



Funded by the  
Erasmus+ Programme  
of the European Union

# **Final project summary**

for the Erasmus+ school partnership project

## **Participation of pupils at European schools: How democratic are our schools for pupils in Europe?**

(2019-1-DE03-KA229-059519)

**Sredno Opstinsko Uciliste Ljupco Santov p.o. Kocani**  
*Kocani - North Macedonia*

**Marijampoles Suduvos gimnazija**  
*Marijampole - Lithuania*

**Sainte Pulcherie  
French High School**  
*Istanbul - Turkey*



**LICEUL TEHNOLOGIC  
“SFANTUL PANTELIMON”**  
*Bucharest - Romania*

**IGS Bad Salzdetfurth**  
*Bad Salzdetfurth - Germany*

01<sup>st</sup> September 2019 - 31<sup>st</sup> August 2022

## **Table of Contents**

- 1. Content and aims of the project**
  - 1.1 Context and background of the project
  - 1.2 Objectives of the project
  - 1.3 Number and profile of participants
  - 1.4 Descriptions of activities and a short description of the results and impacts
  - 1.5 Methodology to be used in carrying out the project
  - 1.6 Potential longer term benefits
- 2. Results of the project**
  - 2.1 Tasks of school members: teachers, parents, students
  - 2.2 Our participation lexicon: List of defined words that are the foundation of the collaboration
  - 2.3 School survey and their results
    - 2.3.1 Questionnaire sample with 24 questions for all schools which was created in a common workshop
    - 2.3.2 Example for questionnaire results of one school
    - 2.3.3 Results of school questionnaires
      - 2.3.3.1 German school
      - 2.3.3.2 Turkish school
      - 2.3.3.3 Romanian school
      - 2.3.3.4 North Macedonian school
      - 2.3.3.5 Lithuanian school
  - 2.4 Summary of the similarities and differences of pupil's participation at the school
  - 2.5 Legal possibilities of pupil's participation in the different countries
    - 2.5.1 German school
    - 2.5.2 Turkish school
    - 2.5.3 Romanian school
    - 2.5.4 Lithuanian school
    - 2.5.5 North Macedonian school
  - 2.6 List of activities about pupil participation possibilities in the different countries
    - 2.6.1 German school
    - 2.6.2 Turkish school
    - 2.6.3 Romanian school
    - 2.6.4 Lithuanian school
    - 2.6.5 North Macedonian school
  - 2.7 Pros and cons of participation possibilities
  - 2.8 List of activities and their strategic realization for at least one goal per school

## **1. Content and aims of the project**

### **1.1 Context and background of the project**

The project "Participation of pupils in European schools: How democratic are our schools for pupils in Europe?" deals with the participation of pupils at schools. Many pupils have poor interest in participating at school committee work or are less motivated to play a part in activities that improve pupil's interests sustainably because they think that they have limited power.

### **1.2 Objectives of the project**

The main goal is to learn about ways of participation at European schools. The main objectives of the project are the intercultural exchange and communication in one target language naturally, to strengthen the idea of democracy of the pupils in their close environment, the development of youth autonomy and critical thinking and also to improve media competence and presenting skills.

### **1.3 Number and profile of participants**

There are five secondary schools participating in the project. The schools are from different parts of Europe thus they have different school systems and a high variety of participation models for pupils. Their orientation differs from general secondary to vocational and from rural area schools to big city schools. The age group is from 14-18 years. The schools are from Germany, North Macedonia, Lithuania, Turkey and Romania.

### **1.4 Descriptions of activities and a short description of the results and impacts**

In the end of the project the pupils have created a collaborative work that includes written documents made by the pupils during the project, such as WORD documents, pdf documents and PowerPoint presentations: a list of defined words that are the foundation of the collaboration, a school survey and their results, the legal possibilities of pupil's participation in the different countries, a list of activities about pupil participation possibilities in the different countries, pros and cons of participation possibilities, as well as a list of activities and their strategic realization for at least one goal per school. The project aims to increase the engagement and participation of young people at school which prepares the pupils for civic engagement and a responsible citizenship out of school, e.g. in local politics, clubs or organizations. The following results and impacts shall be made:

- Creating a collaborative work that includes documents about the participating possibilities at schools made by pupils
- A more effective use of English
- A broader mind and more open European practice
- Greater confidence in transnational collaborations
- New skills - organizing, presenting, discussing, using ICT tools

### **1.5 Methodology to be used in carrying out the project**

Different methodological approaches are integrated in the project, but particular importance have cooperative methods (e.g. Think! Pair! Share!, pair or group work). There are also teacher-centred approaches included for a short length of time, e.g. to give instructions for a new task, or moderate a pro and con discussion. The participants analyse (compare and evaluate) the legal framework of pupil's participation at European schools. On each trip, there are recurring tasks and procedures that the participants cope with:

- Organizational tasks
- Giving reports/presentations
- Working on content aspects
- Documentation of results

### **1.6 Potential longer term benefits**

For all five schools that participate in the project, there will be an overvalue because the pupils will become more active and motivated to participate actively in school affairs and committee work. Third, e.g. other schools, will also benefit because the results will be published to the public. The project aims to increase the engagement and participation of young people at school which prepares the pupils for civic engagement and a responsible citizenship out of school.

## **2. Results of the project**

### **2.1 Tasks of school members: teachers, parents, students**

| Tasks of teachers:                      | Tasks of parents:                          | Tasks of students:                  |
|---|--|-------------------------------------|
| Teaching                                | Encouraging their children                 | Studying- doing homework            |
| Making presentations                    | Giving pocket money                        | Taking notes                        |
| Guiding the students                    | Supporting financially                     | Listening                           |
| Preparing tasks, exercises for students | Participating at parents-teachers meetings | Discussing subjects with classmates |
| Scolding the students                   | Making sure the child sleep                | Preparing projects                  |
| Organising school trips                 | Taking care of child's mental health       | Participating at school events      |

