



# Erasmus+



«Every child matters –  
Refugees and immigrants in education»

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**IKY**



ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΗ  
ΔΗΜΟΚΡΑΤΙΑ

ΙΔΡΥΜΑ ΚΡΑΤΙΚΩΝ ΥΠΟΤΡΟΦΙΩΝ  
STATE SCHOLARSHIPS FOUNDATION

# Education for immigrants and refugees in Greece

# Part 1 - Intercultural education

- Intercultural education promotes the understanding of different people and cultures.
- It includes teachings that accept and respect the normality of diversity in all areas of life.
- It seeks to explore, examine and challenge xenophobia, while promoting equal opportunity for all.
- It tries to make good use of the cultural differences for the benefit of all students.

# Intercultural education

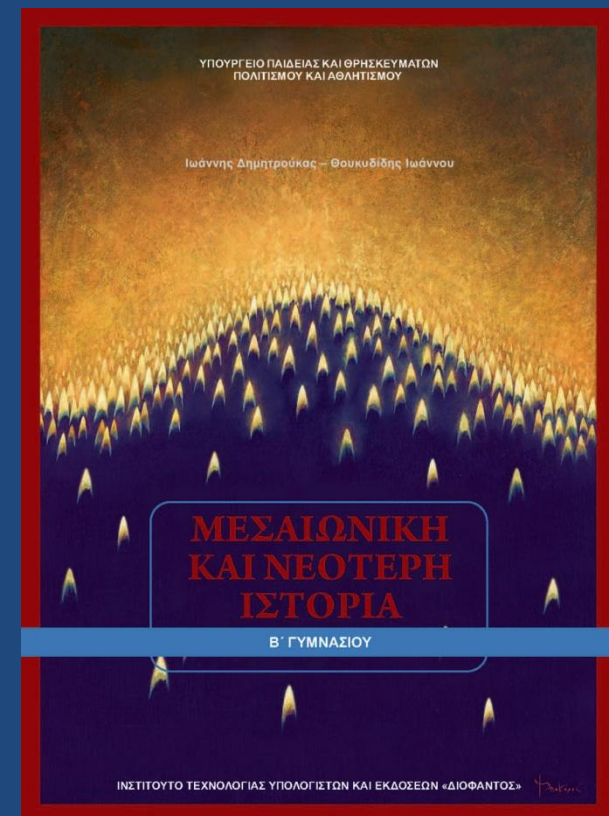
- All the above mean that the representation of foreign civilizations is necessary at school.
- It is necessary to find and focus on the parts of the lessons and the curriculum that can be studied with an intercultural way.
- It is important to value the “cultural capital” of the pupils of other countries and not to focus on ethnocentric material and on negative views of “the other”.

## Part 2 –

### The Greek educational system offers:

- Additional teaching support to bilingual pupils (or pupils who do not know Greek at all), in order to learn Greek.
- Development of special educational material for pupils whose parents are foreigners.
- Establishment of schools for bilingual children.

# Examples of the material taught in a Greek Junior High School and how it can be used interculturally.



# “Konstantis” Litsa Psarafti

- A story about a poor child from Albania, who lives without his parents in poverty, selling things in the streets to the car drivers, until a good woman finds him and helps him.
- There could be photos of children of various countries in the world who work and live like this.
- Discussion about Albania and the way of living there, interest in experiences of children who come from Albania or whose parents are immigrants from Albania.
- Discussing the child labour and finding information on the subject.
- Ask everybody ‘s personal experience on the subject, for example if they know children like that or if members of their family have worked when they were young.

# “Little bird”, poem of Ioannis Vilaras

- Poem about immigration and immigrants, a little bird who immigrates describes its feelings.
- It gives the chance to pupils from foreign countries to speak about their experiences as immigrants, the reasons why they left, relatives that became immigrants.
- Also the Greek pupils have the chance to talk about their family 's immigration.
- As an essay immigrant pupils can find songs, stories and poems from their countries that have to do with immigration.

# Folk songs

- When folk songs are taught, pupils from Balkan countries can be asked to find information about folk songs of their homeland.

Teaching greek myths,  
such as myths that explain earthquakes

- Pupils from other countries can be asked to find myths and traditions of their own countries, who have to do with the subject.

