

Virtual Journey to Vratsa: Education, Culture and Innovation with Erasmus+



Erasmus+

Виртуално пътешествие до Враца: Образование, култура и иновации с Еразъм+

Ученици от ППМГ „Акад. Иван Ценов“ – Враца, от клуб „Еразъм+“ с ръководители Пепа Павлова и Ани Павлова, се потопиха в една незабравима виртуална разходка из природните красоти на родния край. В Център „Книгини“ те имаха възможност да се докоснат до първия по рода си в България VR филм „Destination Vratsa – величие и красота в 360°“, създаден по идея на Сдружение „Книгини“ и представящ десет от най-забележителните природни обекти във Врачанския регион. Наред с това, участниците се насладиха на уютната атмосфера на кафене-книжарница с благотворителна кауза и усетиха как образованието, културата и иновациите могат да се преплетат в едно общо преживяване. В

рамките на дейността учениците получиха и творческа задача – да напишат есе на английски език за своите впечатления от виртуалното пътешествие. Тези текстове са бждат събрани и публикувани в електронна книга, за да споделят опита и вдъхновението си с по-широка аудитория.

Тази инициатива е ярък пример за мисията на програма „Еразъм+“ – да насърчава учене чрез иновации, културно многообразие, креативност и сътрудничество, които подготвят младите хора за едно по-свързано и отговорно европейско бъдеще.



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Students from PPMG "Acad. Ivan Tsenov" – Vratsa, members of the Erasmus+ Club with leaders Pepa Pavlova and Ani Pavlova, embarked on an unforgettable virtual journey through the natural beauty of their region. At the Knigini Center, they had the opportunity to experience Bulgaria's first-of-its-kind VR film *"Destination Vratsa – Greatness and Beauty in 360°"*, created on the idea of the Knigini Association and showcasing ten of the most remarkable natural landmarks in the Vratsa region. In addition, the participants enjoyed the cozy atmosphere of the café-bookstore with a charitable cause, discovering how education, culture, and innovation can intertwine in a unique shared experience.

As part of the activity, the students were also given a creative task – to write an essay in English reflecting on their impressions of the virtual journey. These essays will be compiled and published in an e-book or another resource, allowing them to share their experiences and inspiration with a wider audience.

This initiative is a vivid example of the mission of the Erasmus+ programme – to promote learning through innovation, cultural diversity, creativity, and cooperation, preparing young people for a more connected and responsible European future.

A Journey Through Vratsa's Wonders

The VR short film I recently experienced takes the viewer on a stunning visual journey through 12 landmarks around the town of Vratsa in Bulgaria. From the breathtaking Ledenika Cave to scenic eco-paths and towering mountain peaks, the film captures the region's natural beauty and historical richness. More than just a visual tour, this VR experience cleverly combines local heritage with cutting-edge technology to immerse the audience in both place and time.

The narrative is loosely centered on the journey of a group of historical figures dressed in Bulgarian Revivalist military clothing. These characters, resembling Hristo Botev and his fellow fighters, serve as symbolic guides throughout the film. They don't speak much but their presence adds depth and historical context, reminding the viewer of Bulgaria's struggle for independence and the sacrifices made. Their silent determination and traditional outfits help bring history to life in a subtle but powerful way.

What truly sets this film apart is the use of virtual reality. Unlike traditional cinema, VR places the viewer at the heart of the action. Standing at the edge of a cliff, walking through the icy halls of Ledenika Cave, or climbing steep mountain paths feels surprisingly real. The 360-degree view allows the audience to look around freely and take in the full environment, making each moment feel personal and unique.

The film also uses sound effectively. Natural background sounds—birds, wind, footsteps—are combined with a stirring traditional Bulgarian soundtrack that adds emotion and rhythm to the journey. The pacing is calm but engaging, giving viewers time to appreciate each location and reflect on its significance.

