

## **“Paths of memory”**

**ERASMUS+ Project:** KA 1/ Volunteering projects, 2 flows of group EVS project

**Host organisation:** FILOXENIA, Intercultural-Environmental Organisation ([www.filox.org](http://www.filox.org))

**1<sup>st</sup> flow EVS project dates:** May 2019 (1 month)

**2<sup>nd</sup> flow EVS project dates:** September 2019 (1 month)

**Location:** Kryoneri Korinthias, Greece (semi mountainous village/ rural area/ 970 inhabitants)

**Partners/countries:** Germany, Israel, Finland, Italy, Spain, Slovakia, Luxembourg

**Participant's profile:** young people, youth with fewer opportunities, for example minorities/migrants, unemployed/low salaries, temporary jobs; lack of self-confidence; people who have never traveled; low education; learning difficulties; from disadvantaged areas, geographical isolation and rural areas; low/nil English level, though it would be recommended that one of the two country representatives has command of English.

**Participants:** total 14 persons (2 persons/country, basic level of English recommended) x 2 flows

### **Project's description:**

The village Kryoneri is situated in the centre of the Corinthian province, at the same distance between sea and mountains. It is built like an amphitheater, at 740 meters of altitude and has a panoramic view above the Corinthian Gulf. Mount Vesiza (1.200 m.) overlooks the village and constitutes the natural border with the plain of the Stymfalía lake. From this mountain, the river Elisson spreads and crosses Kryoneri and the evergreen plain, before flowing in the Corinthian Gulf, towards Kiato.

### **Background of this project idea: STORY OF LIFE (Kryoneri 1943, 2017)**

Travel in time. During the year 1943, Rivka, six years old girl from Volos (Thessalia) came as a refugee with her family in the village Kryoneri (Matsani) of Corinthia. They needed to hide themselves from the Nazis and the Greek partisans helped them. Between October 1943 and October 1944 they have been hiding in local families and in a cave near the village. The villagers were helping them to escape, every time the German army was near. After the end of the occupation by the Nazis, the girl settled with her Greek-Jewish family to Israel.

74 years later, on September 6<sup>th</sup>, 2017 Rivka returned, with her 70 relatives (children, grandchildren, etc.) from Israel and Athens, to show them this place. Rivka's children had expressed the wish, to learn more about the history of their family. They searched the Greek village near Corinth and on June 2017 they started their travel. The family had decided, that it has been the time to reward the gratitude to the residents of the village. Together with the local authorities they supported the reconstruction of the amphitheater in the village, a cultural site of the local society, as a gesture of their gratitude to the inhabitants.

As Rivka wanted so much to show the cave to her family, it was necessary to clean up the footpath, guiding to the Karamanos cave.

These moments will always remain in the minds and hearts of the youngsters, the Jewish family and the residents of Kryoneri.

This story is a great example of humanity and positive motivation for human actions in 2018 and for the future. We need to keep those “Paths of memory” alive and accessible to all.

To keep the footpath visible and accessible to all people, during the whole year, we need to maintain it and make it environmentally and technically sustainable. Within this group EVS project we would like to underline this story and topics of memory in our village and in our region.

During this Group EVS, young people will help out on the following sectors:

- cleaning up the environmental footpaths guiding to the Karamanos cave;
- building wooden equipment for the footpath (banks, stairs, etc.),
- developing memory points/ panels, constructing signs in environmental footpath;
- developing memory points/mosaic objects in this environmental footpath;
- reusing recycling material for wooden constructions;
- video documentation

The project's programme will also include a **complementary activity (Study visit)** aiming at strengthening the impact of the project.

- Study visit, a day trip to Kalavryta, visit of the Execution's Memorial 1943, visit the Holocaust Museum. Through this Study visit at the Holocaust Museum in Kalavryta in combination with workshop and meetings, it will be important for us to motivate young people, to be active in their lives. As the EVS project is more about practical activities, with knowledge basis on the topic of memory, we would like to focus during this- one day study visit, planned to be organised at the first half of the project period, to let people reflect about this period of our history, to give them some knowledge and brainstorm about the issues, things that happened and how they see them.

Aim: learning from the past and better future for the next generations, raise awareness against racism, hatred, intolerance. Participants will get knowledge and methods, tools and can possibly act as multipliers back in their places.

And other exciting activities such as:

- get to know our gastronomy and farming culture
- Organic food
- learning of Greek dances
- mountain biking, hiking and open air activities to relax and to get to know each other.

**Necessary personal equipment: working clothes (long & short trousers), shoes and sun hut for outdoor work. Working tools and gloves will be available by the organiser.**

