

MARCH - DECEMBER 2019

# EMPOWERING YOUTH: OUR DIARY

The latest news from EKO



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# What is EKO's mission?

EKO's primary mission is to contribute to the creation of an inclusive society, free from prejudice and discrimination, which will be in the position to develop and grow a sustainable living environment. Particularly within Greece, its major concerns refer to the challenge of youth unemployment, cultural intolerance and environmental issues.



# What are EKO's objectives?

Life-long learning

Intercultural and  
interreligious awareness  
and solidarity

Non-formal education

Empowering youth

Strengthening cross-  
border civil society

Support the SDGs

# What we've been up to?

26 March -  
4 April 2019

EKO organised and coordinated the Erasmus+ Youth Exchange project *Breaking Walls, Building Bridges*, which took place in Athens. 41 young people from Armenia, Cyprus, Greece and Turkey participated in non-formal education activities that aimed to improve the problematic relations among the four countries.



8 - 17 April 2019

In April EKO hosted 49 people from Estonia, Italy, Greece, Germany, Lithuania, Spain and Poland as part of The Erasmus+ Youth Exchange project *Europe United: Facing Challenges, Reinforcing Solidarity*. During 10 days of activities, the participants among others discussed challenges faced by the EU nowadays, interviewed locals about their opinions about the EU and met the representatives of the Offices of the European Parliament in Greece.



2 - 5 May 2019

EKO participated in The European Youth Week by designing and organising a special Art Workshop *Democracy and I*, to foster social inclusion and highlight that vulnerable groups of young people constitute an integral part of a democratic society. Children and teenagers living in the Hatzikonsta Foundation for orphans and vulnerable youth, were invited to express their understanding of democracy, active citizen engagement and peace using artistic improvisation and teamwork.



17 - 18 September  
2019

In the frame of the *Sustainability through Cross Border Circular Economy* project, in which EKO took part as a co-beneficiary, EKO participated actively in the 3rd transnational partner meeting, monitoring the progress of the cross border circular economy project. During the meeting, partners identified major challenges faced by enterprises operating within the circular economy.

14 - 17  
October 2019



Under the auspices of the International Alliance for Peace and Development (IAPD), EKO organised an international youth photography competition entitled **Peacemakers: Through your world I see mine**, which concluded with an open photo exhibition. The 30 best photos, selected through open, international, online voting, were exhibited in Geneva in front of the UN building in November 2019.

EKO was honoured to have been selected by the Greek National Agency of Erasmus+ to participate in the TCA Seminar **APPETIZER – An introduction on how to use the 'Erasmus+ Youth in Action' Programme for international youth work**. The event aimed at creating a space, where youth worker with experience in youth events at a local level, members of organisations or informal youth groups new to Erasmus+ could explore possibilities of support available for youth activities by the Erasmus+ Program.



October 2019

29 November  
2019



On the occasion of the International Day of Persons with Disabilities and the International Volunteer Day, together with Tandem NGO, EKO organised a **Workshop of handicrafts and creation of Christmas ornaments** at K.A.A.P.B. (former PIKPA) in Voula. The workshop was designed for ten children with disabilities to create Christmas cards, bookmarks and garlands.



In the context of our Youth Club activities, EKO's volunteers Gaia and Rosaria prepared, coordinated and implemented an **Intercultural dialogue workshop on Human Rights**. The event was organized in collaboration with Caritas Hellas. Young people from an international background participated actively in the workshops and engaged in a constructive discussion and exchange of opinions on the violation, respect and protection of Human Rights.

10 December  
2019

# Our projects in progress



A. The European Solidarity Corps project, ESC11 Solidarity through Environmental Education with a duration of 12 months. Eko sends and coordinates the stay of two volunteers in Saragossa, Spain and two volunteers in Bonn, Germany.

B. The European Solidarity Corps project, ESC11 Solidarity with European Islands with a duration of 12 months. Eko sends and coordinates the stay of 1 volunteer in Sardinia, Italy, 1 volunteer in Madeira, Portugal and 2 volunteers in Nicosia, Cyprus.



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