



Learning Visit to Rethymno – Crete

PROJECT LeCoLE

Participants

Greece: Chrysi Koundouraki and Maria Xepapadaki (hosts)

Latvia: Sandra Prince, Iveta Vērse and Linda Klusa

Iceland: Kristin Jónsdóttir and Bjorgvin Ivar Gudbrandsson

Portugal: Lília Vicente and Paula Pedroso

Republic of Ireland: Colleen Horn

Day 1 – 17/05/2022

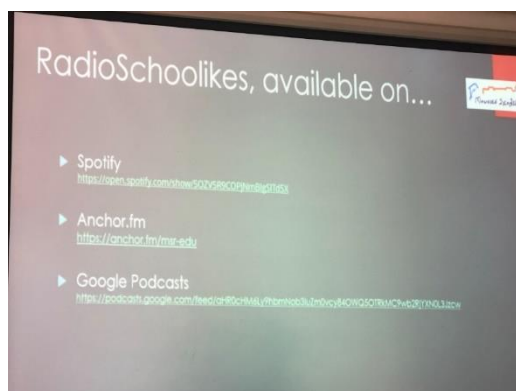


On the first day we met at the EELI headquarters, where we were welcomed and presented with the agenda for the study visit.

After this brief meeting, we headed to Rethymno Music School, where we were very well welcomed by its director, who told us that they are trying to move to new premises, since the building where the school is located is about 60 years old, having started as an orphanage and then as a hospital. We were served small snacks typical of Crete.

It is a lower and upper secondary school which follows the national curriculum but places a particular focus on the teaching of music.

In the ICT lab we were shown a podcast production project, done as a group, and which was considered in the students' assessment, and for which several tools were used such as: 'Audacity', Spotify, Virtual DJ (which allows the writing of



some scripts); RSS Feed, a subset of XML; Royal Free Music, free to use (no royalties).

Next, in the music room, 6 pupils from the flute class and 2 teachers were waiting to present us with a project they had been involved in in which the pupils composed music that had to be connected to images or texts (poems/words) that

they had been given. They played for us a typical Crete song that is normally sung by a choir.



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As far as learning an instrument is concerned, students begin by choosing the instrument of their choice and have two lessons a week. Only in piano or Greek lyre do they have only one lesson a week.

The pedagogical board of the school is trying to get the students' knowledge of the playing of the instrument recognised in the same way their level of language proficiency is.



We went back to the ICT lab where we watched the presentation of several programmes and projects in which many of the school's teachers and students were involved outside of their school hours, as there were many competitions that required many extra working hours and were carried out even during the pandemic, through the Zoom platform.

In 2020 the school participated in a European programme with schools from 3 other countries, and some of the students who participated gave their testimonials.

They told us about another project on environment and reuse, which resulted in products being sold in bazaars at Christmas time, as seen in a video about soap production. The student most active in the project explained that only natural products from Crete were used, such as olive oil and herbs, and that washing machine detergent and liquid soap were also produced.

This gave us an insight into the involvement of teachers and students in co-creation processes.



This school also has a career orientation programme and another project, in partnership with the university in Istanbul, in which the students produce the same song in the languages of both countries. The students also produced two songs alluding to peace, arising from the armed conflict now going on in Europe.



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In the afternoon, it was time to visit the museum of contemporary art, where the curator of the exhibition open to the public gave us a guided tour. We were also given the possibility to visit a space next to the gallery that offers painting, sculpture and pottery workshops for children and adults, activities that were explained to us by the person responsible for the space.





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At the end of the afternoon, we met at the EELI premises and discussed the work developed by the different partners regarding the production phase of the podcasts. In this respect some decisions were taken and the deadlines and tasks were redefined. All the partners were asked not to forget to request the participants of the podcasts to sign a declaration in which they give their authorisation for their transmission. By the beginning of September, the podcasts have to be completed and each partner has to have summarised their interviews in English and in their official language.

