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## Let's Teach Each Other

### Erasmus+KA229 School Exchange Partnership

Turkey

#### **“Marbling Art: Cultural Historical Art Workshop”**

The “Let's Teach Each Other Project”, which we participate with Slovakia, Czech Republic and Greece within the scope of Erasmus, aims to recognize historical and cultural heritage by using technology.

In parallel with this purpose, we, as the students of Maltepe High School of Science, organised a workshop about one of our most important cultural heritage: Marbling Art.

Marbling Art is colored compositions prepared on a concentrated liquid surface and applied primarily on paper. It is thought that the etymological origin of the word marbling derives from the Persian word ebr, which means "cloud".

It is not exactly known where and when the art of marbling started. However, there are some sources indicating that it was made in Turkistan in the 13th century, in Samarkand and in the Herat region in the east of Iran in the 14th century. Marbling art, just like paper, spread from east to west by using the Silk Road and other trade routes.

Marbling papers are also found on the edges and moldings of the writings in the old murakkas (albums). Even if the years of publication of the books in question are known, these dates cannot be counted as the dates of the marbling in them, because such old manuscripts have been repaired and renewed many times over the centuries.

So, we decided to organize a workshop in our school for our teachers and students, where they can have the chance to be closely acquainted with the marbling art, which is one of the most important art-based cultural heritage of our country. To achieve this, we have prepared all the necessary materials in advance: special marbling papers, marbling paints, bodkins and marbling brushes. And we learned about something really interesting: Gall water is used for marbling! It is used because it distributes the paint.



First of all, the teacher showed the ways to do it. First, the water with tragacanth should be prepared. One part of tragacanth is added to 100 parts of water (it is said that rain water was used for marbling in the past) and kept for at least one night by mixing. Thus, the tragacanth is dissolved. The water with tragacanth is filtered through a thick cloth bag and poured into the boat where the original marbling will be made. If the consistency is thick, add water until it reaches the consistency of salep. A small amount of the previously crushed dyes is taken into a cup or jar. If it is desired to spread too much in water, too much gall is added, if not, a small amount of gall is added. With the help of a brush specially made from horsetail, the tragacanth on the boat is dropped according to the degree of gall in the water. Dyes spread in water. The gall water allows the dyes to spread without mixing.

This way, the students had the opportunity to be aware of one of their cultural arts, marbling. And we, the students who want their history and cultural heritages to be known by all over the world, captured many videos and took really nice photographs to share them for art lovers via social media.

Heritages are not supposed to stay in the past, we can't just avoid them because they still remain nowadays. And it will be really beneficial if we combine history with technology and never let it die.