

Erasmulis - Agrinulis

Our school mascot for the Erasmus+ project 'Shatter the grey!'



The mascot design was based on three girls' drawings created for the mascot competition organised in school.



The mouflon of Cyprus was chosen to be our mascot. Its scientific name is *Ovis orientalis ophion*. It is a type of wild sheep which is unique in the whole world. It is the largest mammal that lives in the forests of Cyprus. During the ancient years an abundance of mouflon was recorded. However, due to the intense hunting, its numbers decreased, especially during the 1930's, where there were only 15 left, in the Paphos forest. In danger of its extinction, the whole Paphos forest was declared a banned hunting area. During the last decades, additional measures were taken for the protection of mouflon, and their numbers have grown satisfactorily. Although today they number 3000, this rare mouflon continues to be a strictly protected species.

Mouflon is vegetarian and likes soft tender shoots, wild berries and the various weeds that grow in shady ravines of the forest. It is a shy animal, very supple and fleet-footed. It moves very quickly especially when it senses the presence of humans.

Many ancient vases and other pieces of pottery depict the mouflon. The tradition continues to this day for it to be used as one of the symbols of Cyprus. Logos and insignia of mouflon appear on stamps, coins, company logos and bank notes to represent Cyprus.