In conclusion, this VR film is not only a visual feast but also an emotional and educational experience. By blending natural landmarks, historical elements, and immersive technology, it manages to tell a story that is both rooted in Bulgarian identity and forward-looking. It's an excellent example of how virtual reality can enhance storytelling by making it more interactive and memorable. I would highly recommend it to anyone interested in culture, nature, or new forms of media.



My experience watching a 3d movie

A few weeks ago my class went to see a 3d movie. Initially I didn't know what to expect. While i knew such technology existed i had never tried it for myself. The only thing that was certain was that the movie was about Vratsa.

After all our classes had ended our teacher led us to beautiful old houses. I later learned that in spite of their appearance they were built only 80 years ago. The inside of one the buildings was also surprising. There were books hanging from the ceiling and also books in bookshelves. It turns out the people who play the movie also own a charity book-cafe.

I waited 20 minutes until it was my turn to watch the movie. I went inside the other house and put on a VR headset. The movie began. I saw some of the most famous landmarks in our municipality like the monument of Hristo Botev, the city centre, Hijata, cave Ledenica and a waterfall. A voice from the headset narrated the movie. I heard a lot of interesting facts about the sights. What made this movie different from 2d movies was that it could turn my head a see the scenery. It felt like you were actually visiting these places.

All in all watching the movie was a really interesting experience for me and I am thrilled I was able to participate in it! I am looking forward to taking part in similar events again in the near future.



VR Film Review

We have all watched normal 2D films. They are fun, we sympathize with the characters, we even feel like we're in the movie at some point. But what happens when we take that experience to the next level? How do we do this? With a VR headset and a VR film.

VR stands for "Virtual Reality" and it truly makes you feel like you are in the place you're seeing. You don't just watch the movie; you move and the world around you moves with you. For example, you could be underwater and look around – you'll see exactly what you would if you were there in real life. People even create games and simulators using VR technology. For example, in this way they can educate future pilots what it would feel like being on a plane in the air if they have no previous experience flying. In this way they can learn how to fly a plane in a safer way without even leaving the ground avoiding accidents and being worried about them occurring.

I recently experienced watching a VR film about our beautiful city – Vratsa. It is called "Destination Vratsa – Greatness and Beauty in 360°". The film was about the numerous breathtaking sights and the landmarks across the district. It was both educational and inspiring- it even motivated me to travel and go hiking in the stunning Stara Planina Mountain near Vratsa. Each landmark featured in the film – such as the Vratsata pass, Skaklya waterfall, Borov Kamak waterfall, Kobilini steni and a lot more

was accomplished by a short explanation which made the experience even more engaging.

In the film there was also a powerful segment related to the final moments of the revolutionary poet and national hero, Hristo Botev. I had never seen such a realistic presentation of our historical and national heritage – it was truly amazing.

My personal favorite part of this wonderful project was the paragliding sequence. I genuinely felt like I was in the air, and it



was thrilling seeing the earth from above. It even made me want to try paragliding there myself one day.

