



Project “Boost Your Green”

Report for the Learning Training Teaching Activity in Macedonia

SOU Taki Daskalo, Bitola, Macedonia

31.03 – 6.04.2019

31st of March (Sunday)

Teachers and students from partner countries arrived in Bitola at different hours. Groups were picked up at the airports (except Bulgaria and Romania, they came with their own transport) and taken to the hotels. 14 teachers and 25 students from five partner countries came in Macedonia.

1st of April (Monday)

Teachers and students from partner countries met by Macedonian teachers and students at the school.

The host school organised welcome and icebreaking activities for the first day of our meeting. A workshop “Creating innovation to increase and improve the sustainable development in school”- ppt presentation by a representative of each country and students’ feedback (students working in six groups) was organised. Also, a quiz on given topics was organised.

After lunch, all participants visited the historical and cultural places in Bitola: The Clock Tower, the Shirok Sokak and the City Museum.

Shirok Sokak (meaning "Wide Alley") is a long pedestrian street in Bitola. The street is the main and busiest street in Bitola, with numerous shops and bars. Located in the city center, as locals say, this is the place where you go if you want to see someone or to be seen. It roughly starts at Magnolia Square and ends in the City Park. It is graced with neo-classical buildings that contain stores, cafés and restaurants. Along Shirok Sokak there are the theatre, the city museum, galleries and several consulates.

Throughout its long history, Bitola was known as an important trade center in this part of the Balkans. Traders from Bitola were well known to the East and West.

The Clock Tower with imposing height of 32 meters, is the most recognizable landmark of Bitola. According to some historical records, a clock tower in Bitola is mentioned as early as 1664, but we can not reliably determine whether it is the same Clock Tower that exists today. There is a legend that the Turkish government collected 60,000 eggs from the local population, which were used in

the mortar for the Clock Tower, as it would be stronger and more resilient. Set on a square base with sides of 5.8 meters, the Clock Tower is entered through a door on the north side, and stone spiral staircase leads to the upper end of the tower, which houses the clock mechanism. With the beautifully arranged park in its environment, the Clock Tower is one of the most visited locations in Bitola for locals and also for the large number of foreign tourists.

City Museum Bitola - in the permanent exhibition in Bitola museum, more than 2000 exhibits from various historical periods are presented. Beginning with prehistory antiquity, early Byzantine, Medieval, Ilinden period, Balkan Wars, First World War, Socialist period up to the present, through various especially valuable objects, the history of the Bitola region is presented. The exhibited artifacts testify the existence of different eras – from the teeth of prehistoric mastodon, Neolithic tombs, mosaics and ancient basilicas, military weapons and art works from some of the most famous Macedonian painters. Museum exhibits are presented on an area of 700 square meters.

2nd of April (Tuesday)

Visit of the solar power plant “Mega Solar” was organised. “Mega Solar” is the first photovoltaic power plant built in Macedonia with a capacity of 1MW.

Photovoltaic power plants are environmentally friendly industrial capacities that do not pollute the environment. The Sun energy is transformed into electricity. At this location you can see one such system in the whole. The responsible engineer explained the way of functioning and the construction of the plant as well as the entire process of obtaining electricity from Sun energy.

After that a lunch in an ethno house in the village of Dihovo was organised. All participants had the opportunity to get to know and taste the traditional Macedonian food - homegrown food, also known as 'zero impact food', the food that goes from the earth directly to the table. Students' Interview on the same theme was organised next day - the representative of each country has a bus interview about the following questions: Do you know any Macedonian traditional food? What did you like the best in the ethno house in the village of Dihovo? What was it made of? What is the traditional food in your country? Can you find any similarities in between Macedonian traditional food and yours?

3rd of April (Wednesday)

All day trip started with visit of Monastery "St. Naum".

Monastery "St. Naum" is situated 29 km from the town of Ohrid and only 1 km from the Albanian border. It was established in 905 by the medieval Saint Naum of Ohrid himself. St Naum is also

buried in the church and it is believed that you can still hear the saint's heartbeat by pressing an ear to his stone coffin inside the church. The icons of St. Naum are some of the best religious painting achievements in the Balkans. They date from the first half of the 18th century. The wood-carved iconostasis itself was made in 1711 by an unknown artisan. Surrounded with a garden looped by fountains, with roses and peacocks, and set amidst lush verdure where the River Crn Drim tumbles into the lake, the monastery of St. Naum is a refuge of tranquility.