## 2.2 Our participation lexicon: List of defined words that are the foundation of the collaboration

| key word                 | explanation / definition   | example   |
|--------------------------|--|---|
| <b>to participate</b>    | to take part in or become involved in an activity  | <i>She didn't participate in the discussion.</i>  |
| <b>participation</b>     | the act of taking part in an activity or event   | <i>a show with lots of audience participation</i>   |
| <b>participant</b>       | a person who is taking part in an activity or event  | <i>He has been an active participant in the discussion.</i>                                 |
| <b>committee</b>         | a <u>small</u> group of people <u>chosen</u> to <u>represent</u> a <u>larger organization</u> and either make <u>decisions</u> or <u>collect information</u> for it:   | <i>She <u>sits on/is on</u> the school's <u>development</u> committee.</i>                  |
| <b>election</b>          | a <u>time</u> when people <u>vote</u> in order to <u>choose</u> someone for a <u>political</u> or <u>official job</u> :  | <i>Local government elections will take <u>place</u> in May.</i>                            |
| <b>vote</b>              | to <u>express your choice</u> or <u>opinion</u> , especially by <u>officially</u> writing a <u>mark</u> on a <u>paper</u> or by <u>raising your hand</u> or <u>speaking</u> in a <u>meeting</u> :  | <i>She was too <u>young</u> to vote in the <u>election</u>.</i>                             |
| <b>representative</b>    | someone who <u>speaks</u> or does something <u>officially</u> for another <u>person</u> or <u>group of people</u>  | <i>We elected him as our representative.</i>  |
| <b>networking</b>        | the <u>activity</u> of <u>meeting people</u> who might be <u>useful</u> to <u>know</u>   | <i>Students <u>find</u> networking <u>essential</u> to enforce their claims and wishes.</i> |
| <b>minority</b>          | a <u>smaller number</u> or <u>part</u>   | <i>Those who want mobiles in class are in the minority.</i>                                 |
| <b>majority</b>          | the <u>larger number</u> or <u>part</u> of something   | <i>The majority of members decided to start school at 8 o'clock.</i>                        |
| <b>equality</b>          | the <u>right</u> of different <u>groups of people</u> to have a <u>similar social position</u> and <u>receive</u> the same <u>treatment</u>  | <i>equality between the <u>sexes</u></i>  |
| <b>equal</b>             | the same in <u>amount</u> , <u>number</u> , or <u>size</u> ; the same in <u>importance</u> and <u>deserving</u> the same <u>treatment</u> :  | <i>All <u>people</u> are equal, <u>deserving</u> the same <u>rights</u> as each other.</i>  |
| <b>democracy</b>         | the <u>belief</u> in <u>freedom</u> and <u>equality</u> between people, or a <u>system of government</u> based on this <u>belief</u> , in which <u>power</u> is either held by <u>elected representatives</u> or <u>directly</u> by the <u>people</u> themselves | <i>The government has promised to uphold the principles of democracy.</i>                   |
| <b>school structures</b> | the way in which the parts of a system or object are arranged or organized   | <i>Many school and organizations have a pyramid structure.</i>                              |

## 2.3 School survey and their results

### 2.3.1 Questionnaire sample with 24 questions for all schools which was created in a common workshop



Funded by the  
Erasmus+ Programme  
of the European Union



#### Survey

Participation of pupils at European schools:  
How democratic are our schools for pupils in Europe?

#### 1. Personal information

| school        |  | Germany | Turkey | North Macedonia | Lithuania | Romania |
|---------------|--|---------|--------|-----------------|-----------|---------|
| sex           |  | male    | female | non-binary      |           |         |
| age           |  | 9-12    | 13-15  | 16-18           | 19-21     |         |
| academic year |  | 5-7     | 8-10   | 11-13           |           |         |

Make a cross (X).

#### 2. Key

Fill in the questionnaire with the following answers:

5 = I totally agree. 4 = I mostly agree. 3 = I mostly disagree. 2 = I totally disagree. 1 = I don't know.

#### 3. Statements

|    |   | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 |
|----|---|---|---|---|---|---|
|    | <b>Democracy</b>  |   |   |   |   |   |
| 1  | My school is democratic.  |   |   |   |   |   |
| 2  | Our school elections are fair.                                    |   |   |   |   |   |
| 3  | I feel free to vote for whoever I want.                           |   |   |   |   |   |
| 4  | I can express myself freely in class                              |   |   |   |   |   |
| 5  | I can make changes in my school.                                  |   |   |   |   |   |
| 6  | Democracy is an important thing for me.                           |   |   |   |   |   |
|    | <b>Equality</b>   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 7  | There is equality in our school.                                  |   |   |   |   |   |
| 8  | There is gender equality in our school.                           |   |   |   |   |   |
| 9  | I feel like a minority in my school.                              |   |   |   |   |   |
| 10 | Both girls and boys have the same sports opportunities.           |   |   |   |   |   |
|    | <b>Relationships</b>  |   |   |   |   |   |
| 11 | When I talk to my teachers, they listen to me and my problems.    |   |   |   |   |   |
| 12 | I feel good at school.  |   |   |   |   |   |
| 13 | I like to participate in school activities.                       |   |   |   |   |   |
| 14 | I don't get bullied by my peers.                                  |   |   |   |   |   |
| 15 | We don't have problems with school structures.                    |   |   |   |   |   |
| 16 | Students feel free to ask for help from school staff.             |   |   |   |   |   |
| 17 | My teachers care about my future.                                 |   |   |   |   |   |
|    | <b>School conditions and opportunities</b>                        |   |   |   |   |   |
| 18 | My school is open to new ideas.                                   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 19 | My school provides academical opportunities.                      |   |   |   |   |   |
| 20 | School provides safe transportation.                              |   |   |   |   |   |
| 21 | The school encourages students to participate in school projects. |   |   |   |   |   |
| 22 | We choose our extracurricular activities.                         |   |   |   |   |   |
| 23 | We have a healthy learning environment.                           |   |   |   |   |   |
| 24 | The facilities are usable and we have necessary equipment.        |   |   |   |   |   |



## 2.3.2 Example for questionnaire results of one school



Funded by the  
Erasmus+ Programme  
of the European Union



### Survey

Participation of pupils at European schools:  
How democratic are our schools for pupils in Europe?

#### 1. Personal information

| school        |  | Germany    | Turkey       | North Macedonia | Lithuania  | Romania |
|---------------|--|------------|--------------|-----------------|------------|---------|
| sex           |  | Male (39%) | Female (56%) | non-binary (5%) |            |         |
| age           |  | 9-12 (34%) | 13-15 (44%)  | 16-18 (18%)     | 19-21 (4%) |         |
| academic year |  | 5-7 (32%)  | 8-10 (54%)   | 11-13 (14%)     |            |         |

Total number of survey participants: 245 pupils

#### 2. Key

Fill in the questionnaire with the following answers:

5 = I totally agree. 4 = I mostly agree. 3 = I mostly disagree. 2 = I totally disagree. 1 = I don't know.

#### 3. Statements

|    |   | 5   | 4   | 3   | 2   | 1   |
|----|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
|    | <b>Democracy</b>  |     |     |     |     |     |
| 1  | My school is democratic.  | 50% | 25% | 15% | 8%  | 2%  |
| 2  | Our school elections are fair.                                    | 62% | 21% | 15% | 2%  | 0%  |
| 3  | I feel free to vote for whoever I want.                           | 80% | 6%  | 12% | 2%  | 0%  |
| 4  | I can express myself freely in class                              | 37% | 25% | 19% | 9%  | 10% |
| 5  | I can make changes in my school.                                  | 10% | 15% | 50% | 20% | 5%  |
| 6  | Democracy is an important thing for me.                           | 52% | 26% | 14% | 6%  | 2%  |
|    | <b>Equality</b>   |     |     |     |     |     |
| 7  | There is equality in our school.                                  | 34% | 16% | 36% | 6%  | 8%  |
| 8  | There is gender equality in our school.                           | 26% | 20% | 29% | 7%  | 18% |
| 9  | I feel like a minority in my school.                              | 10% | 19% | 64% | 5%  | 2%  |
| 10 | Both girls and boys have the same sports opportunities.           | 27% | 33% | 25% | 15% | 0%  |
|    | <b>Relationships</b>  |     |     |     |     |     |
| 11 | When I talk to my teachers, they listen to me and my problems.    | 66% | 18% | 12% | 4%  | 0%  |
| 12 | I feel good at school.  | 39% | 29% | 22% | 6%  | 4%  |
| 13 | I like to participate in school activities.                       | 33% | 35% | 14% | 12% | 6%  |
| 14 | I don't get bullied by my peers.                                  | 9%  | 25% | 29% | 33% | 4%  |
| 15 | We don't have problems with school structures.                    | 26% | 22% | 20% | 30% | 2%  |
| 16 | Students feel free to ask for help from school staff.             | 36% | 40% | 15% | 4%  | 5%  |
| 17 | My teachers care about my future.                                 | 27% | 43% | 22% | 6%  | 2%  |
|    | <b>School conditions and opportunities</b>                        |     |     |     |     |     |
| 18 | My school is open to new ideas.                                   | 31% | 29% | 26% | 14% | 0%  |
| 19 | My school provides academical opportunities.                      | 32% | 36% | 18% | 7%  | 7%  |
| 20 | School provides safe transportation.                              | 50% | 36% | 12% | 2%  | 0%  |
| 21 | The school encourages students to participate in school projects. | 34% | 32% | 21% | 13% | 0%  |
| 22 | We choose our extracurricular activities.                         | 20% | 19% | 36% | 25% | 0%  |
| 23 | We have a healthy learning environment.                           | 35% | 29% | 22% | 10% | 4%  |
| 24 | The facilities are usable and we have necessary equipment.        | 31% | 40% | 17% | 9%  | 3%  |

