

Sabine Pappas is sharing with MCE her experience...

“2021 gave me the opportunity to participate in the Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs programme, as a Young Entrepreneur with the Mediterranean Center of Environment. Over the course of 5 months, this apprenticeship experience amazed me by the degree of emergence, information and adaptation it entailed!

Even if the context of the Covid-19 outbreak restricted us to remote exchanges for a number of these months, already from the very first days of collaboration it was fascinating to uncover mutual connections shared in our preexisting networks throughout Greece and France.

The points of similarity between this organization and myself were poignant from the start: Not only do we share the same years of existence, but also our double roots of origin : Greece and France, and three languages of communication.

Springing from this common ground, coupled with affiliated mindsets, our collaboration evolved into ever broader cycles, expanding all the way from Sardinia to Norway - with a pitstop in Nepal !

I immersed myself in the 30 years of experience that these two power-women and their team have been dedicatedly weaving, in three main domains of expertise: project development and management in learning and training programs, contributing to the evolution of Responsible Tourism in Greece and via transnational partnerships, and acquiring hands- and feet-on skills for assisting an experienced nature guide.

In terms of skills enhanced these range from project writing, reviewing and valorizing; coordination and contractualization of partnerships ; project timetable & budget creation; team, time & crisis management... and many more I am sure I am only starting to become aware of!

As a heavily myopic person, I am especially sensitive to new pairs of glasses, and this learning experience has offered me more than a few great new pairs of these -metaphorically thankfully :D

Among a long list of them, I will indicatively mention three here:

- the multiplicity of ways that projects run by the MCE *value* and create *added value* to natural and cultural (tangible and intangible) heritage, facilitating its preservation, interpretation and regeneration;
- their holistic approach and scope in developing local sustainable tourism projects, particularly the ways in which wider ecosystem relations and economic forces are taken into account;

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- the underlying organizational culture of a purpose-driven team, underpinned by trust and transparency, quality of attention and intention and a clarity of inner presence that informs outer purpose.

Being able to witness and take part in these simple and yet very powerful core truths at the baseline of this specific organization and team was precious learning. More than anything else it is this which brought me closer to fulfilling my intention of developing a clearer sense of self and purpose thus infusing my own entrepreneurial endeavor, sChOoL 🚀 withOut frOntiers! 🚢, with sharpness of vision, greater dedication to its mission and a rich network of worldwide connections.

I wish to thank the intermediary organizations, **Oxalis Scop** (France) and **Asset technologies** (Greece), for all the guidance, support, the monthly check-ins and all the fluid communication from set-up to closure stages - never has an Erasmus+ programme seemed so effortless !

...les Isabelles, **Merci** pour votre confiance et votre générosité! A.TrÈS bientôt ;))

And my deepest gratitude to Lonais, for being the miraculous catalyst of this connection, and so much more''!

