

Democratic trip IN TURKEY

DAUGAVPILS DRAUDZĪGĀ
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**Co-funded by
the European Union**

About erasmus project

Daugavpils friendly vocation secondary school provides the school project "LIFT Of Democracy" of the EU Erasmus+ Core Activity, in which partners from France, Italy, Turkey and Latvia are involved.

Within the framework of the project, from September 23 to September 27, 2024, the mobility "I feel empathy, I protect my environment" took place in Balikesir, SYAL Lyceum, (Turkey). Latvia was represented by a team of pedagogues and students of Daugavpils

Friendly Calling Secondary School: principal Kristina Ivancova, deputy principal Regīna Urbanoviča, geography teacher Svetlana Rudjko and 12th grade students Denis Truskovskis, Jaroslavs Šeršņovs, German Mikulovs.



The project "L.I.F.T. of Democracy" is aimed at raising the level of democratic consciousness through education, training and exchange of ideas, with special emphasis on four key objectives:

Democratic Education: The project seeks to provide students with a deep understanding of democratic principles, human rights and European institutions.

Political participation: through seminars and practical events, the project encourages young people to actively participate in the political life of their communities.

Social innovation: by promoting social innovation, the project defines new strategies and practices for strengthening democracy and social integration.

Internationalization: promotes cross-cultural exchange and internationalization of views, allowing participants to learn about different experiences and points of view.



During the week spent at SYAL Lyceum in Turku Balikesir, students participated in a series of seminars and practical events (workshops) dedicated to the principles of democracy. Each day offered a varied program aimed at engaging students and deepening their understanding:

On the first day, the host country team gave a presentation on cultural differences and the problems that arise because of them. Later, the students in mixed groups prepared the presentation "My opportunities", which showed the opportunities of young people from all the countries involved in the project. There was also a seminar on the topic "The Road to a Land of Equality", included in the Council of Europe's handbook on human rights education for young people. In the evening, mobility participants went on a tour of Balikesir city center, during which Turkish schoolchildren talked about the sights of their hometown.



Day 1

In the following days, active investigative activities took place. Several seminars were held. Students developed posters and presentations on youth rights, human rights and environmental literacy. They learned about international and local non-governmental organizations related to human rights and ecology. The Latvian team told about the package deposit system (Deposit point), because it turns out that none of the countries involved in the project have such a system.



Students had the opportunity to attend English, mathematics and biology classes. In math class in 9th grade, Regina Urbanovic asked the Turkish students to solve an equation, and they did it perfectly. During the biology lesson, the project participants could watch how students of the Turkish lyceum split the brain of a sheep.



Trips

Getting to know the Turkish environment and culture, young people and teachers went on several trips. They visited the Mill strait (Değirmen boğazi) national park, located in the vicinity of Balıkesir. Enjoyed a wonderful excursion to Balıkesir Kaz, the second most oxygen-rich region after the Alps, to Kunda Island and the resort town of Avalık on the Aegean coast. In the city, project participants visited an ancient Orthodox church, which now houses a museum, and an ancient mosque. The presence of a Christian church in a Muslim country also confirms Turkish democracy.



Stambul

The trip to Istanbul was also informative. We visited Gulhane Park (the place where human rights were first granted in the Ottoman Empire), Topkapi Palace (the administrative center of the monarchy), the Blue Mosque, the Hagia Sophia Mosque and the Sultan Mosque. Interestingly, the way to the historical sites led through the Grand Bazaar, where students carefully followed each other so as not to get lost. The tour ended with an hour-long boat trip along the Bosphorus.





During the mobility, the students learned the skills to work in a group, collaborate and cooperate, supplemented their knowledge about democracy and practiced using the English language. Teachers were able to make sure that students were able to work independently to achieve excellent results.

The Latvian team thanks the Turkish partners for the excellently organized mobility and the opportunity to get to know the centuries-old Turkish culture.



The LIFTS project is not only an educational opportunity, but also an investment in the future of a democratic and inclusive Europe. Thanks to an innovative and complex approach, students not only acquire knowledge, but also become active leaders of change in their society.

Erasmus + project "L.I.F.T. of Democracy" demonstrates that education and cultural exchange can be powerful tools in building a society based on democratic values and human rights. Due to its long-term impact, this project can serve as a model for future initiatives to develop active citizenship and political participation among young Europeans.



DENIS: THE TRIP TO TURKEY WAS
AMAZING. I MET NEW PEOPLE AND
PRACTICED MY ENGLISH. I TRIED
THE NATIONAL DISH, IT WAS VERY

TASTY. I VISITED MANY BEAUTIFUL PLACES LIKE ISTANBUL. THANK YOU!

GERMAN: I EXPANDED MY
KNOWLEDGE IN THE FIELD OF
DEMOCRACY AND CULTURE. I LIKED
THE CULTURE OF THE TURKISH

PEOPLE. IT WAS A GOOD
EXPERIENCE WITH THE ERASMUS
YAROSLAV: IT WAS VERY COOL. I
EXPANDED MY
KNOWLEDGE ABOUT

DEMOCRACY, I MET AND HAD A GREAT TIME WITH
PROJECT, WHICH ALSO GAVE ME
THE OPPORTUNITY TO PRACTICE MY
ENGLISH. THANK YOU VERY MUCH,
ERASMUS!

REPRESENTATIVES OF YOUNG PEOPLE
FROM PARTNER
COUNTRIES AND PRACTICED
MY ENGLISH, WHICH IS VERY
IMPORTANT WHEN PREPARING
FOR THE NATIONAL ENGLISH
EXAM.