### 2.3.3 Results of school questionnaires

#### 2.3.3.1 German school

| criteria                            | Positive results of the surveys are that ...  | The surveys point out the following challenges/problems at our school:             |
|-------------------------------------|---|--|
| democracy                           | Students support and live the idea of democracy.  | Our school has hierarchical structures.*<br>The opinion of students is important.* |
| equality                            |   | Our school has hierarchical structures.*   |
| relationships                       | The teachers respect students.<br>The school takes the students seriously.<br>Students and teachers have a good relationship.                             |  |
| school conditions and opportunities | The students think that there are good school conditions and opportunities for them provided by the school.<br>Students feel comfortable at their school. | Many students think that they can change problems at their school.                 |

\*These results were ambiguous which means there was neither a clear positive nor a clear negative result.

#### 2.3.3.2 Turkish school

| criteria                            | Positive results of the surveys are that ...       | The surveys point out the following challenges/problems at our school: |
|-------------------------------------|--|--|
| democracy                           | Freedom of speech and choice/valued/fair elections | Some people can't make changes   |
| equality                            | education  | Sport opportunities(gender equality)                                   |
| relationships                       | Not getting bullied, comfortability                | -  |
| school conditions and opportunities | Choosing extracurricular activities                | Transportation and equipment   |



### 2.3.3.3 Romanian school

| criteria                            | Positive results of the surveys are that ...  | The surveys point out the following challenges/problems at our school:   |
|-------------------------------------|---|--|
| democracy                           | Students are trusted to take responsibility for their own lives and learning experiences, that gives them a sense of control and lets them know they do have a voice. | -  |
| equality                            | We do not fear to talk about what is wrong regardless of being a girl, a boy or nonbinary, regardless of sexual orientation, the color of our skin, etc.              | There are still some issues regarding equality, but that is a problem everyone has, the good thing is that we are working on it. |
| relationships                       | We feel free to make jokes, have a good time and be ourselves and these good relationships that we form help by making learning enjoyable.                            | Some people might overstep some boundaries.  |
| school conditions and opportunities | It shows us that learning can be fun and that our teachers and all the educational and non-educational staff want to offer us the best learning experiences.          | The school conditions and opportunities are not the same in public and private schools.  |

### 2.3.3.4 North Macedonian school

| criteria                            | Positive results of the surveys are that ...   | The surveys point out the following challenges/problems at our school:          |
|-------------------------------------|--|---|
| democracy                           | Students live by the idea of democracy and feel free to vote for whomever they want; | Students are unsure of how to make changes in the school;                       |
| equality                            | Students of all genders have the same sports opportunities;                          | The minority of students spread harmful stereotypes;                            |
| relationships                       | Our school has no bullying tolerance;  | Students feel unmotivated in the classroom and overall don't totally feel good; |
| school conditions and opportunities | Students are encouraged to participate in school projects;                           | Lack of opportunities provided by the school;                                   |

### 2.3.3.5 Lithuanian school

| criteria                            | Positive results of the surveys are that ...  | The surveys point out the following challenges/problems at our school:   |
|-------------------------------------|---|--|
| democracy                           | More than a half of students support and live the idea of democracy. School elections are fair according to them. There is freedom of speech and choice in our gymnasium. | Only a small number of students believe that they can make changes in our school.  |
| equality                            | Majority of students are treated equally and have the same sports opportunities.  | Some feel like a minority at school.   |
| relationships                       | Not getting bullied, mutual respect, having a good relationship with teachers, feeling good at school.  | About half of the students are not interested in school activities. Some think that teachers do not care about their future. |
| school conditions and opportunities | Open to new ideas, availability of equipment, choosing extracurricular activities, academical opportunities, safe transportation, healthy learning environment.           | -  |

## 2.4 Summary of the similarities and differences of pupil's participation at the school



Funded by the  
Erasmus+ Programme  
of the European Union

Participation of pupils at European schools:  
How democratic are our schools for pupils in Europe?



### OUR COMMON RESULTS FROM THE LAST WORKSHOP

#### Workshop 7: Summary of the similarities and differences of pupil's participation at the schools

| Examples that show similarities of participation possibilities at our schools | Examples that show differences of participation possibilities at our schools                          |
|---|---|
| We all have students councils   | In Turkey the non-educational staff has a say/ vote   |
| We can all propose activities   | In Lithuania you can attend vocational training and compulsory school at the same time                |
| We all celebrate (organise and have activities) holidays                      | In Lithuania if you don't want to pay for university, you have to pass 3 mandatory exams              |
| Charity activities and events are popular among students                      | Parents' participation at schools varies  |
| We all have fair elections  | At some schools students are allowed to participate (attend) teachers' council meetings               |
| We all have democratic schools  | The number of committees varies   |
| We all have final exams   | The power of students' participation in committees is different                                       |
|   | The activities students organise are different  |
|   | The Turkish students have to wear uniforms  |
|   | The results/ outcome of the final exams determines different things about students' further education |
|   | The Turkish school has a placement exams  |





## 2.5 Legal possibilities of pupil's participation in the different countries

### 2.5.1 German school

|   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| <p><b><u>Class speakers:</u></b></p> <p>1 class speaker and 1 deputy per class, election each year</p>  | <p><b><u>chair committee (Schulvorstand)</u></b></p> <p>Responsible for many paedagogical decisions, e.g. school rules, school programme, partner schools, school budget</p> <p>One or two meetings each semester</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 8 teachers (50%), principle included</li> <li>• 4 parents (25%)</li> <li>• <b>4 pupils (25%)</b></li> </ul> <p>Pupils are entitled to vote!</p>                                  | <p><b><u>faculty meeting (Gesamtkonferenz):</u></b></p> <p>responsible for didactical decisions, school development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• (all) 60-65 teachers (at least 50%)</li> <li>• 16 parents (ca. 25%)</li> <li>• <b>16 pupils (ca. 25%)</b></li> </ul> <p>Pupils are entitled to vote!</p> |
| <p><b><u>Pupil's representation (Schülervertretung)</u></b></p> <p>The class speakers are member, deputy class speakers can go there if the class speaker is not available</p> <p>Teachers can advise the pupil's representation (at our school: two teachers are elected by the pupils every year)</p> <p>In this committee, you can talk about all topics that have to do with the pupils</p> <p>Theoretically, pupils can meet 45 min every week, but usually they meet every six to eight weeks</p> | <p><b><u>Conferences of the subjects (Fachkonferenzen)</u></b></p> <p>- one meeting each semester in all subjects (German, foreign languages, math, science, etc.)</p> <p>- responsible for the content, number of class tests</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• teachers who teach the subject (more than 50%)</li> <li>• 1 parent or 1 deputy</li> <li>• <b>1 pupil or 1 deputy</b></li> </ul> <p>Pupils are entitled to vote!</p> | <p><b><u>Class conferences:</u></b></p> <p>responsible for marks or disciplinary measures of pupils</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• (all) teachers who teach the class</li> <li>• 2 parents</li> <li>• <b>2 pupils</b></li> </ul> <p>Only Teachers vote for the marks!</p>                                   |

