

EUROPEAN COOPERATION DAY 2017
COOPERATION PROGRAMME INTERREG V-A Greece-Bulgaria 2014-2020
“DISCOVER THE OTHER, BECOME ANOTHER”

EC-Day is an initiative of INTERACT network, which involves all EU countries that are participating in Territorial Cooperation Programmes, with a view to highlighting the importance of cooperation in cross-border areas of EU both within the borders and beyond. It is a celebration of the benefits of European Territorial Cooperation for people across Europe. Each year over 70 Territorial Cooperation Programs participate in the European Cooperation Day, with much more than 250 events.

Organizing various initiatives throughout September, for a sixth consecutive year the achievements and results generated under the joint cooperation programmes and projects are celebrated within the European Cooperation Day.

In the framework of the above initiative, on 20th of September in Haskovo, Bulgaria a festal event under the motto “To Discover Nearby and Far-away Lands Together” including a post cards exhibition and a “Treasure Hunt” educational entertainment game for pupils took place. The European Cooperation Day was celebrated Orestiada, Greece, on 21st of September, with a blood donation campaign, voluntary blood donation and a torch-race performed by children. The two events were united under the motto “Discover the Other, Become Another”.

After the official opening in the picturesque courtyard-lapidarium of the Regional Museum of History, the visitors - citizens and guests of town of Haskovo had the possibility to enjoy the exhibition of post cards from the 20th century showing sights from major Bulgarian, Greek and other European cities.

Pupils from “St. Ivan Rilski” Primary School, (including a disadvantaged child), together with Mrs. Hristina Masladzhieva, their teacher in history, participated in the second part of the celebration. The young explorers grouped in several teams used the beforehand prepared guidance book to hunt down pre-specified artefacts from the rich museum collection. Specialists from the Regional Museum of History-Haskovo guided the process providing the treasure hunters with valuable instructions and additional information about the historical heritage.

All the participants in the “Treasure Hunt” game successfully managed to fulfil the tasks and were awarded with special certificates and received branded gifts, provided by the INTERREG V-A Greece-Bulgaria 2014-2020 Cooperation Programme. The children were more than excited to be part of this adventure and defined it as a wonderful continuation of their history lesson, allowing them to get familiar with the rich thousand-year-old history of the cross-border area.

On the 21st of September, a blood donation campaign and the voluntary blood donation took place in the central square of Orestiada, where the heart of the city beats. The purpose of the event was to promote blood donation and raise awareness of voluntary blood donation, as well as the promotion of Co-operation Programs. Hundreds of people visited the info-kiosk while, at the same time, 41 bottles of blood were collected for the needs of the local area.

The central idea is that voluntary blood donation is, among other things, an act of cooperation that brings people and societies closer together, a cooperative act for life! Blood donors’ association of the city of Orestiada, in cooperation with the Managing Authority and the active support of the Mobile Unit for blood donation of Alexandroupolis’ hospital joined forces and became the word of mouth of the day!

Later in the evening, children volunteered and performed a long torch-race in the streets of the city, spreading the spirit of this social responsible initiative.







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