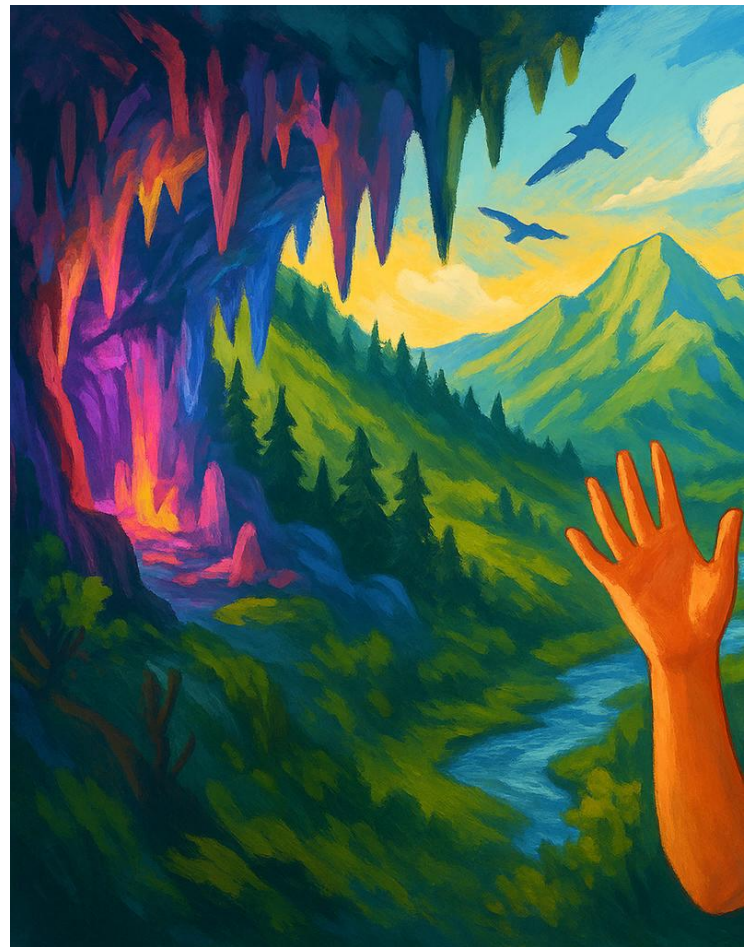
Overall, the experience was truly unforgettable – I had never known I would enjoy an educational film so much, but this one changed my perspective. It showed me how immersive and emotional VR storytelling can be. If you ever have the chance to watch a VR film like this, I highly recommend it.

VR Film Review: A Journey Through Nature in Vratsa

A few days ago, I had one of the most exciting experiences of my school life. Our physics teacher surprised us with a trip to watch a film using VR (Virtual Reality) headsets. I had never tried VR before, so I didn't know what to expect. As soon as I put the headset on, I was amazed. It felt like I had entered a completely different world.

The film we watched was about the natural landmarks in the town of Vratsa, located in northwestern Bulgaria. Vratsa is famous for its beautiful mountains, deep caves, and clear rivers. The film didn't have actors or a complicated story, but that didn't matter. The real "story" was the stunning nature, and the VR experience made it feel as if we were actually there.

For example, when the film took us to Ledenika Cave, I looked around and saw colorful lights reflecting off the cave walls. I could hear water dripping and felt like I could reach out and touch the rocks. Another amazing moment was flying over the Vrachanski Balkan mountains—I could see every tree, every cliff, and even birds flying nearby. It was breathtaking!



What made the film so powerful was the immersion. Unlike a normal 2D movie, VR made me feel like I was part of the scene. I could look in any direction and see something interesting. I believe this helped me understand and remember the information much better.

Overall, I really enjoyed this film and the VR technology. It was not only fun but also educational. I think VR should be used more often in schools, especially in subjects like geography, history, and science. It can help students stay focused, interested, and excited to learn new things.

This VR film about Vratsa was an unforgettable experience, and I hope I can enjoy more VR films like this in the future.



VR Film about Vratsa: my experience

Last week my physics teacher took me and my classmates to watch a film using VR (virtual reality) glasses, and it was one of the most exciting and new experiences for me. I had never watched a movie like this before, and I think it was amazing how real it felt.

To begin with, the 360-degree view was really interesting. I could look around in every direction and it felt like I was actually inside the movie. It wasn't just watching—it was like being part of the story. The film showed many beautiful and unique places near Vratsa. I didn't even know that some of them existed. It inspired me to visit them in real life.

Another thing that impressed me was the perspective. I saw some of the places from angles and heights that are impossible to reach in real life without professional equipment, like being on the top of the cliff or under the waterfall. The film was both interactive and educational, which made learning about the region fun and exciting. In conclusion, I strongly support the organization and the cause behind this film. It's a creative way to promote the beauty and history of Vratsa, and I hope more people can experience it like I did.