- principle: responsible for the whole school, most power in decisions
- colleagues: can participate in different committees (staff council, faculty meeting, chair committee)
- chair committee: 8 teachers, 4 parents, 4 pupils
- faculty meeting: all teachers, 16 parents, 16 pupils
- council of parents: parents' speakers of each single class
- pupil's representation: class speakers of each single class
- staff council: five members, voted by the colleagues every two years, in contact with colleagues, connection between colleagues and school management
- secretaries: no participation officially, in contact with teachers/parents/pupils
- caretaker: responsible for the building
- cleaner/housekeeper: boss is the caretaker, they follow the caretaker
- "people from outside": press, people that offer school clubs in the afternoon

| criteria        | Positive aspects   | Aspects that should be improved (negative aspects)   |
|-----------------|--|--|
| Germany         | - every class has a class speaker<br>pupils are allowed to vote  | - there should be the same number of pupils and teachers in the chair committee to have the same power   |
| Turkey          | - many different activities and clubs<br>- communication to the principle is easy  | - the government should have less power in schools, the schools should have more responsibilities<br>- strict school system, every student is supposed to graduate |
| North Macedonia | - different workshops and training programme<br>- very active student council<br>- practically involved to change s.th., e.g. cleaning the town of Kocani<br>- many charity events<br>- many representatives per class |  |
| Lithuania       | - student's council<br>- gymnasium council: 5 teachers, 5 parents, 5 students promotes real participation  |  |
| Romania         | - have additional courses<br>- organize charity events<br>- good relation to the teachers  |  |

## 2.5.2 Turkish school

| criteria        | Positive aspects/students council                | Aspects that should be improved (negative aspects)                     |
|-----------------|--|--|
| Germany         | Students vote with parents for school decisions. | Lack of activities (extracurricular activities)                        |
| Turkey          | Regular student-teacher meetings                 | Lack of communities meeting together.                                  |
| North Macedonia | Diversity in the types of activities.            | Lack of decision making power.   |
| Lithuania       | Many extracurricular activities                  | Possibility of completely overlooking a group in the general meetings. |
| Romania         | Parents have a big say.                          | Parents have too much power.   |

### General Structure of Turkish School System

Education in Turkey

- \* is governed by a national system
- \* a state-supervised system
- \*HIGHLY-CENTRALISED EDUCATION SYSTEM

Curriculum development, textbook approval and the framework for assessment practices are all determined centrally. The ministry likewise decides the allocation of human and financial resources to schools via its Provincial Directorates. 1 million teachers and 18 million students in 2018/19. The Ministry of National Education is responsible for preprimary to upper secondary level education, and adult education. In 2012, Turkey increased compulsory schooling from 8 to 12 years with the goal of expanding participation in upper secondary education. This structure of schooling is called the “4+4+4 model” (4 years primary education, first level, 4 years primary education, second level and 4 years secondary education)reflecting the equal length of the three levels of compulsory education.

Compulsory education lasts 12 years. Primary and secondary education is financed by the state and free of charge in public schools, between the ages of 6 and 19. The examination system for entrance to high schools and universities: There are high school entrance exam for entering the high schools and university entrance exam so the students have to work hard if they want to be continue with their studies at a high school/university. There are 54 000 public and 12000 private schools in Turkey. Turkey has encouraged an increase in the number of private schools. With the public sector struggling to keep up with growing demand for schooling, the government has chosen to encourage the expansion of private schools. In the Turkish education system, private schools may be grouped into four:

- \*Private Turkish schools
- \*Private schools for minorities
- \*Private foreign schools
- \*Private international education institutions

### Self-Responsibility of the Schools

Due to the centralized educational system, schools have the lowest levels of autonomy in determining curriculum and assessment policies. School actors underestimate the level of flexibility they have in defining teaching and learning practices. For example, while national regulations define the number of classroom assessments and their formats, the regulations leave considerable flexibility for teachers to define the content and write the items.

Schools in Turkey have less autonomy for managing human and financial resources. For example, government schools have limited flexibility in how they use public funds and few responsibilities in teacher selection and career management. However, schools can use the funds raised locally by their school-parent associations, mainly from parents and local businesses, to support their own priorities and initiatives.



### **Legal participation possibilities and influence of teachers at their schools**

The participation enables teachers to become active participants in school management process. As a result, teachers will have a wider and greater ownership of the school, its vision and priorities. Participation accords teachers opportunities for professional development in decision making skills. In general, schools in Turkey have a hierarchical structure. Some schools, specially some private schools set up a committee to hear teachers' suggestions to solve some issues at school.

'Democracy Education and School Councils Project (DESCP)' geared toward creating a democratic culture by promoting democratic principles and values at schools. Every school's representative comes together in the same city to discuss problems and solutions. In schools, students in each class vote to choose a delegate who represent the class. S/he becomes responsible for the class. Then each delegate votes to choose one who is the president of the school. All delegates have a meeting every month with the principle and guide counselors. They share all the students' opinions, suggestions, problems of some issues. They propose ideas in order to change and solve the problems about their life at school. Principal listens them, he accepts some of their suggestions but sometimes he doesn't. To communication and dialogue between students via delegates and the principal is important. Some schools like SP support students' autonomy. In our school, there are courses that are called autonomy for 9th, 10th and 11th grades. Students have one hour per week, they plan to organize a project for themselves. For example to create a space for relaxing. They plan every details, they take responsibilities.

The purpose of the School-Parent Association is to serve the school and the student. The School-Parent Association has suggestions to solve problems at school. It presents them to the school administration through the School-Parents Association President. The School-Parent Association takes an active role on behalf of the school in social responsibility projects. Decisions taken at the meetings are signed with the participation of the majority. Parent-Teacher Association members and the elected president do not receive any salary or additional fees. It meets primarily to eliminate the disconnection between the school and the parents.

### **Legal participation possibilities and influence of other groups/staff (non-educational staff, e.g. caretaker, secretary, cleaning staff) at their schools**

Non-educational staff who work for school helps to teachers, administration and students to create a safe and healthy environment with their learning.

### **Practical collaboration of all professional groups and parents/legal guardians at the school**

The collaboration between educational and non educational staff, students and parents helps to create a happy, effective and safe school.

