



ΠΕΡΙΦΕΡΕΙΑΚΟ ΓΥΜΝΑΣΙΟ ΑΚΑΚΙΟΥ

ΓΡΗΓΟΡΗ ΑΥΞΕΝΤΙΟΥ ΑΚΑΚΙ, 2720, ΛΕΥΚΩΣΙΑ, ΚΥΠΡΟΣ

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Digital Powered *Teaching* (DPT)

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# DPT Digital Powered Teaching

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## School activities

September 2023 - May 2024

Akaki Regional Gymnasium has been actively involved in a number of activities which are targeted towards the achievement of the project's objectives. The Erasmus team is composed of eight teachers with Ms Josephine Pavlou, Deputy Head and Home Economics and Health Education teacher, as the coordinator.

In the beginning of the school year, an 'Erasmus Corner' was created to showcase the work done and the progress made regarding the project. Following, the 'Selfie' survey was conducted among teachers and students in order to assess their digital skills, their views on technology and help the school have a better understanding of how digital technologies are used to support teaching and learning. During a parent-teacher meeting which was held in September, Ms Koulla Aristodemou, informed parents about and described the project's objectives as well the beneficial value it has on students.



Moreover, an internal competition took place to vote for the top five logo entries that would represent our school in the voting for the winning logo of the project. Students had the opportunity to view the entries - 14 in total - on a Padlet and choose their favourite ones.

Our school website and Facebook page are constantly updated to inform students, teachers, parents and the local community about the project and the actions taken for its

implementation. The project's Etwinning page is upgraded with content on a continuous basis. Two articles were also published in Cyprus' most popular website for education, Paideia-news.com.

A number of online meetings and workshops within the project's framework have been held since October 2023 which aimed at expanding teachers' and students' awareness on the use of Digital Tools for teaching and learning. Teacher participants used their



acquired knowledge and applied it in designing their lessons by integrating more digital tools. Among many others, an interdisciplinary, anti-bullying campaign was held for classes, combining elements from Health Education, Arts, ICT and Social Studies for the creation of a video that sends a message against bullying. English Language classes combined Literature, Arts, ICT, Sports Education and Food Technology to create blog posts and poems that would be later added on BookCreator

and Padlet. Biology classes used digital tools to create simulations and gifs to illustrate human body organs. Socrative, Mentimeter and Plickers were employed to create quizzes either for warm-up activities or as formative assessment.



DPT has had a powerful impact on teaching since its implementation, since a lot of teachers have reported using digital tools even more often in the classroom, according to a short-scale survey that was carried out to measure teacher's opinions on using digital tools.

## Mobilities

### Cyprus, November 2023

The joint teachers activity of the project, Digital Powered Teaching (D.P.T), took place in Perifereiako Gymnasio Akakiou in Cyprus, between 6 and 10 November 2023. Teachers from the coordinator school in Romania, "Constantin Parfene" Secondary School, and the two other partner schools, 1st Byron Secondary School, Athens, Greece and Osnovna škola Novi Marof, Croatia attended the training activity which aimed at developing the digital and personal skills of teachers in order to use digital tools in their teaching. The

Story Jumper, Book Creator, Socrative, Gif Maker, Sutori, Tricider, Miro and Storyset applications were presented, as well as best practice models of using these digital tools in teaching, in order to enrich the digital content of lessons and diversify pedagogical practice.

The training session was complemented with cultural visits to some of Cyprus' most renowned sites - Ayios Ioannis Lampadistis (a UNESCO World Heritage Site) and the Byzantine museum in Kalopanayiotis, Nicosia walled- city tour with landmarks such as the Famagusta and Pafos gates, Nicosia old town hall, the Venetian walls and the vibrant Eleftheria square. Overall, the visit to these cultural sites is a verification that history and modernity blend seamlessly, offering a unique perspective on the island's heritage. Visitors were impressed to discover that such a small island is home to such rich history and culture. The participants reported that the experience was not only educational, but also deeply enriching, fostering a sense of European citizenship and intercultural understanding.



## Croatia, April 2024

The second mobility, took place between 22 and 26 April 2024, in Osnovna škola Novi Marof, Croatia in which groups of six students from each school with their teachers, participated in an educational experience which aimed at maximising students' learning and development in the areas of the project's main focus: digital tools. The students took part in workshops through which they gained knowledge in handling various digital tools (Videoleap, WordPress Graphic creator, gif maker, Socrative), presented their school and participated in sports activities.

The teachers presented five new digital tools (Jeopardy Labs, Storyboard, Plickers, Microsoft Copilot and Videoleap) which will be used in future activities with the students. Our students did not only become more familiar with the digital tools that were presented to them, but they were also excited to experience the local educational system, how the host families share similarities but also differences to their own families and they formed new friendships, which is an added value to the program. A tour of the capital city Zagreb and the nearby town Varazdin, visits to national parks, the island of Krk and Opatija, a

seaside town, helped us gain a deeper understanding of the country and immerse ourselves in its culture. The teachers and students who took part in this experience reported that their participation in the program widened their knowledge on using digital tools, but also the engagement with the local people led to an authentic experience that creates a deeper connection to the country and its people. Participation in the educational and cultural experience proved beneficial for enhancing cognitive flexibility and empathy, but also fostering emotional and social development.



The project is planned to be completed in July 2025 and more upcoming activities have already been scheduled in order to reach the goals which have been set that will make teaching and learning with the use of digital tools more efficient, enjoyable and contemporary.