

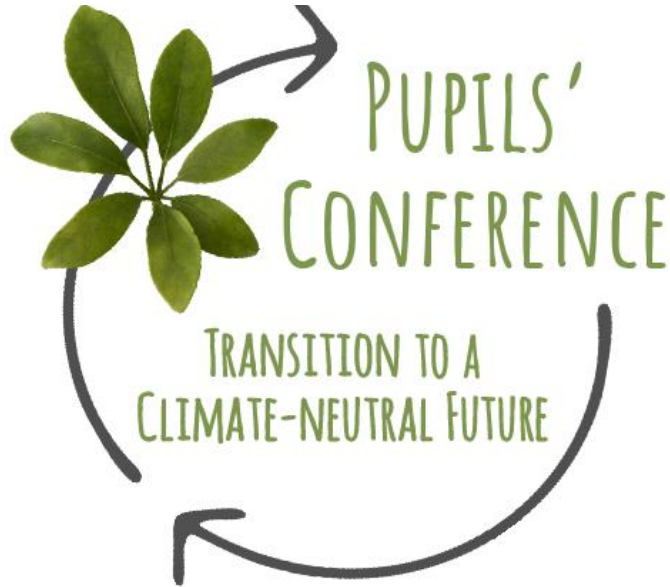
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Pupils' Conference Elefsina "Transition to a Climate-Neutral Future"

X- Bowling Art Centre, Elefsina
9, 10, 11 May 2023



The **Pupils' Conference** for the "Transition to a Climate- Neutral Future" is organized in the context of the "2023 Eleusis Cultural Capital of Europe" by the Centre for Renewable Energy Sources and Saving (CRES) (implementing organization) in collaboration with the Environmental Education Coordinators of the Primary Education Directorate of West Attica, 1st and 3rd Primary Education Directorates of Athens, the Secondary Education Directorate of East Thessaloniki and the German Independent Institute for Environmental Issues (UfU). This action is MYSTERY no. 149 of the Cultural Capital programme and it is held under the auspices of the Greek Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs (27473/GD4/ 10.3.2023). The major part of the project is directly financed by the German Federal Ministry of Economic Affairs and Climate Action through funds from the European Climate Initiative programme (EUKI).



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SCHOOL ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION ACTIVITIES

Introduction - Brief description of educational program - The Pupils' Conference

The climate crisis entails a major risk for our planet and its inhabitants. As mentioned in the Fit for 55 package of the European Union (EU) which emphasizes the need to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in order to have climate neutrality achieved by 2050, future generations will be affected by more frequent and more intense storms, forest fires, droughts and floods, as well as by the subsequent conflicts throughout the world. Addressing these crises is therefore a question of intergenerational and international solidarity.

In order to achieve this goal and bring about the transformation required across our economy, society and industry, it is essential to involve citizens and encourage changes in their daily routines. These include reducing energy consumption and increasing the use of renewable energy systems (RES) currently as well as in the future. The European Green Deal set out the strategic plan for this transformation. It set the building blocks for tomorrow's economy with key strategies on biodiversity, the circular economy, zero pollution, sustainable and smart mobility, the renovation wave, sustainable food, hydrogen, batteries, offshore renewables and many others.

Strengthening climate action constitutes the key claim of youth, including today's teenagers, who, through movements, are calling on governments and the EU to act decisively and without delay with a view to protecting the climate.

But how is climate neutrality in a place connected to its cultural heritage, the upgrading of urban space, the revitalization of environmentally and socially burdened areas, the everyday life in the city and people's relationships? How can all residents enjoy a quality of life without discrimination (energy poverty, degraded areas, atmospheric and industrial pollution, etc.)? How can solutions for today and the future be achieved through a collective participatory process?

350 Primary and Secondary Education pupils from Elefsina, Athens, Thessaloniki, Germany, Albania, North Macedonia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Serbia and Kosovo will be meeting in Elefsina during a three-day Pupils' Conference, to provide answers to the above stated and many more questions.

Pupils are brought to the conference having received the required preparation at school, one which consists of four levels: a) processing the basic concepts related to the climate crisis, climate neutrality and actions that may lead to the reduction of the carbon footprint, b) study of the current situation of their school, neighborhood or city in terms of climate footprint, c) vision methodology, d) creation of a roadmap with a time horizon of 2030, to be presented at the pupils' conference in the form of a poster.

During the Pupils' Conference and through participatory democratic consultation, the pupils will propose solutions for Elefsina, after having toured the city, recognized the special features and challenges, and fully understood the human-environment interactions.

