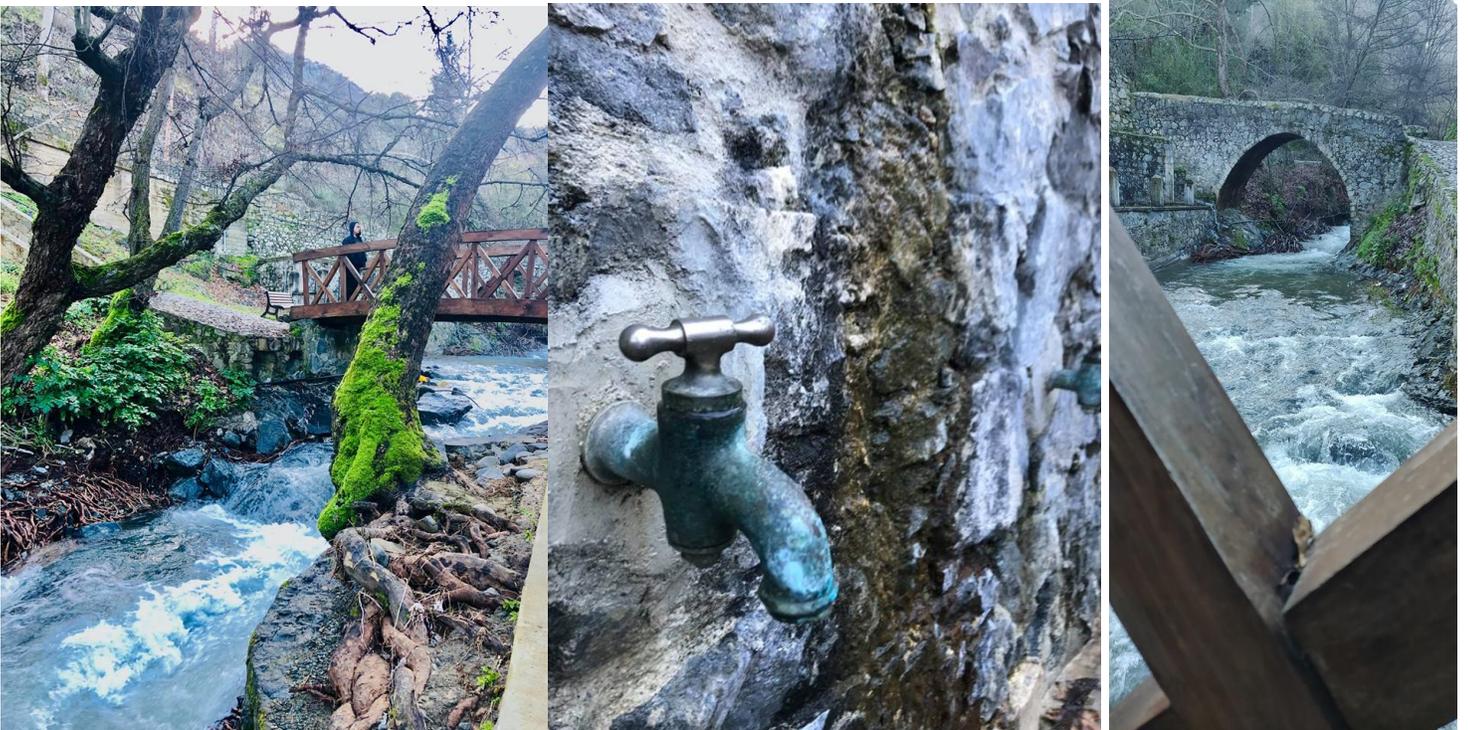
Monday 21 January – Club day in the School - Educational excursion

On Monday we started our day in the morning with an excursion to Kalopanayiotis village in the thermal springs and Venetian Bridge. A very good experience for the students was the meeting with the sympathetic grandmother Ms. Niki who explained to the children the inhabitants of Kalopanayiotis people in the past and what was happening with the sulfur water in Kalopanayiotis a lot of years ago. The students had a very good discussion with Ms. Niki and she was so kind and answering all the questions so at the end students took a photo together with her.



Healing Waters Kalopanayiotis village

The sulphur springs can be found at the banks of river Setrachos next to the Venetian bridge. The healing properties of the waters were known since antiquity. The whole area was part of the ancient Kingdom of Soli whose kings used the area as their wellness resort combining it with their hunting outings. It is said that a temple dedicated to Aesclepius, to the ancient god of healing, was situated on the same spot where the Lampadistis Monastery stands today. The spa waters have been used throughout the ages to this day for their healing properties.



