

ERASMUS PLUS PROGRAM

GEPARKS - NATURAL AND CULTURAL HERITAGE THAT JOINS EUROPEAN STUDENTS AND TEACHERS

2018 – 2020 Dissemination – 2018 – 19



ERASMUS+

2014 - 2020 programme for Education,
Training, Youth, and Sport



Results of National Poster Contest of Geoparks.

The competition was organized from Cyprus team of the European Program in association with Bank of Cyprus which sponsored our winning prizes and also Department of Geological Survey from the Ministry of Agriculture Rural Development and the Environment of the Republic of Cyprus and Geoparks of Troodos and Lesvos island in Greece and was first announced in the 8th Conference of Natural Sciences from the coordinator of Cyprus Team of the program Mr. Nikolas Nikolaou and in Annex 1 you can find the first announcement of the competition with all details, rules, prizes, dates of the accepting posters, evaluating posters and everything that was important for the competition.

In the competition took part more than 10 posters from 5 different schools of Cyprus and all posters passed from the Jury which where the following:

1. Dr Efthimios Tsiolakis from Department of Geological Survey, Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Development and Environment of the Republic of Cyprus
2. Dr Antigoni Polyniki from Cyprus National Commission of UNESCO
3. Mr Petros Xatjikostas from Troodos Geopark and Development Company of the Troodos Region (AN.E.T.)

With the evaluation of the posters we had the winning teams and schools of the competition and the prizes were given in a simple ceremony during the 2nd day of the 2nd Global Conference of Greece and Cyprus Geoparks of Unesco on Friday 17th of May to the Ministry of Economics in Nicosia. The three winning posters were:

1st winning Poster: “Drinking Water of Natural Sources in Geopark of Troodos and their connection with our health” with the students Rafaelia Koumoydiou and Adelina Papapetrou from Lyceum Agios Ioannis Limassol

2nd Winning Poster: “Physical and Chemical properties of soil and how is associated with the vegetation (plantation) in an area”, with the students Kozakou Maria, Christou Maria and Kallinakis Alexandros from Lyceum Agios Ioannis Limassol

3rd winning poster: with the students Georgiou Anna and Petrou Fotini and their teacher Fotini Fotiou from Periferiako Gimnasio Kitiou in Larnaca.

In appendix A you can find the regulations of the National Poster Contest about Geoparks and on Appendix B the posters that won the 3 first prizes. In Appendix C you can find photos from the winning ceremony about the poster competition. All the students and teachers of the winning teams received books in Greek and English about the Cultural Heritage of National Cultural Monuments of Cyprus from our National Agency of UNESCO in Cyprus. Also winning schools received a book about the History of UNESCO in all over the world and the first winning school received a book for all Geoparks of Europe as you can see in the photos. All books that school received about Geoparks of UNESCO will be in the libraries of the schools. Also the students of all the winning teams will take place in an educational environmental trip for 3 days in Environmental Center of Pedoulas and students of the first winning place of the competition will receive a personal tablet for their personal use that were given from the Bank of Cyprus as it was our special sponsor for the competition.

Appendix A: Regulations of Cyprus National Contest for UNESCO Geoparks

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1st School National Competition of Posters about National Geoparks of UNESCO

Lyceum of Agios Ioannis from September 2018 is a partner in the Erasmus Plus Program with title: **GEOPARKS - NATURAL AND CULTURAL HERITAGE THAT JOINS EUROPEAN STUDENTS AND TEACHERS, 2018-1-PL01-KA229-050575_5**. The project carried out by students and teachers from Poland, Spain, France, Bulgaria, Hungary, Cyprus. It is an interdisciplinary project combining Biology, Geology, Geography, Environmental Science, Language, Arts. All partners will be involved in presenting one GEOPARK of their region. In many countries around the world, earth science education is lacking. More informations about the program you can find : <http://www.geoparks.erasmusproject.eu/>

Within this program, a Pancyprian School Poster Competition is held on the Geopark of Europe. The Competition is run by the Lyceum of Agios Ioannis in cooperation with the Bank of Cyprus, which also subsidizes the Awards of the Competition and the following Departments dealing with Natural Sciences and Geoparks:

1. Inspection of Physics, Chemistry and Biology of Secondary Education of the Ministry of Education and Culture of the Republic of Cyprus
2. Department of Geological Survey, Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Development and Environment of the Republic of Cyprus
3. Troodos Geopark and Development Company of the Troodos Region (AN.E.T.)
4. Department of Geography, University of the Aegean and Geopark of Lesvos, Greece

In this 1st announcement of the Competition there are the competition's rules, the poster's rating criteria, the important closing dates for the contest, and the awards for the highest ranked posters.