### 2.5.3 Romanian school

| criteria        | Positive aspects   | Aspects that should be improved (negative aspects)  |
|-----------------|--|---|
| Germany         | They can vote in the chair committee as students.                          | Students should have a say when it comes to the marks or be able to ask for a second opinion.   |
| Turkey          | Non-educational staff have a say/vote.                                     | In the less developed parts of the country there are less teachers and they are prepared less.  |
| North Macedonia | Youth Organisation has freedom to choose their activities.                 | There are no students in the teacher's council.   |
| Lithuania       | Students can go to vocational training and attend standard school as well. | You have to pass all the exams in order to attend University for free, in some countries you can apply to some Universities for free regardless of the results of the final exams.            |
| Romania         | Students have a say in their teachers' behaviour.                          | Students are not able to choose exactly what they want to study so there are a few school subjects that might be considered not so useful depending on what they want to do after highschool. |

### 2.5.4 Lithuanian school

| criteria        | Positive aspects/students council                           | Aspects that should be improved (negative aspects)  |
|-----------------|---|---|
| Germany         | Active participation in meetings.                           | Meetings are not frequent.                          |
| Turkey          | Many clubs, smaller classes.                                | It can be hard to make changes.                     |
| North Macedonia | Diversity in the types of activities, active participation. | Student council meetings are not regular.           |
| Lithuania       | There is equality, belief in democracy.                     | Lack of engagement in school life.                  |
| Romania         | The students' opinion is deeply considered.                 | The student council meetings tend to get cancelled. |

## GYMNASIUM AUTONOMY

In our gymnasium the work is shared by the Gymnasium council, the Teachers' council and the Student council.

**The Gymnasium council** is the supreme self-governing institution. It unites the gymnasium's students, their parents(guardians), teachers and the local community for the democratic management of our Gymnasium. It also helps to solve issues relevant to the Gymnasium, to represent the legitimate interests of the Gymnasium.

The Gymnasium council is composed of 15 people: 5 teachers, 5 students and 5 parents or guardians.

The parents are elected to the Gymnasium council by the general meeting of parents, while the teachers are appointed by the Teachers' council, students – by the Student council.

The members of the Gymnasium council are elected by open voting for 3 years.

The Gymnasium council is led by a president, who is elected by open voting by the members of the Gymnasium council. The Gymnasium's headmaster can not be the president of the Gymnasium council.

Regulations of the gymnasium council, their amendments are approved in meetings of the gymnasium council.

The meetings of the gymnasium council have to be held at least 2 times a year. It is counted as a successful meeting if at least 2/3 of the members are present. Everything in the council is approved by democratic voting. The headmaster of the gymnasium can be invited to the Gymnasium council meeting as a guest member.

Not essential meetings can be called by the Gymnasium council president, the headmaster or by the request of half of the council members.

People from other gymnasiums, city institutions and e.x. are allowed to take part in the meetings if the problems have any relation to them.

At the end of the year the council makes a report of their year's work.

The Gymnasium council:

- submits proposals on the priorities and perspectives of the gymnasium's activities, strategic goals, objectives and implementing measures.
- Approves to the principal the gymnasium's strategic plan, annual activity plan, rules of working procedure, education plan, teacher certification program, other documents regulating the activities of the gymnasium.
- Approves the decisions made by the Student council.
- Makes proposals for the improvement of our gymnasiums work conditions , creation of safe, without manifestations of bullying and violence students, assists in the formation of the gymnasium's material and intellectual resources;
- discusses the selection of assessment system to assess students 'knowledge and skills, issues of students' achievements and improvement, non-formal education and event organization;
- initiates cooperation between the gymnasium community and society;
- appoints representatives to the Commission for the vacant post of Director in a public competition, to Commission for certification of teachers and student support specialists (except psychologists);
- hears the report on the annual activity of the head of the Gymnasium and makes proposals for the improvement of activity;
- The gymnasium council, after evaluating the director's report and the proposals by the members of the gymnasium community, makes a decision on the annual performance evaluation of the head of the Gymnasium and submits it to Marijampolė Municipal Council or a person authorized by it - the mayor of the municipality;
- discusses problems in carrying out preventive work, considers breaches of discipline and under-achievement of students, considers the issues of expulsion of students from the Gymnasium based on the recommendation of the Teachers' Council;
- together with the Teachers 'Council, discusses and submits proposals on the issues of students' health status, healthy lifestyle, rest and nutrition;
- considers the questions provided by the director of the Gymnasium;
- provides for the areas of self-assessment of the quality of Gymnasium activities, methodology of performance;
- submits proposals to the Marijampolė Municipal Council regarding the material status of the Gymnasium;
- makes proposals for the preparation of annual financial estimates, considers the lists of textbooks and teaching materials purchased from assigned funds
- may organize the accumulation of support funds in the Gymnasium account: in the presence of such support funds plans and controls their distribution and use;
- may suspend the implementation of decisions of other Gymnasium self-government institutions until the legality of which will be examined by the competent authorities.

Resolutions of the Gymnasium Council are valid if they do not contradict the legislation.

**The Teachers' Council** is a permanent institution of the Gymnasium self-government for teachers

to address professional and general educational issues.

The teachers' council consists of the director of the gymnasium, his deputies for education, all Teachers working in the gymnasium, specialists providing educational assistance, librarians, other

persons directly involved in the educational process. Representatives of the municipal administration, other self - government institutions of the Gymnasium, Gymnasiums community members, social partners may be invited to the meetings

Ordinary meetings of the Board of Teachers are organised at the beginning and end of the school year, also at least once every six months.

The teachers' council is headed by the director of the gymnasium. The secretary of the teachers' council is elected by the members.

Meetings of the Board of Teachers are valid if at least 2/3 of the Board is present, decisions shall be taken by a majority of the members present at the meeting.

Teachers' Council:

- discusses practical issues to implement education reform and ways to improve pedagogical activities, opportunities for the development of teachers' pedagogical and subject competences, students' educational outcomes and strategies for their improvement;
- considers the principles of organizing the education of students with different abilities, their education and curricula, methods, assistance, analyzes student workloads, underachievement, and reasons for non-attendance;
- discusses students' health, safety at work, learning, recreation and nutrition issues;
- initiates the change processes of the Gymnasium;
- discusses the Gymnasium activity plan, education plan, implementation of General Education program ;
- submits proposals regarding the qualification of teachers;
- elects representatives to the Gymnasium Council by open voting;

The gymnasium has a permanent student self-government institution - **the Students' Council**. The Students' Council is a democratically elected institution of self-government of students of the Gymnasium, united by common goals and a desire to act.

Representatives to the Student Council are elected at class meetings by open ballot, one student from each class (I-III ).

The term of office of the students' council is one year. The student Council is elected by everyone at the beginning of the school year - in September. Fourth-grade high school students who were former members, become honorary members. The Student Council is accountable for the work done at the Gymnasium council and general meeting of students.

The Student Council meets at least once a month.

At the first sitting of the Council, the President of the Student Council and the leaders of action groups (sports, culture, information, general affairs, etc.) are elected by secret ballot for one year.

The decision of a student council session is valid if it is attended by at least 2/3 of the members. Decisions of the Student council are valid if more than half of the members vote for it.

The Student Council follows the regulations approved by the Gymnasium Council.

Student Council:

- draws up an activity plan for the school year;
- participates in the preparation of documents regulating the activities of the Gymnasium;
- discusses the protection of students' rights inside and outside the Gymnasium;
- disseminates information relevant to students received from the Gymnasium administration;

- organizes the dissemination of information about its activities on the Gymnasium website, information stands;
- if necessary, considers and submits proposals to the administration, the Gymnasium Council, non-governmental organizations, etc .;
- makes suggestions regarding the organization of teaching/learning;
- initiates and helps to organize Gymnasium events, actions, mobilizes students for volunteering;
- makes proposals for the development of non-formal education programs for children;
- carries out prevention programs;
- delegates members to the Gymnasium Council.

Other self-government institutions may also be established in the gymnasium.