After that we visited the Museum on Water "The Bay of Bones".

Museum on Water is an exceptional archeological complex, which is one of a kind in the region. On the southern coast of Gradishte Peninsula in the Bay of Bones, is a pile-dwelling settlement which in the past was spreading at a total surface of 8.500 m². In prehistoric times Lake Ohrid was home to a settlement of pile dwellers who lived literally on top of the water, on a platform supported by up to 10,000 wooden piles anchored to the lake bed. The remains of the settlement were discovered at this spot and between 1997 and 2005 were gradually excavated by an underwater team. The Bay of Bones is an authentic reconstruction of a part of the pile-dwelling settlement, dating back between 1200 and 700 BC.

A Roman military fortification has been reconstructed on the hill above the Bay of Bones. The walls of the fortification that once had protected the Roman Empire from its enemies are once again lifted up on the hill near Gradishte.

After the *Museum on Water* we headed in the town of Ohrid.

Ohrid is in UNESCO world heritage list and it's one of the most famous and mostly visited touristic and cultural cities in Macedonia with its natural and historical beauties. Ohrid is notable for once having 365 churches, one for each day of the year, and has been referred to as a "Jerusalem (of the Balkans)". The city is rich in picturesque houses, monuments, and castles, and tourism is predominant.

After lunch in a restaurant in Ohrid, we visited the ancient sites such as the Tsar Samoil's Castle, Plaoshnik and the Old Bazaar.

The Samoil's Fortress in the old town of Ohrid is considered as one of the largest preserved fortifications in Macedonia. It was the capital of the Empire during the rule of Tsar Samoil at the turn of the Xth century. According to recent excavations, it was contended that this fortress was built on the place of an earlier fortification, dated to the 4th century BC, which was probably built by King Philip II Macedonian. Until the late XIV and early XV century population lived in Samoil's Fortress. Today, this historical monument is a major tourist attraction and was renovated in 2003.

Plaoshnik in Ohrid is an archeological site and holy place, 250 meters below Samoil's Fortress. There is St.Clement's church built by him in 893 year on the foundation of an early Christian basilica, and dedicated to St.Panteleimon. St. Clement was buried in this monastery, in the tomb which was built by his own hands. There is a baptistry of the five aisle basilica with hooked crosses (swastikas) on the mosaic floors which dates from the period between 4th and 6th century.

After that, we had a free afternoon in the Old Bazaar.

4th of April (Thursday)

All day trip started with the visit of the Macedonian Museum of Natural History in Skopje - the capital of Macedonia.

The Museum collects, studies and exhibits the natural treasure of Macedonia. The permanent exhibitions of the Museum comprise an area of 1700 m² and about 4000 original exhibits are displayed in glass showcases and dioramas. It is the oldest biological institution in the country that represents the wealth of Macedonian ghea, flora and fauna.

There was the expert's presentation about this biodiversity. Teachers and students could see the permanent exhibitions of minerals and rocks, fossils, plants, invertebrates, insects, fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds and mammals.

After lunch in a national restaurant in Skopje, we visited the Memorial House of Mother Teresa. The desire to pay respect to Skopje's most famous person and the only Nobel Peace Prize winner from Macedonia culminated in the realization of a long-standing vision – building a Memorial House for Mother Teresa. The location of the museum is not randomly chosen. That is to say, on this exact place the old Catholic Church “Sacred Heart of Jesus” used to stand. It is where Mother Teresa, then Gonxha Bojaxhiu, was baptized just one day after her birth.

After that we had a free afternoon there and then a returning to Bitola.

5th of April (Friday)

The last day was engaged with final activities.

Firstly, we visited the water treatment plant in Dihovo, nearby Bitola. This filter station is the capacity of Water treatment facilities “Vodovod” in Bitola. The visitors learned about the processes carried out in the plant and met some of the employees. The aim of the visit was to raise awareness that clean water is the greatest treasure of modern life and should be preserved and valued as such.



Next, we had a lunch in a restaurant in the National Park Pelister.

We came back to the school and the teachers' meeting was held as well. We talked about the so far and future activities related to this project.

In the same time, the workshops named "Teaching through laboratories" were carried out. Namely, guest students together with the host ones, attended lessons on topics: Energy, Solidarity and Water and realized their feedbacks.

Then the official giving of the Certificates of Attendance followed.

In the evening the hosts organized a farewell party for teachers and students in a restaurant in Bitola.

6th of April (Saturday)

All participants departed Bitola.