The solutions, with reference to the thematic routes of the city, will address the following topics: industry-energy, marine ecosystem and coastal front, buildings, urban environment and mobility, sustainable nutrition, waste management, cultural heritage-archaeological site, people participation. During their tour of the city of Elefsina, through the built (architecture of spaces, settlements, etc.), the cultural (monuments, archaeological sites, etc.) and the social (spatial organization, economy, etc. etc.) environments, pupils will familiarise themselves with Elefsina and understand the interaction between humans and the environment, with the aim of bringing out proposals.

Proposals will emerge through group consultation and jointly created collective vision for a climate-neutral future. This collective vision will be visualized through art and will be offered as a gift to Elefsina and as a legacy for cultural capitals and other cities throughout Europe.

Agenda

1

Tuesday May 9, 2023 (1st day, Greek - English)

09.30 - 10.00: Arrival of delegates and registration at the conference

10.00 – 10.30: Opening of the Conference – Greeting by officials

10.30 - 11.00 Knowing each other and interaction games for delegates from Greece and other countries.

After the ceremony the international and Thessaloniki group of pupils will visit the City Hall and have an interactive guided exploration in order to acquainted with Elefsina and Cultural events occurring on that date.

11.00 - 12.30: Pupils' walks through the town.

The pupils of 1st, 3rd and West Attica Directorates participating on the first day of the conference, divided into groups together with the accompanying teachers and facilitators, walk the thematic routes related to the following sections:

- **Active industry - air and sea pollution**
- **Abandoned industrial buildings and reuse**
- **Re-designing the coastal front and rendering it to citizens**
- **Urban environment and mobility**
- **Green solutions for buildings and urban space**
- **Social cohesion and regional particularities**
- **Sustainable food and local produce**

The children, through the thematic routes, familiarize themselves with the local environment of Elefsina, come into contact with possible problematic situations which they can photograph, or come across elements of sustainability which they can highlight. The collected material and the experience of the walk constitute the raw material for the delegates' consultation and the visioning of solutions for the transition of the city of Elefsina towards climate neutrality. On these routes, specially trained facilitators accompany the pupils' group, comment, give the required information and generally facilitate the participants so that they get to know the local environment.

12.30 - 13.00: Snack break at the X-Bowling Art Center.

13.00 - 13.30: Presentations by experts. The experts are people with knowledge related to the thematic field that will receive and answer questions with the aim of enriching the proposals of the pupils regarding climate neutrality in the thematic area of their expertise.

13.30 - 15.30: Visioning in thematic groups. The space of the X-Bowling Art Center has been configured in an appropriate way to host the pupils' consultation process and workshops. In each thematic group there are 15-18 pupils, who have walked the same path and collaborate with the help of a facilitator. The methodology that will be used in the thematic groups is the methodology of the World Café which requires the delegates grouping around 3-4 round tables. During the work, the pupils can turn to the expert in order to get help to answer their questions about their topic.

1. The pupils, from 3 to 4 different schools, start by presenting the posters of their schools, which are already placed on the tables printed in A3 size paper and which present the proposals on climate neutrality for their school, neighbourhood or city. (The same posters in large size 70X100 will be permanently displayed in a specially designated area of the hall).
2. The facilitator rephrases the proposals, summarizing the pupils' presentations and the ideas of the thematic group thus introducing the topic they will deal with, e.g. energy. The participants report their experience of the path (PRESENT), what they liked or didn't like with the aid of photos of the PRESENT of Elefsina on each table. At the same time, the facilitator places the photos from the PAST on the tables, which the children have seen along the path and connects the PRESENT – PAST with the next step of the group which is the FUTURE.
3. The facilitator reminds them of the World Café methodology, which pupils have already familiarized themselves with at school.
4. The group is divided into 3 round tables. Each table processes the question of its board (1st round). Two more ten-minute rounds with a change of teams follow. Pupils go around all the tables. They have the opportunity to use a range of words on the topic which may be found in a box. This is what they can refer to if they forget a term, while ensuring that the ideas are self-generated.
5. The last round table group summarizes the ideas contained in the cards of all tables.
6. On a fourth large cardboard 100x70 some children start visualizing the path of the future with collage and painting.
7. The pupils record on the fourth card the ideas - suggestions from their topic that can contribute to a climate- neutral Elefsina.
8. The group nominates two or three pupils, to present to the plenary the proposals resulting from their consultation with the help of a mobile microphone. Each group's final card is posted on the consultation wall.

