

## **PROPOSAL FOR A TITLE** (of course it will change...)

Sustainable tourism in Europe: travelling and welcoming with respect for the environment, society, and culture.

**What are your organisation's main activities? What kind of learning programmes is your organisation offering? If your organisation is providing more than one educational programme, please specify which of those programmes belong to the field of this application.**

i. The 1st High School of Triandria offers, according to the curriculum of the Ministry of Education, formal education of high quality. At the same time, it offers many informal activities and from time to time it has implemented many projects: environmental, cultural - theatrical performances, dance competitions, reading clubs, publication of a school magazine; health education programs, in cooperation with the University of Thessaloniki, European programs -Comenius, eTwinning, Erasmus+. Our students have received distinctions in school competitions (sports, dance, theatre etc.) and have honored the school with their succeeded entrance in higher education. At the time being we are running two Erasmus+ KA229 and one KA122, through which the partnerships and the idea for this application arised.

**What profiles and ages of learners do you work with?**

Our students, aged 15-18, grow up, socialize and explore their future prospects in a big city, Thessaloniki, which thanks to its geographical location (in the centre of Northern Greece and the Balkans, close to Halkidiki and other famous tourist destinations, e.g. Corfu), thanks to its long history and tradition, but also thanks to its University, is at the same time a center of various types of tourism: summer, religious, conference, commercial, etc. Many of them will go into professions linked - directly or indirectly - to tourism. Awareness-raising is therefore essential for a responsible attitude in the future, either as professionals or as travelers. At the same time, they are children of the Internet and technology, with a loose relationship with our cultural heritage, which they should be made aware of, both for its value in itself and for its importance as a touristic attraction. Finally, they are the future citizens of Europe and as such they should become aware of the commonality of problems and solutions with other EU countries.

**Project objectives**

**What are the most important needs and challenges your organisation is currently facing? How can your organization be improved to benefit its learners? Please illustrate your answers with concrete examples.**

The most important needs and challenges that our school faces - as an educational institution of general secondary education- derive from its obligation to offer general education and values - environmental, social, cultural -, while, at the same time, has to prepare the students for their entrance exams and the choice of a profession. Adolescents in our time show a reduced interest in social, cultural, and environmental issues, while individualism and career anxiety are on the increase. At the same time, the lack of School Vocational Guidance in high school is becoming increasingly apparent. Thus, when a teacher from our school returned from a seminar related to sustainability and the 17 UN Sustainable Development Goals and presented her training material to the others, the idea of this application was born in the teachers' board. Because, it was agreed in the teachers' board that having the theme of sustainable tourism as a basis, we could bring the students of our school into contact with urgent environmental, socio-political and cultural issues of our times, so that they could become aware of them, addressing them not as theoretical situations but as practical problems in the context of everyday activities - as travelers, as city dwellers, as professionals. We therefore thought that in the context of sustainable tourism we could address issues of general education - respect for the environment and cultural heritage, respect for the character of each place, accessibility for all to social goods such as tourism, safety and sustainability of economic activities such as tourism in the post-covid era, fair distribution of benefits, participation of citizens in decision-making for their city, etc.; and at the same time to lay the foundations for responsible practice of their future profession, as, according to surveys, 1 in 10 professions directly and even more indirectly are related to tourism, especially in areas such as our city, which are touristic or neighboring tourist areas. And, of course, all the above in a European context, either in cooperation with schools in Europe facing similar needs, such as Barcelona or Dresden, or through courses from accredited European organizations, but also by using technology to explore the subject and develop activities.

According to the above, our school's Teachers' Board concluded that the main priority of our school at the present time is to cultivate environmental, socio-political and cultural sensitivity in our students, an objective that could be served more effectively in connection with the topic of sustainable tourism and the professional prospects it creates.

**Please define the objectives your organisation wants to achieve by implementing this Key Action 1 mobility project. Your objectives should be concrete, realistic, and should represent a real benefit for your organisation and its learners.**

## **Objective 1**

### **What do you want to achieve?**

Raising environmental awareness in our school community with sustainable tourism as a reference point.