Regulations of the Geopark Poster Competition

In order for a poster to take part in the Contest, the following should be applied:

1. Students and groups of pupils (groups of students must not exceed 3 pupils) attending Public and Private Schools of Secondary and Technical Education have the right to participate.
2. Any group of pupils who will send a poster for the contest will only be coordinated by a teacher.
3. The subject of the poster should be relevant to the following individual subjects or to any subject related in any way:
 - i. Geology and Geoparks
 - ii. Geophysics
 - iii. Geotechnology in Geoparks
 - iv. Biodiversity and Geoparks
 - v. Petrified Forests
 - vi. Geoparks and History
 - vii. Natural Environment and Geoparks
 - viii. Geopark of Troodos
 - ix. Geopark of Lesvos
 - x. UNESCO Geoparks
 - xi. Geoparks of Europe
 - xii. Petrified Forest of Lesvos
 - xiii. Geotourism on Geopark
 - xiv. Geophysics

- xv. Geo-environment
 - xvi. Geography and Geoparks
 - xvii. Earthquakes and Geoparks
4. The poster to be presented should have a scientific structure (only electronic poster structure) and through it to show the process and research done in the bibliography. The poster must be in dimension A1.
 5. The pupils will present their posters to the competition jury in May in a venue that will be announced later by the organizers in the participating teams.
 6. The jury will be composed of experts in Geopark and Natural Sciences that will represent the organizations co-organizing the Contest.
 7. The posters will be presented and judged during the 2nd Global UNESCO Geopark of Greece and Cyprus Conference on May 17, 2019 in Nicosia in a space to be announced.

Important Dates of the Competition

1. Statement of participation in the competition: Until 20 April 2019, e-mail geoparksofeurope@mail.com marked "National Geopark Competition".
2. Participation form giving the reasoning behind the creation of the poster: By May 12, 2019, e-mail geoparksofeurope@mail.com (the form will be sent to the participants by sending their application)
3. Scientific poster in electronic format: May 14, 2019, to email geoparksofeurope@mail.com
4. Review by Jury: By Friday 17th of May at the Geopark Conference in Nicosia.

Rating Criteria for the poster by the Jury

The evaluation of the poster by the jury will be based on the following criteria:

1. Relevance to issues related to Geoparks: **Up to 10 points**
2. The posterity of the poster: **Up to 30 points**
3. Participation form with poster creation: **Up to 20 credits**
4. Bibliographic support of the poster: **Up to 10 points**
5. Participation of pupils in poster creation: **Up to 10 points**
6. Presentation of the poster by students: **Up to 20 points**

Total units: 100

Awards to the highest ranked teams

All groups of pupils who will take part and all coordinating teachers will receive a certificate of participation in the competition. The three highest ranked posters will be awarded, taking respectively the following awards:

1st Prize: The students and the coordinator of the poster who will receive the highest score will get from a tablet and will be able to participate in a three-day Environmental Trip at Pedoulas Environmental Centre at Troodos Geopark.

2nd Prize: The students and the coordinator of the poster will receive the 2nd highest score will receive a prize from a book on the UNESCO Geoparks and will be able to take part in a three-day Environmental Trip at Pedoulas Environmental Centre at Troodos Geopark.

3rd Prize: The students and the coordinator of the poster will receive the 3rd highest score will receive a prize from a book on the UNESCO Geoparks and will be able to take part in a three-day Environmental Trip at Pedoulas Environmental Centre at Troodos Geopark.

