

"While the wolf is not around"

A mobility project/YOUTH EXCHANGE/ R2/KA1/2020

by the Greek Non-profit organisation

"The Good House"

<https://thegoodhouse.gr/>

and the participating organisations

What do we want to achieve by implementing the project? What are the objectives of our project?

In a Europe with so many economic problems and increased youth unemployment, young people have turned their attention to "green jobs", as the demand is growing year by year and thousands of innovating and prosperous jobs is expected to be created in the near future. Thus, young people who are interested in informal learning in relevant productive sectors of the global economy are increasing, especially in areas related to the protection of forests, prevention and treatment from fires and acceleration of the rehabilitation of the lands that are affected by natural and man-made causes. These, taking into account the official data and personal experiences in their countries that show that wildfires annually destroy thousands of hectares of forest and land in the EU, while one after another EU member states are more affected than ever by large fires in their forest ecosystem. Thus, overall, forests slowly slowly are disappearing and so the lungs of humanity, the supporting tool for a better quality of life for citizens, a key to maintaining biodiversity on the planet and with an important role in tackling the current bad and risky state of climate and ecology.

The above critical and socially relevant topics for Europe where in the last decades, there has been a noticeable increase in the number of wildfires in all the countries, compose the thematic areas of the **project entitled "While the wolf is not around"** (figuratively for the project the "wolf" is the fire). They enter the realm of their interests and employ the youngsters as of high social and economic significance. This is the reason that they implement this **mobility project as a Youth Exchange in the framework of the Erasmus+ programme and the Key Action 1** with the aim of satisfying their common need and expectation to strengthen their ecological profile.

Analytically, the following objectives are the objectives of the project:

- Improvement and enhancement of the employability of young people and their career prospects in the field of the proper forest management, the avoidance of the deforestation, the continuation of the sustainability of water resources that increase our resilience to the hot and dry conditions created by the

climate variability, continuation that only the forests ensure, generally in the protection against wildfires and the speeding up of their recovery.

- Development of their sense of initiative and entrepreneurship in the mentioned below ecological sectors and professional areas relevant to forest and environmental sciences which in theory and in practice are gradually evolving, expanding and interacting with various professional disciplines that are either the evolution of already existing professions, or completely new specializations. These "green work positions" require nowadays formal as well as informal and non-formal knowledge but substantial skills, attitudes and behaviors for the rational management of forest ecosystem, the prevention of forest fires' breaking out that are resulted by the heat waves along with the strong winds and the low relative humidity, the exclusion and extinction of them, the observation, surveillance and watching of the environment, and for the raising of public awareness and the coordination of people's activation with that of the competent formal entities and organisations and of their officials (i.e. firefighters).
- Strengthening of the young participants' self-empowerment and self-esteem.
- Improvement of their linguistic Excellency in the foreign languages of their peers and their competences in use of English and of their mother tongue.
- Development of the skills and literacy on information and communication technology, critical thinking and sense of initiative of young participants for promoting European common fundamental ecological and environmental values in the conditions of drought intensification under global warming and human silliness through the use of digital and artistic working.
- Enhancement of their intercultural awareness as well as of their more active involvement and dynamic and substantial presence in society, in structures and activities for intercultural dialogue, social integration and solidarity.
- Increase of their motivation for taking part in future informal learning mobilities abroad.

The long-term expectations are:

- Development of staff, youth workers and professionals involved in education, training and youth in order to provide better quality of their work and activities in favour of young people, more attractive programmes in line with their needs and the expectations of young generation and more effective actions for the disadvantaged groups.
- The recognition of the value of informal learning due to the strong interconnection with the labor market and society and of its results as evidenced by the Europass and youthpass certificates.

What activities do we plan to implement? What is the number and profile of the participants involved?

The project entitled "**While the wolf is not around**" expands the cognitive and professional horizons of the young participants and empowers them to develop their personality and mature socially.

In particular, it provides knowledge and skills to facilitate their access to forest science, ecology and environment professional fields that in theory and practice are gradually evolving, expanding and interacting with various disciplines as evolution of already existing professions or/and as completely new specialisations but also to **volunteerism**.

These are "green jobs" that **enhance employability and improve career prospects**, entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation, the demand for which is constantly growing. They relate to the proper management of forests and increase their resilience to the heat and drought conditions of climate change, the effects of which are accelerated by reckless human negligence and action, with fires predominant among them. Thus, these modern work positions focus on forest's protection and on the prevention, treatment, exclusion and elimination of forest wildfires, on the acceleration of the restoration of natural and man-made forest ecosystems as elements of national and European cultural heritage and as goods for prosperity of local communities, on their observation, supervision and patrolling as well as on the raising of awareness and the coordination of the population' action with that of the competent bodies and their officials (i.e. firefighters).