15.30 - 16.00: Presentation of the proposals in plenary. All the cardboards are placed on the wall so that they can be seen by all the groups and each group presents the board with its ideas.

16.00 - 17.00: Return to Athens.

The participants in the visioning of the first day are from the Primary schools: 8th Primary School of Philadelphia, 10th Primary School of Ilioupoli, 4th and 5th Primary School of Petroupoli, 39th Primary School of Peristeri, 4th and 7th Primary School of Elefsina.

The following steps are followed in detail:

2

Wednesday 10 May 2023 (Day 2, English)

10.00 - 11.30: Pupils' walks through the town (Pupils from the East Thessaloniki Secondary Education Directorate, 1st Athens and West Attica Primary Education Directorates, German and Balkan Schools).

The children, through the thematic routes, familiarize themselves with the local environment of Elefsina, come into contact with possible problematic situations which they can photograph, or come across elements of sustainability which they can highlight. The collected material and the experience of the walk constitute the raw material for the delegates' consultation and the visioning of solutions for the transition of the city of Elefsina towards climate neutrality. On these routes, specially trained facilitators accompany the pupils' group, comment, give the required information and generally facilitate the participants so that they get to know the local environment.

11.30 - 12.00: Snack break at the X-Bowling Art Center.

12.00 - 12.30: Presentations by experts. The experts are people with knowledge related to the thematic field, which will receive and answer questions with the aim of enriching the proposals regarding climate neutrality in the thematic area of their expertise.

12.30 - 14.30: Visioning in thematic groups. The space of the X-Bowling Art Center has been configured in an appropriate way to host the pupils' consultation process and workshops. In each thematic group there are 15-18 pupils, who have walked the same path and collaborate with the help of a facilitator. The methodology that will be used in the thematic groups is the methodology of the World Café which requires the delegates grouping around 3-4 round tables. During the work, the pupils can turn to the expert in order to get help to answer their questions about their topic.

The following steps are followed in detail:

1. The pupils, from 3 to 4 different schools, start by presenting the posters of their schools, which are already placed on the tables printed in A3 size paper and which present the proposals on climate neutrality for their school, neighbourhood or city. (The same posters in large size 70X100 will be permanently displayed in a specially designated area of the hall).

2. The facilitator rephrases the proposals, summarizing the pupils' presentations and the ideas of the thematic group thus introducing the topic they will deal with, e.g. energy. The participants report their experience of the path (PRESENT), what they liked or didn't like with the aid of photos of the PRESENT of Elefsina on each table. At the same time, the facilitator places the photos from the PAST on the tables, which the children have seen along the path and connects the PRESENT – PAST with the next step of the group which is the FUTURE.
 3. The facilitator reminds them of the World Café methodology, which pupils have already familiarized themselves with at school.
 4. The group is divided into 3 round tables. Each table processes the question of its board (1st round). Two more ten-minute rounds with a change of teams follow. Pupils go around all the tables. They have the opportunity to use a range of words on the topic which may be found in a box. This is what they can refer to if they forget a term, while ensuring that the ideas are self-generated.
 5. The last round table group summarizes the ideas contained in the cards of all tables.
 6. On a fourth large cardboard 100x70 some children start visualizing the path of the future with collage and painting.
 7. The pupils record on the fourth card the ideas - suggestions from their topic that can contribute to a climate- neutral Elefsina.
 8. The group nominates two or three pupils, to present to the plenary the proposals resulting from their consultation with the help of a mobile microphone. Each group's final card is posted on the consultation wall.
- 14.30 - 15.30: Presentation of the proposals in plenary.** All the cardboards are placed on the wall so that they can be seen by all the groups and each group presents the cardboard with its ideas.

15.30 - 16.30: Closing and preparation for the next day. Pupils and teachers synthesize the proposals that have emerged from the two days workshops.

The participants of the second day come from the schools: 1st and 3rd High School of Kalamaria, 1st High School of Pylaia, 2nd High School of Perea, 11th High School of Thessaloniki, 1st Primary School of Elefsina, 3rd Primary School of Zografou, Schweizerhof Elementary School (Germany), Wilhelm-von-Humboldt School (Germany), Temple-Grandin School (Germany), Private elementary school Tvrdava (Serbia), Rapatnica Primary School (Bosnia and Herzegovina), Slavko Lumbarkovski, Municipal Primary school (North Macedonia), Faik Konica Primary

and lower secondary school (Kosovo), Ismail Klosi (Albania).