Communication

For any further clarifications and queries, you can contact the following program representatives:

Nikolas Nikolaou (Physicist, Lyceum of Agios Ioannis, Limassol): Coordinator of the Erasmus Plus program "Geoparks - Natural and Cultural Heritage that Joins European Students and Teachers"

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Konstantina Theofylaktou (Geologist at the Visitors Department of the Troodos Geopark)

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Appendix B: Posters of the winning prizes

Drinking water in the natural sources of Troodos and Health



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Students: Koumoudiou Rafaelia, Papapetrou Atelina

Summary

First of all, we chose this theme because we are taking part in the Erasmus program. The theme of this program is the Geopark. We wanted to answer the research questions about the Troodos' water and especially the water near the geopark of Troodos. We started with our experimental design (With base what we wanted to prove and to search). Then we had a debate with our teachers and with the chemicals at the State General Laboratory. There we've decided about our research questions. We wanted to do an research about the water's Chemical properties in relation to altimeter of the area of each source. Then we wanted to compare the water of Troodos' area with the water in Saint Johns' area or in Limassol's area. We followed our methodology and we ended up with some conclusions that we combined with our health. We want to emphasize that the water of Troodos is more suitable as drinking water and for our health than the drinking water of Limassol which is better for domestic use because it has a few salts.

Research Questions

1st research question: What are the different in physical and chemical properties between the drinking water in the natural sources of Troodos and the drinking water in Limassol?

2nd research question: How they change the physical and chemical properties with the different altitude of each source?

Water collection based on altitude



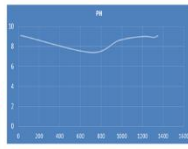
Chemical analyzes at the State General Laboratory



On February we went at the State General Laboratory. Here we saw the way of chemical analysis which it will be used for the waters that we took. When we took the results from the state general of laboratory we started with the export of conclusions.

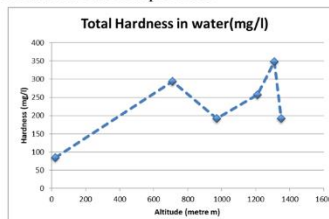
pH – acidity of water in Cyprus

The results about pH after the chemical analysis were around 9 for all the testers that we took. For our results we can say that the water of Limassol area and Troodos area are alkaline(basic) and they are appropriate for drinking



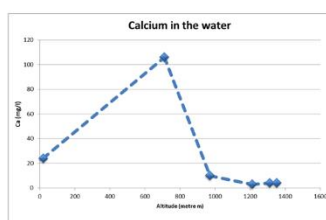
Total Hardness

Total hardness is determined by the multivalent cations' concentrations present in water. The most common cations present in hard water are Mg^{2+} and Ca^{2+} . Hard water is water that has high mineral content. A water is hard when it contains more than 75 kg of dissolved solids per liter.



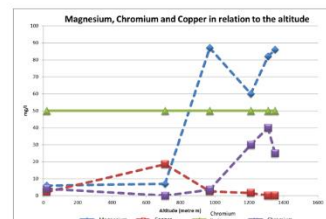
From the graph we can say that the hardness of the water increases as we go up in altitude making the water of Troodos hard enough and quite beneficial to our health. The water of Limassol is difficult to characterize hard water because it's in the limits of hardness and it's better for domestic use (it has a few salts).

Calcium in the water



We notice that the sources with higher altitude don't have a large amount of calcium in the water. This is due to calcareous rocks that they don't have the highest altitudes so they don't enrich the water with calcium. Unique exception is the water at the source of Agias Mavris. So, maybe the water of the source of Agias Mavris passes by calcareous rocks.

Magnesium, Chromium and Copper in relation to the altitude



We notice that the water has a lot of magnesium and chromium while we go up in altitude. Chromium in high altitude sources is close to the limit of the World Health Organization. For Copper, we do not notice significant differences, as can be seen from the concentration graph.

CONCLUSIONS

- All data reviewed in chemical measurements made from all sources are within the acceptable limits of the World Health Organization and on the Quality of Water of Human Consumption. Some of them in some sources were close to the limit but no one exceeded the acceptable limits.
- Water from the source of Agia Mavri is rich in calcium and suitable for people who are deficient in calcium or suffer from osteoporosis.
- As we go up in altitude, the water is rich of the sources of magnesium and chromium, trace minerals that are important to our health and are more suitable for people with chronic problems such as osteoporosis (magnesium) and diabetes (chromium with insulin contributes to maintaining low levels of sugar)
- Water from all sources in Cyprus is alkaline, has pH close to 9, which is characterized as the ideal water for people who follow an alkaline diet.
- Limassol water can be described as moderate hardness water. The water from all the sources of the Troodos Geopark is hard. So in relation to health, water from the sources of the Troodos Geopark contains significant amounts of Mg that are beneficial to our health.