Overall, it encourages young people to be more actively involved in society, in structures and actions to **build an alternative socio-economic model in the EU**, anthropocentric, environmentally sensitive and based on its founding values for a sustainable development.

All the above mentioned critical issues for Europe compose the core of the thematic of the project, as they fall into the realm of their common needs and interests, and considered as of high social and economic importance.

As far the youngsters, it is about of a total of 40 young people, shared more or less in national teams as partners from at least five (5) different EU countries with coordinator the Greek non profit organisation named "THE GOOD HOUSE". They are about 18-28 years old and among them disadvantaged and with fewer opportunities youngsters, geographically isolated, residents of remote areas, with social, linguistic and cultural diversities, with migrant-refugee background, victims of racist and xenophobic behaviors, students and unemployed with little or not at all specialization.

The project takes place in Evia (19-24/10/2020 is the first schedule due the COVID-19) and in its framework the young people actively participate, supported by their group leaders to jointly carry out **a work programme of teambuilding**,

experiential, online, interactive, group collaborative, exploratory, entertaining, artistic, creative workshops with a mix of lessons, lectures, screenings, field exercises, debates, DIY constructions, visits and outdoor educational-pedagogical events.

The methodology used concerns an informal and non-formal approach to the knowledge and skills provided. The young participants develop dialogue and exchange of ideas beyond any discrimination. They cooperate equally and with interdependence and present their own knowledge and skills and their own information and analysis. They create their working material, sometimes printed (leaflets, articles, texts in multimedia forms, PPT, pdf, excel, Prezi, etc.) sometimes audiovisual (video projections) and/or digital (use of applications/Apps and general of digital tools). They discuss in mixed groups, are taught in electronic classrooms and by online and interactive tours (web-based teaching). They think critically and express autonomous personal thoughts and feelings. They develop deep reflection, become aware of their strengths and weaknesses, and learn about themselves. They learn and explore the cultures, languages, values and different lifestyles of their peers. In this way, they acquire intercultural consciousness and a spirit of social integration and solidarity, while increasing their self-empowerment and self-esteem as well as improving their competences in the foreign languages of their peers, English and their mother tongue. Every day the young people evaluate their own learning outcomes from the participation while in the end they evaluate the total project and participate in the dissemination process and the use of the results.

What results and impact do we expect from our project to have?

The project **"While the wolf is not around"** produces for the young participants the following outcomes:

- Enhancement of their employability, improvement of their career prospects and increase of their sense of initiative and entrepreneurship within and outside European borders in "green jobs" and fields related to forest science, environmental sciences and ecology that in theory and practice are gradually evolving, expanding and interacting with various modern professional branches and disciplines that are either the evolution of existing professions, or completely new specialties and specializations. These jobs require formal as well as informal and non-formal but substantial knowledge and skills, attitudes and behaviors for the rational management of forest ecosystem, the prevention, exclusion, suppression and reduction of fires' ignition, observation, surveillance and patrol of the forest lands, and for the raising of public awareness and coordination of the actions of population with that of the responsible bodies and their officials (i.e. firefighters) as promising strategies to mitigate the effects of climate change.

- Better awareness of the EU principles for an alternative socio-economic model, anthropocentric, environmentally sensitive, based on the founding values for a sustainable development.
- Development of the skills and literacy on information and communication technology (ICT), critical thinking and sense of initiative of youngsters for promoting EU common ecological and environmental values through various aspects of this communication technology such as the digital, visual and art working.
- Enhancement of the intercultural awareness and promotion of the intercultural dialogue, social inclusion and solidarity.
- More active ecological and intercultural participation in society as responsible citizens.
- Increase of their self-empowerment and self-esteem.
- Improvement of *language* competences, in mother tongue, English and in mother languages of their peers.
- Increase of their motivation for taking part in future mobility projects.

As regards staff, youth workers and professionals involved as group leaders, it produces the following outcomes:

- Improvement of their competences, linked to their professional profiles.
- Capacity to understand the practices, policies and systems in education, training or youth work across countries.
- Broad capacity to trigger changes in terms of modernisation and international opening within their organisations.
- Capacity to understand the interconnections between formal, non-formal education, informal learning, vocational training the labour market and society.
- Better quality of their work and activities in favour of students, trainees, apprentices, pupils, adult learners, young people and volunteers.
- Better understanding and responsiveness to social, linguistic and cultural diversity of the modern European society and beyond.
- Ability to address the needs of the disadvantaged groups.
- Abilities to support for and promotion of mobility activities for learners.
- Provision of opportunities for professional and career development.
- Improvement of their foreign language competences.
- Motivation and satisfaction in their daily work.