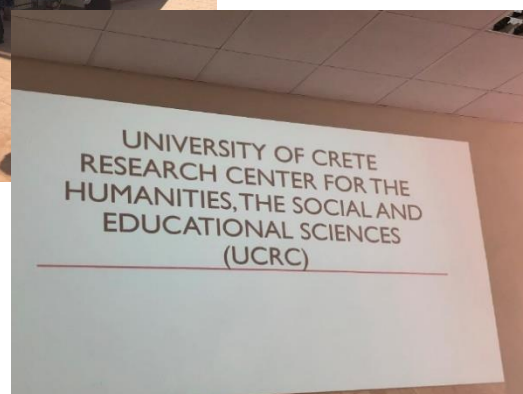
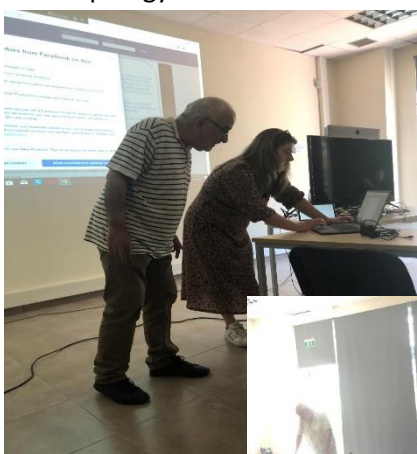




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Day 2 – 18/05/2022

The second day of the field trip was dedicated to a visit to the Rethymno pole of the University of Crete (the other one is in Heraklion). There we were welcomed by Prof. Dr. Aristides Tsantiropoulos, at the Visual Anthropology Lab, who gave us a presentation on co-creation in higher education, namely the research programmes taking place in the sociology department, to which he belongs, as he is professor of socio-anthropology.



Some of the colleagues from the Research Centre for Humanities, Social Studies and Education (UCRC) also presented some of the projects they are developing, as well as those being developed by a professor from Aegean University Lesbos, who is collaborating with the sociology department of the University of Crete.

Finally, we were informed about the administrative activities of the project, updates by VISC and took note of the development "year by year".

After the visit, the partners met in a university space and discussed the characteristics of the supporting teaching materials to be produced, the dissemination of these materials and



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podcasts as well as the multiplier events. The coordinator reminded that we have to upload to the box the attendance lists of the dissemination activities.

Dia 3 – 19/05/2022

The third day was dedicated to the approach of co-creation in secondary education and for this purpose we visited the Secondary School N°4 in Rethymno, where we were welcomed by the headmaster and his team. They have students of various nationalities, namely from Albania, Syria, India and Romania, but in much smaller numbers than in the past as many were children of emigrants who left the country due to the economic crisis.

We were welcomed into visual arts classes, where students were developing a project to decorate the walls of the school. We also visited a physics lab; an ICT lab; an English class; and a crafts class. From what we could see, the disciplines are not relevant for co-creation as this approach is the norm.





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And we couldn't leave without going to the school library, where besides the snack, we could attend presentations given by students and teachers. We attended the presentation on the creation of the school newspaper, which continues to be printed so that the students don't lose contact with paper. There are sponsors so that the newspaper can be printed and thus be of free distribution to the school community



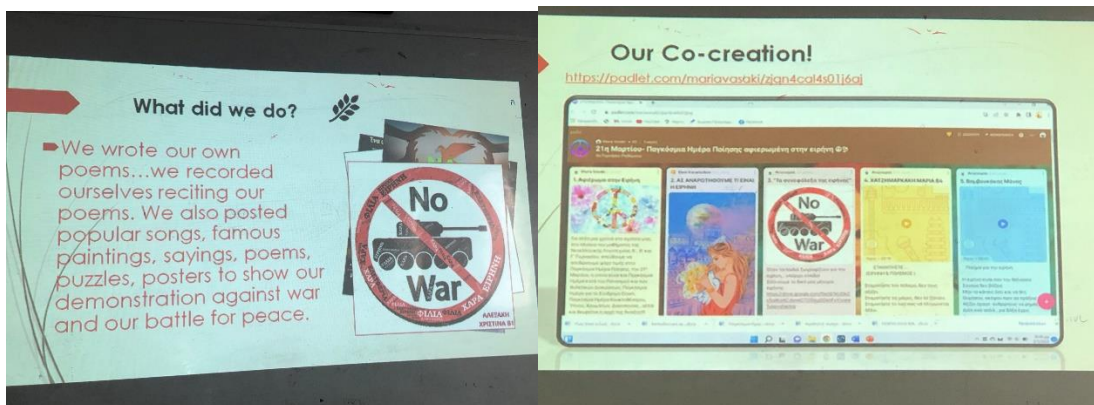
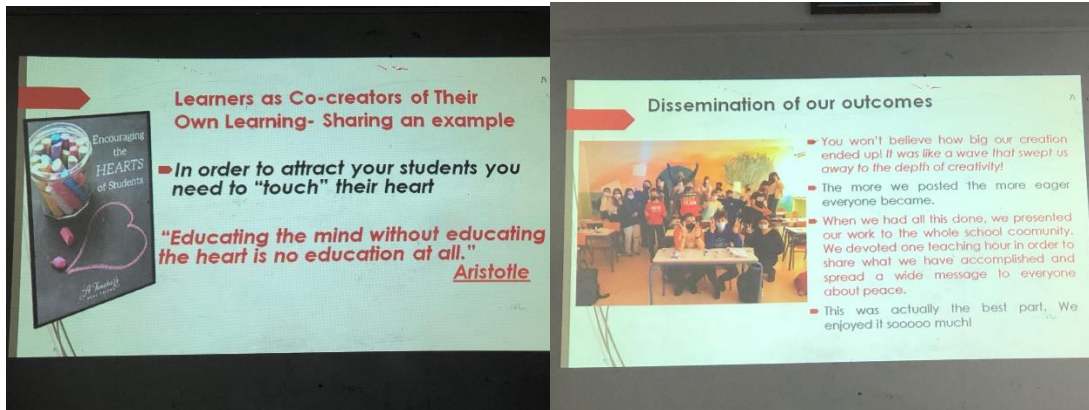
In one of these pictures the school principal can be seen with the Icelandic partners. School principals are the driving force for changing practices, as is the case of the one of this school.