### 2.5.5 North Macedonian school

| criteria        | Positive aspects   | Aspects that should be improved (negative aspects)                         |
|-----------------|--|--|
| Germany         | Confrences of the subject (content);   | Class confrences-only teachers vote on marks;                              |
| Turkey          | Students get to choose their own activities in their comitees; the automony class;           | No student representation in the teachers council;                         |
| North Macedonia | Youth organisation-freedom to choose their activities;                                       | Students should have a right to have representative in the school council; |
| Lithuania       | Gymnasium council-all partys are present; non - formal education (variety of activities);    | The gymnasium council should be re-elected more often;                     |
| Romania         | In case of problems parents have the right to request replacement; evaluation of headmaster; | In the administration council there should be a student present;           |

### School strucures and legal parameters

Our school, which has the status of a legal entity, offers secondary education that is compulsory for all. The municipal high schools are established by the municipality, based on pre-determined conditions and norms. The school is represented by the principal of the school. In case of absence of the principal, the school is represented by a person to be appointed by the principal. The Principal is authorized to conclude contracts and perform other legal actions as well as to represent the school before other organizations and institutions. The principal is elected and dismissed by the mayor of the municipality in accordance with the Law on Secondary Education.

### School Board – members and obligations

The governing body of the school is the School Board which has 12 members, including: 3 representatives of the founder, 3 representatives of the parents, 4 representatives of the teachers and 1 representative each from the Ministry of Education and 1 representative from the business community (no right to vote) The Board adopts the Statute of the school, proposes an annual program, announces an announcement for the appointment of a principal, etc. All the important decisions in school are made by the Board.

### Teachers' responsibilities and councils

The Teachers' Council consists of the teachers and the professional associates in the school. The Teachers' Council makes its decisions by a majority vote at the sessions convened by the principal. The Teachers' Council gives an opinion on the proposal of the annual program, reviews the success of the students, makes decisions for enrollment of students, makes decisions on the objection of students, praises and rewards students, etc.



The **School Year's Council**, this council of the profession consists of the teachers who teach and the professional associates. The council of the year is convened and managed by the principal of the school and he performs the following activities: organizes and conducts the educational work of the year and takes care of its improvement, decides on issues proposed by the council of the class and the heads of the classes, proposes matters for which the teachers' council should make a decision, etc.

The **Class' Council** consists of teachers who teach in the class and the professional associates. The class council is usually convened and chaired by the school principal. The council of the class performs the following activities: it directly organizes and conducts the educational work in the class and takes care of its improvement, determines the semi-annual and annual grades of the students upon the proposal of the subject teacher. cooperates with the class teacher, makes a decision to take the exam of the year in cases determined by law, etc.

### **The Head Teacher of the Class**

The Head Teacher of the Class performs the following activities: monitors the work and discipline of the students, takes care of the regular teaching in the class, convenes and holds meetings with the parents of the students from the class, justifies the absences of the students, cooperates with the parents' council, etc.

### **Professional groups of teachers in certain professional fields**

The professional groups perform the following activities: propose teachers to the Teachers' Council for appointment in the School Board, propose measures for promotion of the educational work, propose teaching aids, monitor the implementation of the curriculum and give proposals for their amendment, etc. A record shall be kept at each meeting of the professional groups, containing the name of the body holding the session, date, number of attendees, agenda, time of completion and signature of the President and the recorder.

### **Parents's Council and obligations**

Every class on the first parents' meeting in first year chooses 3 representatives from the parents. The Parents' Council is elected from the parents in the school and it consists of representatives of the parents of the students who are not allowed to be employed in the school. The parents' council has 8 members, as follows: two representatives of the parents of the first, second, third and fourth year students. They give their opinion on the proposal of the annual work program, discuss the report on the work of the school, give an opinion and propose measures for improving the teaching and extracurricular activities, etc.

### **Students' participation**

Every class chooses 3 representatives that represent them in front of their Head Teacher and the other teachers their class has. Each class also chooses 2 representatives that are members of the Youth Organisation. This year the Youth Organisation has 31 members. They choose their own President and have regular meeting in their meeting room. Every year from the Teachers' Council one teacher has the role of mentoring the students in the organisation. They create events and workshops that will improve their life at school and also for their own personal development. They also host charity events that help those students in need.

## 2.6 List of activities about pupil participation possibilities in the different countries

### 2.6.1 German school

#### Conferences with pupil's participation at IGS Bad Salzdetfurth

Introduction:

We looked at the attendance lists of different types of committee meetings at our school. The focus was on the committees "Schulvorstand" (chairmen), "conferences of subjects" and "faculty meeting" ("Gesamtkonferenz") during the school years 2018/2019 and the first term of the school year 2019/2020.

#### Results:

1) We found out that ~47 percent of the elected pupils attend the "**Schulvorstand**" meetings.

| Average percentage of pupils that attended Schulvorstand meetings |                    |
|---|--------------------|
| In total 15 (~47%)  | In total 17 (~53%) |

2) Furthermore, we found out that ~25% percent of the elected pupils attend the **faculty meetings**.

| Average percentage of pupils that attended faculty meetings |                   |
|---|-------------------|
| In total 10 (~25%)  | In total 29 (75%) |

3) We also checked the different **conferences of the subjects**, for example, foreign languages, German, arts and economy. There is a big difference when we compared the single subjects, for example, there are more pupils that attend art conferences than foreign languages conferences.

| Average percentage of pupils that attended conferences of the subjects |                  |
|--|------------------|
| In total 9 (~69%)  | In total 5 (~31) |

#### **Summary of student's activities 2019/2020 at IGS Bad Salzdetfurth, Germany**

##### 1) "Tolerance festival" at a comprehensive school in Hildesheim (30th of August 2019)

Pupils from year 9, 10 and 11 offered a workshop about our long term project "school without racism, school with courage".

They also visited other student's workshops about tolerance, discrimination and acceptance.

##### 2) The 11th grade is fighting against a change of the time table due to Covid 19

The students are trying to convince our headmaster, that changing the timetable shouldn't affect the 11th grade because less than 20 of them are using the busses, to reduce the number of people in the busses.

### **3) Class project about issues at school**

In December 2019 one English E-course year 10 had a unit about “What problems do we have at school and how can we solve the problems?”

The course created posters about some issues, for example, the implementation of iPads, modernisation of the old D building, or keeping the toilets clean.

### **4) UNICEF run**

A teacher along with his students organised a UNICEF run to raise donations for a charity and our school.

## **2.6.2 Turkish school**

### **Students’ activities at Sainte Pulchérie High School, Turkey**

Autonomy for students is encouraged at Sainte Pulcherie High School. Every year, students choose committees to join and organize events. We looked at the attendance lists of different committee meetings at our school in the term of the school year 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 school year. Due to the pandemic, the school was closed after March 2020 and we had online education. In the term of school year 2020-2021, there was online education but in some periods, students came to school and they had hybrid education. The situation was not easy but most of the time, they tried to organize online events so they were active.

The activities of the committees:

- a) “Mediatheque Committee”: Every month students have meetings to organize events at the Mediatheque at school. They organize “Science day”, “Horror Day”, “Costume Day”, “Book Day”, etc.  
Students organize every event by asking students via google forms. They organized all events before the pandemic but during the pandemic they realized some of them online, some of them they weren’t able to.
- b) Philosophy Club Committee: Volunteer students organize events like “Cinema Philosophy”, “Philosophy Cafe”, Philosophy Presentations during lunch time and after school. They organize all events and communications by themselves. Some students will keep organizing events online in 2020-2021.
- Student Delegates Meeting: Each year student delegates are elected at the school to represent their classmates during different high points of the school year. They have a very important role because they are the spokespersons for the students. Every month, all delegates and the president of the delegates have meetings with the principal and the guide counselors every month. They kept doing these online in 2021.