The project produces outcomes for the participating organisations:

- Capacity to cooperate at EU and international level through improved management skills and internationalisation strategies, reinforced cooperation with partners from other countries, increased allocation of financial resources to organise EU and international projects, increased quality in the preparation, implementation, monitoring and follow up of these projects.

- Possibilities for a innovative and improved way of operating towards their target groups, by providing attractive programmes for the students, trainees, apprentices, young people and volunteers in line with their needs and expectations, improved qualifications of teaching and training staff, improved processes of recognition and validation of competences gained during learning periods abroad, more effective activities for the benefit of local communities, improved youth work methods and practices to actively involve young people and/or to address disadvantaged groups.
- Provision of a more modern, dynamic, committed and professional environment inside through capacities to integrate good practices and new methods into daily activities, an open to synergies with other organisations active in different social, educational and employment fields, capacities for the professional development of their staff in relation to individual needs and their objectives.

In a long run, the mentioned above outcomes in combination with the effect of other Erasmus+ projects supported under the KA1 have an impact on the systems of education, training and youth in the participating countries, thus stimulating policy reforms and attracting new resources for mobility opportunities in Europe and beyond.



“ While the wolf is not around ”

A Mobility project in the field of youth

youth exchange

APV - Advance planning visit: 17 -18 September 2020

Main activity: 19 -24 October 2020

Venue: Island of Evia, Greece





Participating organisations

from

Greece, Croatia, Hungary, Italy, Romania, Spain

--The participating organisations--

Croatia, Zagreb University

Ms Tereza Oreb

Italy: Jules Verne International (JVI)

Mr Alessandro Gaeta

Romania : "Ciprian Porumbescu" Arts College//Colegiul de Artă "Ciprian Porumbescu"

Ms Monica Arotăriței

Spain:

1. Asociación ENTREJUEGOS, Alameda (Málaga) - Spain

Ms Sandra Leiva López

2. Bidaia

Ms Clara María Carro Martínez



PROJECT objectives and outcomes

In a Europe with so many economic problems and increased youth unemployment and after its plunging into recession amid COVID-19, the turn of **young people's attention to "green jobs"** is undoubtable. The demand is growing year by year and thousands of innovating jobs are created in the near future. These jobs refer in general to a sustainable growth and development and one crucial reason is the noticeable increase **in the number of wildfires in all the European countries that in the last decades destroy thousands of hectares of land, while forest ecosystem is more affected than ever.** Thus, forests, slowly - slowly are disappearing and at the same time the "lungs of humanity", the supporting tool for a better quality of life for citizens, a key to maintaining biodiversity on the planet and with an important role in tackling of the current bad and risky state of climate and ecology.

The mentioned above is the main thematic for discussion and exchange of ideas and positions and at the heart of labs, field exercises, plays-role, visits in the framework of the project entitled **"While the wolf is not around"** which depicts figuratively the "wolf" as the fire.

The topic enters the realm of the participants' interests, students, trainees, apprentices and young people, including those with fewer opportunities, and employs them as of high social and economic significance. The goal is the strengthen of their ecological profile and the cover of their common needs and expectations for learning outcomes such as knowledge, skills and competences concerning fields of productive sectors in the global economy and particularly in areas concerning **the protection of forests, the prevention and treatment from fires and the acceleration of the rehabilitation of the lands that are affected by natural and man-made causes.** Their ambition is to improve their personal development, their involvement as considerate and active citizens in a sustainable environmentally society and their employability in the European labour market and beyond in prosperous "green jobs".



Specific INFORMATION

LANGUAGE

Despite that there are different languages heard and spoken throughout the project's period (mother tongues of the participating organisations), the official language of the Youth Exchange is **English, no matter of level.**

PARTICIPANTS

All the young participants and leaders **must take part in an active way in the whole project** and strictly follow the informal learning process.