### **Explanation**

#### **How is this objective linked with the needs and challenges you have described in the previous question?**

Our students, investigating the ecological dimensions of sustainable tourism [optimal use of environmental resources, energy footprint of travel and stay in another place, nutritional footprint, protection and non-disturbance of the natural environment, fauna and flora (e.g. natura areas), by visitors and hosts, management of waste from tourism, etc.] are made aware of environmental issues in general but also learn to relate them to various aspects of modern life, such as their future profession or leisure travel in a European environment.

### **Measuring success**

#### **How are you going to evaluate if the objective has been reached?**

The evaluation of the achievement of the objective will be carried out by monitoring and digitization (digital recording) of the material produced (presentations, interviews and speeches by experts, digital story-telling, role-playing games, digital games, short films with material from the visits and activities, etc.). Also by interviews and questionnaires on the subject before and after the project and their comparative analysis.

## **Objective 2**

### **What do you want to achieve?**

Raising socio-political awareness in our school community with sustainable tourism as a reference point.

### **Explanation**

#### **How is this objective linked with the needs and challenges you have described in the previous question?**

Our students, investigating the socio-political dimensions of sustainable tourism [accessibility (services for people with mobility or other problems, so that they can enjoy inclusive tourism services), respect for the resilience of local communities, e.g. on the issue of noise pollution, addressing problems of over-tourism, safety and the protection of public health, fair distribution of the benefits of tourism in society, activation of civil society to address local problems, etc.,] are made aware of socio-political issues in general but also learn to relate them to various aspects of

contemporary life in a European context, for example to their future profession or tourism activities.

### **Measuring success**

#### **How are you going to evaluate if the objective has been reached?**

The evaluation of the achievement of the objective will again be carried out by monitoring and digitisation - digital recording of the material produced on the specific topic (presentations, interviews and speeches by experts, digital storytelling, role-playing games, digital games, e.g. digital escape room, short films with material from the visits and activities etc.). Also, by interviews and questionnaires on the topic before and after the project and their comparative analysis.

### **Objective 3**

#### **What do you want to achieve?**

Cultural awareness of our school community with sustainable tourism as a reference point.

#### **Explanation**

#### **How is this objective linked with the needs and challenges you have described in the previous question?**

By researching the cultural dimensions of sustainable tourism in Europe [respecting the cultural authenticity of local communities and avoiding its deterioration, "biophilic" architecture (respecting natural features, geological elements, traditional patterns), care for monuments and knowledge of history through them, etc.], our students become aware of cultural issues in general and in particular regarding their future profession or traveling.

### **Measuring success**

#### **How are you going to evaluate if the objective has been reached?**

The same as above

#### **Please briefly describe the content of the activities you plan to organise.**

Our students at the meeting in Spain, in a school that is very active on environmental issues, will be informed about and participate in the school's ecologically oriented projects, attend the special environmental lesson, which is integrated in the curriculum of Spanish schools, research -in cooperation with students from the other two schools (Germany, Spain)- the ecological dimensions of sustainable tourism (e.g. optimal use of environmental resources, energy saving, environmental protection, etc.), and learn about the ecological aspects of sustainable tourism. At the meeting in Germany, groups of students from the three schools will explore the socio-political aspects of sustainable tourism, such as accessibility for all to tourism services, the resilience of local communities to the negative impacts of tourism, e.g. noise

pollution and over-tourism, safety and protection of public health in the post-covid era, the fair distribution of the benefits of tourism in society, etc. Based on the results of their research they will create presentations and digital narratives. Furthermore, by using the techniques of role-playing or forum theatre they will organize debates as citizens of the local community discussing on a relevant topic. In the Greece meeting, students from the three schools will explore the cultural aspects of sustainable tourism in Europe, e.g. preserving the cultural authenticity of local communities and avoiding its deterioration, "biophilic" architecture (respecting natural features, geological elements, traditional patterns), caring for monuments and knowing history through them. The results of their research will be translated into presentations, digital maps of monuments and a digital declaration of principles concerning cultural heritage in tourist areas. All meetings will include visits to sites or exhibitions or museums related to the specific theme and the groups will attend lectures by experts on the specific topics. The various activities of the meetings will provide the material for short films.