For the same purpose, the kings and princes visited the area during the Roman, Byzantine and Franconian times. The water of the springs is still used today for spas. According to Costas Miryantheas, in his book "Students", the hydrotherapy center dedicated to the god Asklepios (Asclepius) was operating in the site that later built the monastery of Agios Irakleidios (later Agios Ioannis Lambadistis). The patients were "on the spot", that is, at the points of the riverbed from where the waters flowed and rested in the Asklepieion. After the proclamation of religious freedom and the movement of monasticism, the monastery of Agios Irakleidios was built on the same site and the Asklepieion converted into a Christian Hydrological Hospital. The sharp decline in the use of sulfur baths is attributed to the use of various chemical preparations that dissolve in conventional bath water and, in the opinion of physician rheumatologists, completely replace natural sulfuric waters and the appearance of artificial hydrotherapy in SPA-shaped cities.



The continued successful spa operations in various European countries such as Bulgaria, Romania, the Czech Republic, France and Greece underline the irresistible value of traditional spa therapy when combined with steam baths, mud baths, massage, proper nutrition and lower exercise from continuing medical surveillance. The healing properties of Kalopanagiotis' sulfuric waters have been repeatedly revealed by scientific analyzes in chemical laboratories in Europe. The first analysis took place in Germany in 1850, at the initiative of Solomon Saloumides, a Cypriot philologist established in Athens. Others followed in Paris in 1932 by the Director of the Paris Municipal School and President of the Council of the International Society of Medical Hydrology, Dr Fox, in Germany in 1963 by a team of specialists led by Dr Myller and later by the Greek Professor Fokas.



All analyzes validate the healing properties of these waters, which Dr. Fox described it as being similar to some of the Pyrenean thermal waters. Dr. Fox has suggested that these waters can be used for both internal use (disorders of the urinary tract, atony and anemia and skin diseases) and external baths (rheumatic diseases, blood pressure, nervous system stimulation, dermal diseases, etc.).

Source: Kalopanagiotis Community Council

After we left Kalopanayiotis and the sulfur springs, we descended down to see the Skouriotissa mine and the Geotope with the Skouria (Rust is the stone remnants that are no longer worth extracting the copper from them, the rust rocks are now evident copper (the yellow areas can be seen in the photo)).



Skouriotissa Mines: The only active mine in Cyprus. The mining history of Cyprus has linked its name to Cyprus with Coprous. Copper production in Cyprus started before 3000 BC. and even vertically integrated. The ancient Cypriots, besides being wicked miners, were also skilled metallurgists. They had identified almost all of the copper deposits exploited in recent years, they were able to extract the richest of their ore by underground exploitation methods and then, using



metallurgical methods, their base to date, to produce high purity copper copper). It is noteworthy that metal scraps, known as rust, have little copper residue. Slags are usually found near the various copper mines and are protected by law as ancient monuments. During the later years, the exploitation of copper began in the area of Skouriotissa, around 1921, and continued vigorously until 1974. Both the underground exploitation methods and the surface were used for the extraction of the ore. The copper mine of Skouriotissa has been in operation since antiquity and is still the largest mine on the island. It was re-started in mid-1996 and is the only active mine in Cyprus today and continues to produce copper catastrophes. Nearby, there is also an interesting museum for the mine, which highlights the mining activity of the area.

Skouriotissa village

Today Skouriotissa is administratively assigned to Catidata. Its name is due to the rust that is abundant due to the copper blasting. It is essentially a mining settlement created next to the homonymous mine. Its inhabitants were almost all workers, employees or managerial staff of the mine. At the beginning of the twentieth century when the transports were rudimentary the workers stayed in the houses that the company built. Later, when public transport was improved, many people went to their villages by bus.



In Skouriotissa one can see the very nice houses with the wonderful courtyards that housed the managerial staff, right next to the mine, and the rough houses of the workers half a kilometer below and on the opposite side of Clarion. Some of the fine houses of the directors have a fence of rust pieces, which is abundant in the area, a remnant of bronze sinking in antiquity. Today the village is home to the peacekeepers who watch the dead zone, which begins just below it. The workers' houses, with doors and windows out of doors, are lagging behind as the years pass, left to the mercy of the weather. In Skouriotissa are the endless olive groves with wooded olives. The largest olive grove belongs to the

Morphou Metropolis and it produces organic oil. From the ancient monastery of the village there is only the small temple in the camp of the peacekeepers.



The whole area behind the group photo is covered by Rust (Rust is the rocks that are been passed from a procedure to take the copper and it seems the colour of the copper in these rocks)

We finished our fantastic weekend with our excursion in Troodos Square where the students played as little children as some of them had not seen Troodos again snowy.

Nikolas Nikolaou
Erasmus Plus Program Coordinator 'Geoparks - A Natural and Cultural Heritage that Joins European Students and Teachers',
and of the club of Research & European programs

