

High School of Makrygialos of Pieria, Greece
***“Journalistic Student Conference”* by Evaggelia Kanali, principal**

<p>Why did you/ your school choose to work on the issue of “Dealing with propaganda, misinformation and fake news”?</p>	<p>I have been publishing school newspapers since 2002 and I have always felt students' worry about information on editing their school newspapers. I had the possibility to organize in my school the “Journalistic Student Conference” for students and teachers from the High Schools and the Lyceums in Pieria who issue or plan to publish school newspapers. The main objectives of the Conference were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students and teachers to be informed by distinguished media journalists on issues related to design, editing and publishing school newspapers. • To explore basic concepts of journalistic ethics, as well as impartiality, objectivity and the meaning of misinformation, false news, propaganda, misleading public opinion. • To realize their role as student journalists. • To promote and award their school newspapers and give motivations for new creations.
<p>What did you do and what went well? Who took part?</p> <p>Please describe some important steps of the process.</p>	<p>The Conference was held on 27 March 2018. The numbers were impressive: It was attended by 307 students and 72 teachers from 17 schools of Pieria.</p> <p>First Part Information-training of journalist students and teachers by renowned media journalists who developed interesting issues such as: -<i>"The Survival of Newspaper: Struggling with the Electronic Media"</i> -<i>"Newspaper: a collective information process, a paper publication"</i> -<i>"True and Promising News - The Validity of the News Through Reporting"</i> -<i>"Ethics, Limitations and Self-Censorship of Journalism"</i> - <i>"Financial Management of the School Journal"</i></p> <p>Second Part -Feedback - Archaeologists presented archaeological treasures - Students in an active journalist role -Promotion and school newspapers award</p>
<p>What were main challenges you have experienced?</p>	<p>The organization of the conference was a difficult task, and the challenges were rewarding. In a small provincial school, we have managed to organize a “Journalistic Student Conference” for the first time in our country. It was an innovative action with high goals and great impact on the educational community. We hope other schools follow our action.</p>
<p>Did your project/ practice/ initiative bring some changes? What were the benefits?</p>	<p>Many benefits have been achieved for students and teachers.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Students' Newspapers Archive -Local Education History -Conference records on school’s website -Network of communication/ views exchange for school journalist groups -Cooperation between school, parents, local authorities and society <p>Our next goals to organize:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exhibition School Newspapers of Pieria • 2nd Journalistic Student Conference

<p>What would you say to a colleague who is about to start the same kind of project/practice/initiative to help them repeat your success?</p>	<p>In a democratic school, inspired teachers do not only offer knowledge, but they lead pupils to new horizons through the development of innovative pedagogical actions, such as the edition of school newspapers. They motivate all students, regardless of their particularities (origin, cultural environment, disability) to collaborate by taking roles and feel creative by composing one or more issues of their newspaper. They also help all students demonstrate skills and talents and ensure a pleasant and attractive school environment without discrimination and exclusion.</p>
<p>Anything else you would like to highlight?</p>	<p>The writing and publishing of school newspaper is a cultural event that satisfies the desire of young people for communication, expression and creation. Pupils journalists learn to be more responsible and participant, to overcome the narrow boundaries of the school and become active citizens of the global community.</p>