We were presented with a second project - PEACE - which is a good example of a co-creation process. The students created a website to present the project, used Padlet as a working tool



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and had the collaboration of some teachers. As a curiosity, one of the board advisors is a drummer and recorded the song 'Dreamer' by John Lennon for the students' project.



We then went to the Experimental School in Rethymno, where some experimental projects were presented to us, in particular the school's radio station, which is run by the students with the support of an ICT teacher, as well as the production of podcasts.

We were shown how radio is used as a form of co-creation and dissemination of the projects carried out by the school.



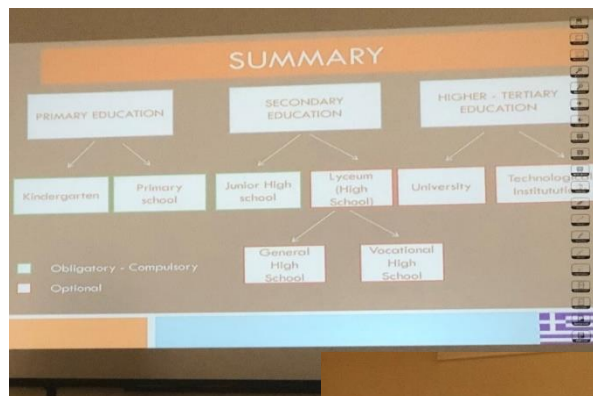
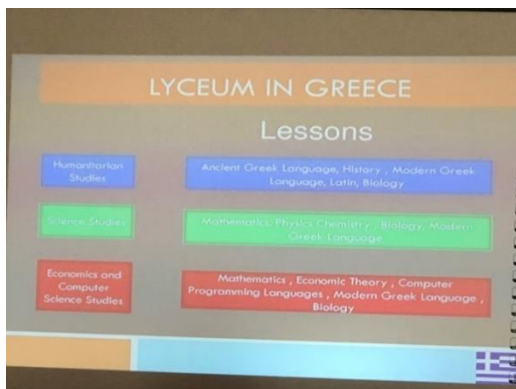


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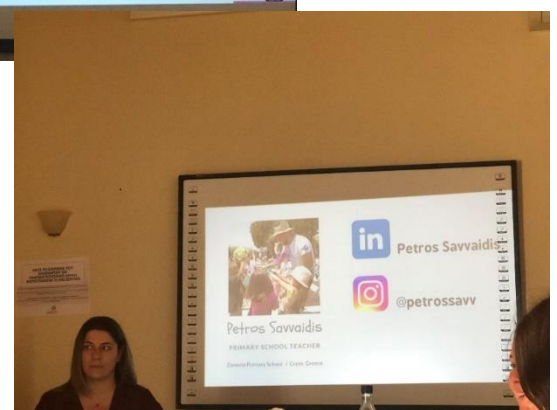


At the end of the day, we returned to the EELI premises to take stock of the visit and have a final discussion about the project.

For a better understanding of the activities, which we attended during these three days, it was essential to know how the Greek education system is structured in its different levels, a task carried out by colleague Maria Xepapadaki, who explained us the different levels of schooling that exist in Greece.



Finally, our hosts showed us two videos on the practices of a primary school teacher, Petros Savvaidis, focusing on online tools, co-creation and self-directed learning, who works on these co-creation approaches with his students, which gave us a sense of how this teacher leads such young students into collaborative processes of knowledge acquisition.



Lília Vicente and Paula Pedroso

21st February 2022