Preparation of the national teams is **mandatory** according to the schedule of the activities as follows:

Introductory learning unit

1. **Erasmus+ kai the Key Action 1 /KA1**, responsible for the presentation: **Italy, 15'**
2. **Erasmus+ app**, responsible for the presentation: **Croatia, 15'**
3. **European Solidarity Corps**, responsible for the presentation: **Spain, Edgar's team 15'**
4. **Spanish National Agency** (Spanish acronym: ANE), and **Youth Institute** (Spanish acronym: INJUVE), as well as **Spanish Youth Council** (Spanish acronym: CJE), responsible for the presentation: **Spain, Klara's team, 15'**
5. **Informal learning**, responsible for the presentation: **Greece, 15'**
6. **Content of digital portfolios on informal learning (puzzles and questionnaires)**, responsible for the participation in mixed groups: **Greece, 30'**
7. **The project "While the wolf is not around"**, responsible for the presentation: **Greece, 15'**
8. **Presentation of europass and Youthpass certificates**, responsible for the presentation: **Romania, 15'**
9. **Teambuilding: "Get to know each other"**

Partners profile, presentation of **leaders, 10' per each team**

Young participants' profile, self-presentations, **4-5' per person**

1st learning unit

1. Presentation of the EU Civil Protection Mechanism) and of the rescEU, 30', **Spanish team** (Klara's team)
2. The European Forest Fire Information System (*EFFIS*) of the European Copernicus Climate Change Services (emphasis on the winter 2019 - 2020 as the hottest in Europe since 1855), 30', **Italy**
3. The WWF for the forests, the state of climate and ecology, 30', **Spanish team** (Edgar's team)
4. The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), 30', **Croatia**
5. The Council Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora, 30', **Romania**

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Not boring but **interactive and challenging presentations** by using speech, texts in ppt and pptx format, videos, photos, questionnaires, apps, play-roles, improvisations, funny happenings, games, exercises for your peers, etc.

2nd learning unit

Deepening in the above topics on **Forest and wild fires with:**

- It is mandatory for the Greek and the Italian teams to prepare/create **questionnaires** (6 questions, 3 per team, use of **Google Docs**) for their peers from Croatia, Romania and Spain 30'
- It is mandatory for the Croatian, Romanian and Spanish teams to prepare/find **educational apps kai games** (use of **Google play**) for gaining impressions and comments from their Greek and Italian peers, 30'

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Creative writing - A script on the consequences of forest fires in the future

1. **One negative scenario** made by the teams from Greece, Croatia and Romania, 1 hour. It concerns the climate change and its effects on the sustainability of forest ecosystems by fires that are accelerated by the reckless human action.
2. **One positive scenario** made by the teams from Italy, and Spain, 1 hour. It focuses on the European values that are associated with Europe's cultural wealth. The forests are part of this richness and

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cultural heritage and function as channels of sustainable development of local and national communities and the EU as a whole.

4th learning unit

- Creation of a web comic under the title: **"While the wolf is not around"**

Bringing the scenarios and stories to life through a comic strip.

Digital storytelling and comic strips can motivate more the young people to deal and act effectively on a crucial topic, such as the topic of this project. It also captures their imagination like no other medium and puts in practice their narrative knowledge and skills. It is a popular art form that not only entertains but also educates the participants because of how it can show or explain complex social, political, cultural, financial and environmental thematic, environmental concepts in our case, using images and dialogue.

For this learning session, **it is mandatory for all the participants** to be prepared on the use of (i.e):

- Digital storytelling <https://www.storyboardthat.com/>, or/and
- Comic strip creator <https://www.canva.com/create/comic-strips/>
- Stop motion movie :
https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.cateater.stopmotionstudio&hl=en_US

<https://apps.apple.com/us/app/stop-motion-studio/id441651297>

in order to weave images, text, and emotion together and bring their ideas that are included in their scenarios to life.

While it might sound daunting, it is not really. Thus, **for all the teams: be prepared** taking into account that the mentioned above examples are so simple to use (and many others on web and internet) that the participants do not need to be professional cartoonists, artists, designers or big graphic novelists to create something magical. **They are coordinating in mixed groups under the audit of the Greek team**, they are creating their comic strip and finally they create a work of art to be proud of.

5th learning unit

- **Visit** to the area of forest and village of Agrilitsa, in the municipality of Dirfys-Messapia in the island of Evia, where in August 2019 strong winds fanning the flames which are burning a protected forest listed in EU's Natura 2000 network.

The smoke from the blaze reached all the way to Athens, covering parts of the city with haze.

- **Discussion with the firemen, volunteers and the authorities on the fire-fighting efforts.**

Exchange of views on the individual and collective responsibilities of all the stakeholders, forest firefighters, stockbreeders, poultry-farmers and agro-farmers, tourism professionals, hunters, environmentalists and ecologists and in general speaking, workers in various productive sectors that show a strong growth in the area of the island of Evia. An island that attracts the interest of visitors but also of the investors and entrepreneurs.

6th learning unit

- An improvised **pedagogical play -role** where the participants represent the messages of their script/scenario and their digital comic
- **Birds Nest Creations**
- **Symbolic tree-planting** with slow-burning plants
- **Making of the flag of each partner-country** with a collage of forest objects

Roles that are performed in the framework of the play-role:

- The role of the "evil- wolf".