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Physical and Chemical Properties of the Earth and how it is associated with the vegetation of an area

Summary

In our research we worked with the physical and chemical properties of the subsoil and we try to conclude into some general conclusions inside of a well-designed scientific methodology which we present them in this poster. Specifically, we collect soil from three different areas in Cyprus (specifically we choose the areas because of the different diversity of the subsoil) and with the packed soil that we bought from the market (plant test for comparison) we tried to see how the subsoil affect the growth of 2 different plants.

Research Questions

1. How does the soil of a region affect the growth of plants?
2. If there are some differences in the soil and in the subsoil of the area of Troodos Geopark and if these there are any differences are these differences able to affect the plant's growth and generally their characteristics while they are growing.

Experimental Measurements



Through the chart it seems that all plants started growing after the fifth day except of those from the area near the temple of Apollona Ilati in Kourion area, where the plants delayed three days. In the contrary the plants with the soil from Akrotiri area were not growing, since the soil in this area has poor corrosion, low strength and it gets easily deformed. As a result, the plants cannot growth without the nutrients and the absorption of the water. The plants from the other areas prospered properly. The soil from the nursery and from the temple of Apollona Ilati had caused the highest growth to the plants which have approximately the same height. This kinds of soil are well-graded and the thin grains penetrated better to the bigger grains gaps. Due to this all our plants can have a satisfying height. So by this, this kinds of soil are well-graded and the thin grains penetrated better to the bigger grains gaps.

Granulometric Analysis – Physical Soil Properties

Because our results in chemical analyzes was approximately the same for all our different kinds of soil, we wondered why the plants with the soil of Akrotiri didn't have any growth? To answer that we needed to see the physical properties of the soil and we passed all the kinds of soil through granulometric analyze which help us to find some conclusions for the physical characteristics of each soil. So we study the different results of each soil in a relation with the size of granules and with the prices that we have we made the granulometric curves for each different type of soil as we see in the graph of Granulometric curves.

Soil collecting areas



1. Troodos Geopark area (River of Mesa Potamos near the water falls)
2. Ancient Temple of Apollonas Ilati in Kourion area in Limassol
3. Akrotiri area near Limassol
4. from the planetarium too

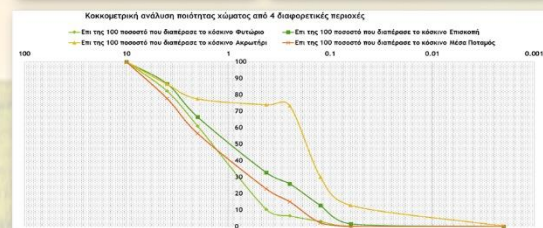
Staging of the experiment layout



Chemical Analysis – Chemical Soil Properties

We made chemical analysis that showed how much acid had all the kind of soils and also how many nutrients they were contained in the different kind of soils. Through our results we noticed that all areas were rich in potassium and phosphorus and that their acidity was similar.

Since we couldn't answer our second research question with chemical analyzes, we decided to deal further with the physical properties of the soil.



Conclusions

Through the curves of the granulometric analysis, we saw that the soil from the area near the temple of Apollona Ilati, the phytosanitary and the River Middle in Troodos as it appears from the curve is well graded. This means that the fine granules penetrate better in the voids among the larger granules and by this the soil is durable and it shows corrosion. In addition, it can concentrated better and it can to absorb all the water and the nutrients. This makes them more cultivated. On the contrary, the curve of the soil in Akrotiri Area has a poor gradient, since there is a large diameter which presents large gaps. Thus, it has less strength and is easily deformed. Moreover, it cannot absorb all the water and the nutrients. In this kind of soil almost none kind of vegetation can grow except the bushes.



Students: Maria Kozakou, Maria Christou, Alexandros Kallinakos

Appendix C: Photos of the Winning Ceremony Prizes



3rd Prize



2nd Prize



1st Prize