Thursday 11 May 2023 (Day 3, English)

3

09.00 - 10.00: Summary of consultation results. A small delegation of pupils will consolidate the proposals that have emerged from the first and second day, classify them by thematic field, and produce a resolution.

10.00: Arrival of the delegations from the schools of Athens, the Balkans and Germany.

10.00 - 10.30: Presentation of results and resolution. Announcement of the consolidated proposals by topic the plenary session. Distribution of the resolution text to all groups.

10.30 - 12.45: Visualization of proposals through art.

The third day delegates are divided into groups and participate in one of the following workshops:

a) Visual representation on map. The pupils mark on a map of Elefsina the thematic routes they took, add their ideas and suggestions for changes, and record their feelings.

b) Construction of pickets. The pupils decide which slogans they want to include, write them on the pickets painted and prepared for use in a symbolic pupils' march to the City Hall at the end of the conference. The making of pickets with slogans for climate neutrality is an expression of the pupils' mood or intention for action.

c) Music workshop. In the music workshop, the pupils write the lyrics of a song to a given melody and prepare it so that they can perform it at the end of the conference at the Town Hall.

d) Photography workshop. The pupils create a real exhibition with images from Elefsina they have captured through their own lens. The printed photos will "acquire a voice" through captions, which will be created by the children and will be put on display, so that the residents of Elefsina can see them.

e) Art workshop. With the help of a visual artist, the vision of the three-day pupils' consultation on climate neutrality is visualized through the use of mixed media.

f) Sculpture construction. The pupils create a three-dimensional construction from recyclable materials which represents their vision for the climate neutrality of Elefsina.

g) Theatrical action. The pupils express themselves with theatrical techniques on issues related to climate neutrality. The team physically represents the experiences gathered during the three days of the conference.

h) Musical act and dance. Participatory creation of "Unification song" with lyrics containing words and phrases from participation in Mystery no.149 along with "circle movement" (circle dance), which highlights the messages of the unification song and instills feelings, meanings, experiences, memories, visions, bridging past-present-future, based on the participation of pupils in all activities.

12:45 - 13.00: Reflection and closing

Pupils will get together in a circle for one last moment of reflection, sharing emotions

13.00 - 13.30: Snack break

13.30 - 14.30: Pupils' march to the City Hall. Pupils walk using the pickets, stop in the square, perform the song and present the proposals of the Pupils' Conference for the transition to a climate neutral future to the Mayor and City Board of Elefsina.

Description of thematic routes

ROUTES/AREA	DESCRIPTION
VLychA route	X- Bowling Art Center, Old Olive Mill, Titan, Shipwrecks, harbor embankment, wetland, "Soures" estuary
IRIS route	X- Bowling Art Center, renovated neoclassical buildings (Harilaou and Ionos Dragoumi Streets), workers' housing, IRIS factory and chimney, Jumbo
KRONOS route	KRONOS factory and port, beach, Aenaos sail, fishing port, PAE (Port Authority of Elefsina), bus terminal, marina, X- Bowling Art Center

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE route	X- Bowling Art Center, Nikolaidou pedestrian area, archaeological site, archaeological museum, point with a view (Gulf of Elefsina, olive mill, BOTRYS, TITAN)
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Round tables

THEMATIC ROUTES	THEMATIC DISCUSSION TOPIC	DESCRIPTION
Group 1 (VLYCHA)	INDUSTRY - ENERGY	<i>The group will examine the issue of energy in relation to its production and use, alternative sources and conservation and will seek solutions for the transformation of local industry and cities in general aiming at a climate neutral Elefsina.</i>
Group 2 (VLYCHA)	SEA- COAST- PUBLIC SPACE	<i>The team will deal with the issue of the sea and the wetland, their protection as ecosystems for the absorption of CO₂ and the return of the coastal front to the residents, with the aim of environmental revitalization of the area, mitigation and adaptation to climate change and upgrading the quality of life of the residents.</i>
Group 3 (VLYCHA)	BUILDINGS	<i>The team will examine the issue of the utilization of abandoned and reused industrial and other public and private buildings and their surroundings, through integrated or symbolic interventions in an energy-efficient and architecturally sustainable way, aiming at highlighting the history of the place and preserving historical memory in a climate-neutral course of the city.</i>
Group 4 (KRONOS)		
Group 5 (KRONOS)	SEA	<i>The team will deal with the issue of the sea, its protection as an ecosystem for the absorption of CO₂, green transformation of its ports and maritime transportation, as well as giving back the coastal front to the inhabitants, aiming at the upgrading of life quality and transition to climate neutrality.</i>
Group 6 (KRONOS)	MOBILITY	<i>The team will explore all issues of sustainable urban mobility, both within the city and in its connection to the cities of Athens and Piraeus, aiming at facilitating the lives of residents and visitors in climate-neutral ways.</i>
Group 7 (IRIS)		
Group 8 (IRIS)	WASTE	<i>The team will deal with sustainable waste management (reduction-reuse-recycling) and the respective infrastructures of the city, aiming at Elefsina's transition to climate neutrality.</i>
Group 9 (ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE)	CULTURAL HERITAGE	<i>The team will examine the archaeological site of Eleusis as a cultural heritage and public space, its protection from climate change and pressures from tourism and the universal connection of the past with the future in the direction of climate neutrality within a local as well as global historical context.</i>
Ομάδα 10	MOBILITY	<i>The team will investigate all issues of sustainable urban mobility, both within the city and in its connection to Athens and</i>

(ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE)		<i>Piraeus cities, with the aim of facilitating the lives of residents and visitors in climate-neutral ways, with a particular emphasis on specificities and characteristics of the archaeological site and its connection to the wider area on a functional as well as historical level.</i>
Group 11 (ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE)	NUTRITION - AGRICULTURE	<i>The group will discuss the issue of sustainable nutrition and local food production, aiming at Elefsina's transition to climate neutrality.</i>

DESIGN METHODOLOGY

[Beacon](#) methodology has been utilized for the planning and implementation of the stages during the three days of the pupils' conference as follows:

Stage	Content
PREPARATION	Trails - Impressions and ideas collection, interaction with residents
ARRIVAL	Pupils' exploration and self-expression (what they liked/didn't like in connection with climate neutrality in the route they walked) (PRESENT)
SENSE	Display of photos from the past of Elefsina - discussion and connection with the present and transition to the vision for the future (PAST-FUTURE)
LEARNING	Investigation of specific questions in plenary for the city's climate neutrality, with the participation of specific experts per thematic section.
DESIGN	Planning a common vision and consultation of pupils per thematic area in small groups using the World Café method based on the emotional and cognitive data collected during the thematic routes in Elefsina.
DISSEMINATION	Presentation of the group vision to the other children of the conference and to the stakeholders in plenary (Mayor, local community, press and to other schools in the period following the conference).

Participating school institutions

- 1st Primary School of Elefsina
- 4th Primary School of Elefsina
- 7th Primary School of Elefsina
- 8th Primary School of Philadelphia (Athens)
- 3rd Primary School of Zografou (Athens)
- 10th Primary School of Ilioupoli (Athens)
- 4th Primary School of Petroupoli (Athens)
- 5th Primary School of Petroupoli (Athens)
- 39th Primary School of Peristeri (Athens)
- 1st High School of Kalamaria (Thessaloniki)
- 3rd High School of Kalamaria (Thessaloniki)
- 1st High School of Pylaia (Thessaloniki)
- 2nd High School of Perea (Thessaloniki)
- 11th High School of Thessaloniki
- Schweizerhof Elementary School (Berlin, Germany)
- Wilhelm-von-Humboldt School (Berlin, Germany)
- Temple-Grandin School (Berlin, Germany)
- Private elementary school Tvrđava (Petrovaradin, Novicad area, Serbia)
- Rapatnica Primary School (Srebrenik, Bosnia and Herzegovina)
- Slavko Lumbarkovski, Municipal Primary school (Novaci, North Macedonia)
- Faik Konica Primary and lower secondary school (Pristina, Kosovo)
- Ismail Klosi (Ballsh, Albania)

Organizing committee

- Evi Tzanakaki (Project Manager), Architect MSc - Center for Renewable Sources and Energy Saving (CRES)
- Maria Dimopoulou, Coordinator of Environmental Education, 1st Directorate of Primary Education of Athens
- Eleni Niarchou, Coordinator of Environmental Education 3rd Directorate of Primary Education of Athens
- Alexandra Tsigou, Coordinator of Environmental Education, West Attica Directorate of Primary Education
- Antonia Dardioti, Coordinator of Environmental Education, East Thessaloniki Directorate of Secondary Education
- Florian Kliche, Managing Director (UfU)
- Cindy Prager, Research Associate Department for Energy Efficiency and Energy Transition (UfU)
- Muriel Neugebaue, Research Associate Department for Energy Efficiency and Energy Transition (UfU)

Conference hosting institutions

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