# History lesson about the refugees who came to Greece from Turkey in 1922 after the Greek – Turkish war

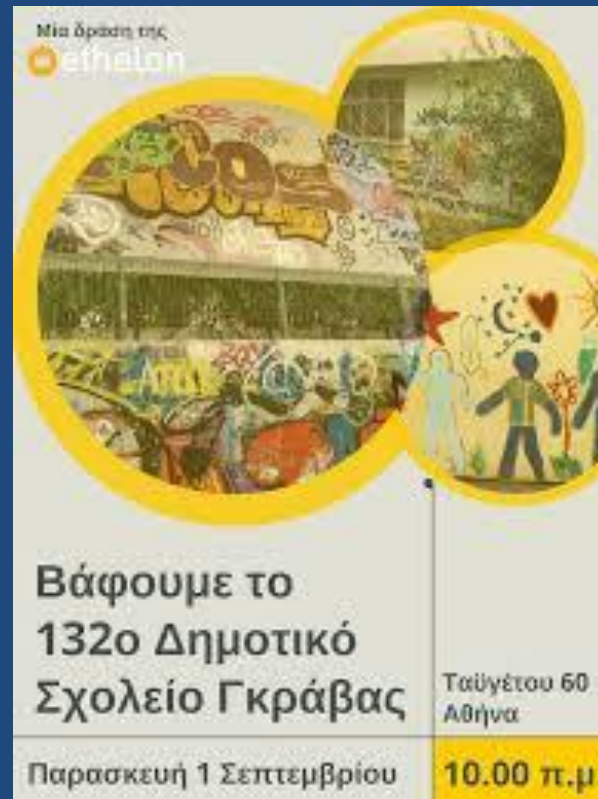
- Pupils can be encouraged to discuss war and the consequences to the peoples' lives.
- Also to search the history of their own country and find information about important wars and similar situation with refugees in their own country.

# History lessons that explore art and monuments

- Pupils from other countries can be asked to present important monuments and works of art from their countries

# Part 3 – The work of the 132<sup>nd</sup> primary school of Athens

- 70% of the pupils were immigrants of various nationalities



- The teachers did not consider diversity as a problem and they worked voluntarily for the harmonious integration of the pupils.



# The ideas to help immigrant pupils

- Classes for teaching the Greek language to the parents.
- Classes for teaching the maternal language (Albanian and Arab ) to the pupils.
- Publishing the school announcements in three languages.
- Instead of praying they recited verses of a song of the Greek poet Giannis Ritsos, so that it could be understood by everyone.

# The ideas to help immigrant pupils

- Important national celebrations with the participation of the immigrant children, who contributed their own experiences of wars.
- Playing games of the countries the pupils come from.

# Results

- The incidents of violence between the pupils were reduced
- The parents of immigrants participate in the school δραστηριότητες and ask the teachers help for a lot of things
- The parents of the Greek pupils accept immigrants and collaborate with the parents of immigrants
- The immigrants pupils are not embarrassed to talk about their identity

# Results

- Reduction of school leakage
- Increase in the self – esteem of immigrant children
- Participation of immigrant parents at the parents' school board

## Part 4 - Petra 's High School

### Intercultural education project

**Title: «The festivities of our grandparents»**

**The aim of the project was to know the customs of the Greek and the foreign pupils and find possible similarities.**

**Also to get acquainted with different cultures and civilizations.**

The pupils that were involved in the project tried to gather information about customs, celebrations, festivities from Greece, England, Albania, Bulgaria, Georgia, Belgium. They did so by asking their parents, their grandmothers and their grandfathers. Some of their relatives even came at school to talk to the pupils.



## Carols from Albania, translated in Greek

Ja na erdhi Viti i Ri,

sa jam i gezuar,

Porsi une dhe cdo femije,

pret per ta festuar,  
γιορτάσουμε,

Bora zbardhi tej per tej,

fusha edhe male,

Viti i Ri do te na gjej',

me kenge e me valle.

Μας ήρθε η νέα χρονιά

πόσο χαρούμενος είμαι,

όπως εγώ και κάθε παιδί,

περιμένουμε να το

το χιόνι σκόρπισε παντού

στις πεδιάδες και στα βουνά,

η νέα χρονιά θα μας βρεί

με τραγούδια και χορούς



A woman from Bulgaria, mother of a student, talked to the pupils about New Year Eve 's customs and sang the Christmas carols of Bulgaria.

## Traditional sweets

A sweet called “baklava”, common in Greece, Bulgaria and Albania in New Year ‘s Eve.



# Comparison of the customs of the wedding both in Greece and in Albania.



# Part 5 – Inclusion of refugees

- Children of refugees go to school in the afternoon. The public schools that accept them are near the refugee hosting centers.
- They usually go for four hours.

- The main subjects they are taught are Greek, English, Mathematics. They are also involved in sports and artistic activities.
- The coordinators of the education of refugees and many of the teachers are teachers who work at public schools. There are also volunteers who participate.