Role of the student delegate: Represent his class, be the spokesperson between his class and the teaching team of the school. Establish the class report to prepare for participation in the class council. Speak during the class council and convey the opinion of the students in his class. Prepare the minutes of the meeting in order to present it to the students of his class. Be responsible for the management of the class notebook. Take charge of managing the collection and distribution of cell phones of classmates.

Role of level delegates on the school council: The delegates responsible for levels take part in the monthly meeting of the school council organized by the director of the school. Each delegate responsible for the level represents his own level. In order to prepare an agenda, each delegate responsible for the level takes surveys of his level. For this he meets with the delegates of each class of his level before the council. During the council, each delegate responsible for the level makes the evaluation of his level, he transmits the academic subjects or other technical subjects of his level. Each delegate responsible for the level has the right to make pedagogical proposals for the proper functioning of the school or for the well-being in high school.

What does the training of student delegates consist of? What is his/her role? Help students fulfill their new mission. Give a general definition of the duties and responsibilities of the delegate. Present the tasks of the delegate in the administrative field. Introduce the school staff working in the different departments. Make people understand the importance of listening and transmitting. Give tools to better express themselves orally. Explain how to prepare minutes and note taking. Listen to election speeches

- 11th grade students organized “Psychology Conference” and had success to invite an expert psychologist online and prepare questions after searching about him. They invited some teachers to online conference.
- The students who are at Erasmus Club, organized special events for UNESCO such as UNESCO World Philosophy Day, UNESCO International Democracy Day.
- Two 12th grade students joined the International Interactive online Conference, “Monument to Language and Book” in Lithuania They searched and wrote their articles about democracy and the conference theme then presented them during online conference. All partners participated in that conference.

To find out students’ participation in the activities and their role to improve the school system, students were asked to answer the questions in a questionnaire. About 50 % of students participated in a survey. Teachers also were asked to express their opinion on students’ participation. There were 80 % who answered the questions.

### **Results showed that:**

- 74% of students feel that they feel happy to be part of their role of the school responsibilities.
- 65% of the students are actively involved in activities organized by themselves.
- 70 % of students declared that they can freely express their opinion on different issues but their suggestions are not always accepted.
- 75% of students believe that the Student Council represents their views.
- 70% state that they trust the elected Student Council members.
- According to teachers the students were active and did their best for their initiatives but some of the students need to improve themselves about those issues.

To sum up, the survey results showed that our students are mostly active and they care about sharing their opinions. There is progress but we still need to work on it. Students are encouraged to become decision takers and the school supports the initiatives of students. On the other hand, we must consider that the pandemic situation made everything a bit difficult.

### 2.6.3 Romanian school

There were different kinds of activities, such as charity events.

### 2.6.4 Lithuanian school

Participation in a school's self-evaluation process. Students were asked to answer the questions in a questionnaire in order to find out their contribution and participation in various activities, and if they feel belonging to the school's community and are active participants in improving school's life. About 20% of students participated in a survey. Teachers also were asked to express their opinion on students' participation. There were 66% who answered the questions.

#### Results showed that:

- 76% of students feel that they are full-fledged members of school community and state that people working in a gymnasium support their initiatives and leadership.
- About half of the respondents are actively involved in activities organised by school.
- More than a half state that they can freely express their opinion on different issues and their opinion is respected and acclaimed.
- 56% of students believe that Student Council represents their views.
- 72% state that they trust the elected Student Council members and that the whole election process is organised fairly and anyone could participate.
- According to teachers they support their students, their initiatives, but there are very few students who do that and want to become responsible.

To sum up, the survey results showed that our school is open to leadership and supports the initiatives of students but our students are not active and interested enough to participate.

#### Students' activities year 2019/2020

|  |
|--|
| Administration meetings with newly arrived students at the gymnasium. Objective: students express expectations, observations, make suggestions for the improvement of gymnasium activities.  |
| Commemoration of the European Day of Languages. Organizers - III class gymnasium students. Participants - the whole community.<br><br>Objective: To inform the gymnasium community about the linguistic diversity of Europe, the commonalities and differences of countries, endangered languages. |
| Young police supporters.<br><br>Objective: Introduce students to their activities and goals, invite them to join the team and its initiatives.   |
| Student parliament/council elections.  |
| Civic education. "We are preparing a rally near the White House." Participants II-III classes.   |
| Events to commemorate Defenders of Freedom Day: Joining the global civic initiative "Memory is alive as it testifies". Memory run dedicated to R. Juknevičius and others who died on January 13. Participants: school community.   |
| Anti-Corruption Week events: Moral education lessons "The best recipe - how to curb  |



|   |
|---|
| corruption? ” 2nd grade students, History and citizenship lesson “Start with yourself ” 1st grade students.             |
| Raising Awareness 'WITHOUT BULLYING'. Participants: school community  |
| Project "Environmental pollution and our community's contribution to climate protection."<br>Participants: I-II classes |

### **2.6.5 North Macedonian school**

#### **Evaluation of students' participation at High School "Ljupco Santov"**

Students at our school participate in the School's Youth Organisation "EDINSTVO" (Unity).

The organisation has 64 members (2 representatives chosen from each class).

In school year 2019/2020, 62% participated regularly to each meeting they had.

Almost 70% of all members in the organisation feel they are contributing to improving the school conditions.

About 22% of the elected members said they had never attended a meeting, nor they know about the structures, the goals and the activities of the organisation.

Members of the organisation feel they have full support of the school management in regard to their activities.

Activities they organised in the school year 2019/ 2020:

#### **OCTOBER 2019**

##### 1) Art and essay competition for Halloween

Themes for the competition were: Are we afraid of the dark? and When the fear awakens...

Students wrote songs, essays, drew drawings and expressed their creativity.

##### 2) New cooperation

A memorandum of cooperation was signed in Delchevo today with the high school "Metodi Mitevski Brico" and the high school "Aco Ruskoski" -Berovo.

#### **NOVEMBER 2019**

##### 3) Literary meeting

Literary meeting with the literary club "Longing" which was held at the high school "Ljupco Santov".

##### 4) World Chocolate Day

The World Chocolate Day was marked by the youth organization "Edinstvo" with giving out chocolates and funny messages that put a smile on your face.

#### **DECEMBER 2019**

##### 5) New Year's Magic

The members of "Edinstvo" created a New Year's atmosphere in the whole school - from the hallways to the teacher's office. We decorated together, to enjoy the upcoming holidays together.

##### 6) International Day of Persons with Disability

December 3, International Day of Persons with Disabilities was traditionally celebrated in our school under the motto: "Although we are different, we are the same." The special educator together with the students held an inclusion workshop with many interesting activities. We believe in cooperation, we believe in equality!

##### 7) New Year's Eve Juice Bar

The members of the youth organization "Edinstvo" through a free New Year's Eve Juice bar reminded the students from both shifts that healthy food can be tasty and fun and prepared a real vitamin refreshment. New Year decorations, Christmas carols, fresh juice that we made ourselves, lots of fruit and lots of smiles.

#### 8) New meeting room

The youth organization "Edinstvo" has its own room where meetings, further activities, debates, film screenings and all other projects that we will work on will be held. Thanks to the high school "Ljupco Santov", "Amphenol technology", "Red Cross" and all the others who donated and helped us to have our own corner.

