

Description of the activity

Venue / Duration: Sevlievo / July 21 - 25, 2021

Participants: n. 17 students and n. 13 accompanying persons, a total of 30 participants from the partner countries: Italy, Lithuania, Greece, Portugal. The participants from Bulgaria were 20:16 students and 4 accompanying persons. Of the planned participants for Greece, 4 did not come due to Covid-19 travel restrictions and associated quarantine, and the planned participants from Spain - 8 and from Cyprus - 11 did not come due to Covid-19 travel restrictions since these two countries were part of the European Covid-19 red zone.

This was the second mobility, not the second on the plan. The mobility schedule was changed, so that the mobility in Bulgaria and Greece were swapped. The mobility activities contributed to the achievement of the following medium-term objectives, in which the long-term objectives were "translated" for each mobility:

- To connect us through Community Arts, which actively encourage participation and reduce alienation and isolation
- To get people to express their emotions and feelings through arts
- To know the facts, to reject falsifications and prejudices, because in the process of creating art we must have a desire to approach something new, skills to evaluate and solve problems
- To increase the use of art by art in adult education
- To make all learners aware that the differences between people give us the opportunity to become a richer society.

In virtual mobility, each partner organizes laboratories with local learners. The first meeting was through informal conversations with local learners to share memories from their old country, sharing them with others. Discussion of new and old migrations was held with the support of images, photos, historical maps. After the introductory activity, the activities continued according to plan, and the trainees were encouraged to weave their feelings, memories, things important to them, traditional folklore elements by making table napkins. Exchanges of ideas, videos, photos, suggestions, and collaboration were activated to continue the work during the physical mobility in Sevlievo. During the physical mobility, the participants "mixed" by working together, thus giving mobility its deepest meaning/purpose, communication from people of different linguistic and cultural identities who share and spread common values. The arts-based community approach was the tool. The end product was the making of a traditional item for Bulgarian culture - Martenitsa, which is a carrier of health, luck, and hope for the realization of what people strive for. The co-produced Martenitsa products expressed common feelings and opinions about the tragedy of the people forced to leave their country and the hope for a better life. Small groups did painting, embroidery, and knitting of large paper sheets and/or making different types of Martenitsa and table napkins prepared the final products, which were exhibited at the Chitalishte in the village of Krushevo, which is a public social center.

The musical part of the physical mobility in Sevlievo was also prepared in advance during the previous local mobility. All partner groups had prepared their own version of the lyrics of a couplet of the song, created especially for the project by the Italian composer Mirella Sasso from the partner "Valeria Martina Association". The activities for the music part of the mobility in Bulgaria were related to the presentation of the lyrics in each country's own language. In one of the music workshops in Sevlievo, the Bulgarian group presented its proposal for a chorus in English, which was accepted by all participants. This way, the newly created song was formed with the creative participation of each of the partners. After a general discussion, the name of the song "You are not alone" was selected. After that, a professional team of sound engineers organized an audio recording of the song with all participants. The record is one of the final products in the project tasks. In the music

workshop, all participants practiced the original song "Song for Europe", singing in a choir (at most) or playing an instrument. Together with the song "You are not alone" an audio recording of the song proposed by the Lithuanian partners - "Song for Europe" was made with all participants.

The climax of the mobility in Bulgaria was on the fourth day with a public presentation of the results of the joint work on the project to people who are second and third-generation migrants, for which purpose the village of Krushevo was specially chosen. The concert presented the memories of the old homeland, presented by the participants from different countries through different types of art: music, poetry, and dance. The emotional open-air concert ended with Bulgarian folklore dances, in which the audience and participants took part. The purpose of the public presentation was to acquaint the local community with the importance of promoting the processes of social interaction and intercultural exchange, emphasizing the function of the arts to engage people from different languages, religions, cultures in an experience that overcame all differences and prejudices, as creating art in a group builds community skills: communicating, respecting people's different perspectives, supporting collective decision-making, evaluating and making choices together. The last dissemination event, in the presence of local authorities from the municipality, schools, associations, had added value for local migrants. This was the public recognition of their existence in the community and the proof of the possibility to be integrated into it thanks to policies aimed at the development of values and behavior, leading to equal appreciation of cultures and unity through diversity.

During the mobility in Bulgaria, the partner groups had the opportunity to get acquainted with different cultural, historical, and ethnic places important for the culture and history of Bulgaria such as Architectural and Ethnographic Complex Etara, House of Humor in Gabrovo, Historical Park Hotalich, Ethno Complex Damascene, presenting the way of production of various products from the traditional plant Damascene Rose.