For the needs of this project, the wolf is not the beautiful, strong and intelligent mammal that, in contrary to the negative image for him in the human consciousness, it should be protected.

- The role of the "protective tool against the evil- wolf".

Each young person chooses the "condition of forest' safety against the fires" (lessons learned from the previous learning units), i.e. "NO barbecue", "NO hostels for tourists in the village forest", etc.

Then he chooses which of his peers is for him a) the wolf-threat and he must moves always away from him and b) the key-tool for the above condition and he must be always behind of him.

The result is each of the participants to have a role, either as a wolf-fire or as a protective mechanism in favour of the forest.

IMPLEMENTATION

Young people must move fast in this specific forest area and try to be constantly away from the wolf-threat and always behind of the peer that they have chosen as "forest's protection-condition. They hang on the neck of the young person who represents the wolf-threat relevant dangerous objects from those that unfortunately are always in the forest (bottles, matches, cigarette butts, coals, cables, plastics, etc.). Additionally, they can put photos and images of those that are hung on tree branches by their leaders (images with burning grass, sheep and goat bells, fire engines that do not work, human groups that camp dangerously by cooking in the forests, etc.).

The leader of the Greek team gives the signal (whistle) for the beginning of the mobility but also for its cessation. With the whistle of the pause, the young people stand frozen (immobilized) and then calls by chance the three participants of an improvised "forest's protection-condition" to narrate loudly the concept and if the forest is safe. The others check, observe, disapprove or applause.

With the next whistle, the mobility of the youngsters starts again and again and again. In order to end the happening, all the "conditions" must be called and be narrated.

The participants now will decide whether the forest has won or lost its chance to be saved in a complex multifactorial situation where the solution is not only one.

7th learning unit

Project evaluation

DAILY, the participants evaluate the previous unit and reflect on their own learning outcomes.

Within this unit, they decide if the project has been succeeded as a whole and about the provided learning outcomes.

DATES

The project takes place in the **island of Evia, Greece, 19 - 24 October 2020**.

Marisa Sotiropoulou, head and founder of the BENEFICIARY ORGANIZATION: The Good house <https://thegoodhouse.gr/>



Din partea Colegiul de Artă „Ciprian Porumbescu „, Suceava au participat 6
elevi din clasa a XIIa D:

- 1 .Camciuc Paula
- 2.Paicu Valentin Dimitrie
3. Ulian Miriam
- 4.Palimaru Emilia Roberta
- 5.Catargiu Lavinia Antonela
6. Minciuna Diana



Key Action 1: Learning mobility of individuals
Mobility of young people: Youth Exchanges

Project Title: "While the wolf is not around"
2020-2-EL02-KA105-006072, 19- 24 / 10 / 2020, Euboea, Greece

Certificate in Participation Excellence

Aim and the specific objectives of the project

"While the wolf is not around" project /figuratively the "wolf" is the fire, aims at the strengthening of participants' ecological profile and provision knowledge, skills and competences in the protection of forests, prevention and treatment from fires and the acceleration of the rehabilitation of the lands that are affected by natural and man-made causes.

Project activities

Lectures, field exercises, debates, sharing of ideas and thoughts, various multifaceted, interdisciplinary, experiential, interactive, multilingual, exploratory, recreational and teambuilding events, visual and audio-visual projections, play-roles, improvisations, Do It Yourself crafts, visits and outdoor activities improve the competences and skills of participants for a better employability and taking initiatives for career in "green jobs".

In a Europe with economic problems, youth unemployment and recession, the young people's attention to "green jobs" and sustainable growth and development is undoubtable and the demand for them aiming at the protection of forests disappearing by wildfires is growing year by year.

PROJECT PERIOD 19-28 October 2020

To: **The Romanian team from** Colegiul de Artă „Ciprian Porumbescu
„ Suceava

- + Camciuc Paula
- + Paicu Valentin Dimitrie
- + Ulian Miriam
- + Palimaru Emilia Roberta
- + Catargiu Lavinia Antonela
- + Minciuna Diana

Coordinator: **Monica Arotăriței**

The project provided:

Achievements

Knowledge and skills for the EU labour market and prosperous "green jobs"

Improvement of personal development and Increase of self-empowerment and self-esteem
Improvement of linguistic skills and foreign languages competence
Understanding of other cultures, habits and life-styles
Opportunities to build networks of international contacts and friendships
Enhancement of intercultural and solidarity sense
Awareness for active participation as considerate and active citizens in a sustainable environmentally society according to the founding EU values
Motivation for taking part in future youth exchanges



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Beneficiary organisation

Maria Sotiropoulou



While the wolf is not around