#### 9) Debate "I, the manager"

A debate was held, with which the fourth year students of economics got the opportunity to hear the experiences of the mayor and entrepreneur Nikolcho Iliev, the manager of "Buchim" Nikolajcho Nikolov, and the general director on Amphenol technology Sasko Nakov. Our guests talked about their life path that led them to their current positions and answered questions from students.

#### 10) Peer education for gender equality

Members held the first peer education for gender equality which took place through two workshops in the school. This workshop is part of the project implemented by the association Glasen Tekstilec Stip within the Foundation The Kvinna till Kvinna and the Organization of Women of the Municipality of Sveti Nikole, and financed by the Delegation of the European Union.

#### 11) Training in Krushevo

Five members of "Edinstvo" represented our youth organization at the four-day training in Krushevo entitled "Strengthening participation and democracy in school communities - best practices of student participation in the European Union." Through socializing, teamwork, many workshops, activities, lectures by great leaders and active participation of our members, they gained experiences and knowledge that they will share with the entire youth organization.

#### 12) Traditional basketball match

For the 11th time, the traditional competition was held, but this year differently - the professors and students with mixed teams prepared an uncertain game for us until the last seconds.

#### 13) Eco debate

At the initiative of "Edinstvo" an eco-debate was held with the director of the high school "Ljupco Santov" where he shared plans to raise environmental awareness among students, and members of the youth with their ideas and suggestions suggested how the school to become an even cleaner and more pleasant environment for all students.

### **FEBRUARY 2020**

#### 14) Workshop

Youth organization "Edinstvo" - host of a workshop in order to establish new contacts, friendships and cooperation, and our guests were the members of high school "Vanko Prke" - Vinica. With a rotating chat system and interesting topics, everyone got a chance to meet everyone and make lasting friendships. Through games and socializing we met new people with whom we will work on new projects.

### 15) Educational quiz

"Edinstvo" in cooperation with the Youth Club of the Red Cross Kocani today held an educational quiz with the motto "There's nothing more romantic than protection" which tested students' knowledge of protection, prevention, sexually transmitted diseases and similar topics. Each correct answer was rewarded with a free condom, and each incorrect one - with explanation and education.

### 16) Another workshop

Representatives of "Edinstvo" present at the workshop for EU House phone application, where our members through brainstorming, discussions and teamwork with schools from all over Macedonia contributed to creating a basis for the telephone application.

### 17) With love for love

In the spirit of love, "Edinstvo" organized the action "With love for love". In front of the bakery "Bobby" and in the high school we sold pancakes made with a lot of love, and the money will be donated to the Association of the Blind and Deaf. Because everyone deserves equality, care for their needs and love, not only on this day, but every day!

## **MARCH 2020**

### 18) International Women's day

On March 8, we surprised the teachers and brightened their day, but also their office with beautiful flowers that will decorate their room for a long time. Flowers, beautiful message and sweets - our way to wish a happy 8th March to all strong mothers, women, girls. They deserve it.

## **2.7 Pros and cons of participation possibilities**

| <b>Pros</b>   | <b>Cons</b>  |
|---|--|
| Many people have many ideas to make your school a better place and develop your school in a positive way.   | Processes may take a long time. It could be frustrating for people who want to change something but are not able to do it because of different opinions. |
| People can create their environment where they spend a lot of time every day. They can see that their effort and decisions can make a change which has a positive emotional effect on them. | To make quick decisions, it is easier to have just one person or few people that make decisions.   |
| The individuals that participate can train key competences individually, such as speaking, arguing, discussing, organising, or team building.   | Committee work means to spend extra time additionally to school lessons, homework, or projects.  |

## 2.8 List of activities and their strategic realization for at least one goal per school

### Best practice ideas for a successful participation of pupils at their school

| name of activity/idea                              | Brief description of the activity/idea  | What do I need to pay attention for?   |
|--|---|--|
| <b>implementation of a football team at school</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Make a survey among students if they like to join a football team once a week. Wait for their reply.</li> <li>• Talk to head of PE if it's possible to play football in the afternoon once a week, e.g. outdoors or in a gym. Find a common weekday and timeframe.</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Make sure that the teachers are involved when you use school's facilities.</li> <li>• Inform your parents that you stay a bit longer at school.</li> <li>• Find two or three students that take care that you meet regularly, also after a summer break!</li> </ul>   |
| <b>working room for students</b>                   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If you have no working room for students, suggest to furnish one in a meeting of the student's council. The student council should write a motion to the principle. Write down wellfounded arguments which furniture is needed. Arrange an appointment to introduce the motion to the principle, also to clarify queries. Ask the principle how the furniture is financed.</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tell the principle that you volunteer to help to furnish the working room. Keep in touch with the principle and bring forward own ideas to influence the furniture of the working room, otherwise it's not what you are looking for!</li> <li>• Make sure that your claims are realistic.</li> </ul>  |
| <b>feminine hygiene products</b>                   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There is no access to feminine hygiene products at school. The solution could be to implement feminine hygiene product boxes. You could buy: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 3 Boxes,</li> <li>- Pads (15-20 per box),</li> <li>- Hand Sanitizer,</li> <li>- Paper Napkins (8 per box),</li> <li>- Wet Wipes (6-7 per box).</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Keep it cheap since you can. Make sure it is sustainable and not a pain. Put it in places that are easily accessible.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• First talk about the ideas with the students (e.g. in the student council). Then meet the principal and tell him the idea. You need a budget from your school, also for the follow-up orders.</li> <li>• You can put a box with these products at a central place (e.g. office). The box is available for all school members (staff and students).</li> <li>• You have to organise the responsibility for the box if products are consumed, e.g. the office.</li> </ul> |
| <b>change furniture at school</b>                  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Furniture: size - it needs to vary depending on the poll. The chairs were perfect for 60% of the students. They were getting uncomfortable for the people with the height</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Firstly you need to get the approbation of your principal, board of directors and mayor about the whole procedure. After that you need to fill</li> </ul>   |

|                                       |  |   |
|---------------------------------------|--|---|
|                                       | <p>above 1.75, so about 40% of students had back pain from the small chairs. Staying in those uncomfortable chairs for 6-7 hours per day are exposing the students to develop scoliosis, cifosis etc. Facilities for students : - old chairs-uncomfortable chairs.</p>   | <p>within the given budget to exchange the furniture for the 40% of the students.</p>   |
| <b>body temperature check</b>         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>During corona pandemics schools are applying different precaution measures to stop the spread of the virus (testing, wearing masks, etc) but it would also be beneficial to have your body temperature checked before you enter the school's building. This could be achieved by discussing the issue with administration and a school nurse, who appoint the people responsible for situations like this.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>First talk about the idea with the students (e.g. in the student council). Then meet or write a motion to the principal or other member of administration, also school nurse, and tell them the idea.</li> <li>If needed, form a group of volunteers who will be responsible for implementing this idea.</li> <li>Make sure that it is not against rules and regulations to check someone's body temperature.</li> </ul> |
| <b>not enough chairs in cafeteria</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>During lunch breaks students have to wait for the free spot to have their meal. As a result, they start being late for classes, their food gets cold and general satisfaction level drops.</li> <li>The solution might be to add more chairs in the cafeteria.</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>First talk about the idea with the students (e.g. in the student council) or make a survey. Then meet or write a motion to the principal or other member of administration and tell them the idea.</li> <li>Before trying to accomplish such goal, make sure that it doesn't violate the laws of Ministry of Health Department.</li> </ul>   |