

July 2018

The Open School for Open Societies project

Newsletter

The three-year Open Schools for Open Societies project (OSOS-project) aims to implement an open school approach at more than 1000 European schools to enrich the learning experiences of students. An open school is a more engaging environment for students and will increase their motivation: student projects are connected to real needs from the community and can draw upon local expertise and experience. In addition, an open school will be inspired by its community and they can use these new insights to innovate their education.

Different European organisations, such as universities, schools, policy making organisations, science centres and organisations representing school heads and physics, are participating in this European education project.

The OSOS-project will enable schools to:

- Reach out to members of their community and build lasting relations
- Offer students the unique possibility to learn from real life projects
- Develop students' competences such as team work, problem solving, presentation and entrepreneurial skills
- Improve students' motivation and self-esteem
- Build a network of stakeholders and benefit from their knowledge and resources

Reached goals of the OSOS-project

The Open Schools for Open Societies project aims to support 1.000 schools in 12 countries to become Open Schools. What has the consortium achieved until June 2018?

More than 400 teachers from 132 different European primary and secondary schools have joined the adventure since the start of the OSOS-project. The first schools are supported by the Open School Development Plan, the implementation of at least one open school project and the collaboration within their hub. Such a hub, a network of schools with the same mission, will support the development of open school activities and the implementation of the open school approach. New schools can join one of the 50 existing hubs. Finally, 49 inspiring OSOS-projects have been collected and many of them have been tested and

improved by the first group of schools. This means that new schools can choose from many excellent inspiring projects.

Schools can count on:

- support around curriculum, pedagogy and assessment;
- guidelines and advices on different issues such as staff development, redesigning time and partnerships with the community;
- a range of possible implementation models;
- and a database full of successful 'open school' projects.

National OSOS event at Cité de l'espace, France

The French National Coordinator Cité de l'espace organised an event for students of seven OSOS schools in order to present and share their open school projects. This event was streamed online, so that interested people such as parents of the students and teachers from other countries could also [watch it](#).



Journée d'échange « Open Schools for Open societies »

The experience of a student with an open school project and the event at Cité de l'espace:

"We enjoyed working together with the association ANA (Association des Naturalistes de l'Ariège). We went to the field and the educator showed us how to spot the great-spotted woodpeckers. In addition, we received further information during biology class. Then we continued our project inside and outside the classroom. We enjoyed spotting the great-spotted woodpeckers daily from home and we also enjoyed our

involvement in a large scale research on biodiversity in the Pyrenees. We have learned to examine in which health status great-spotted woodpeckers are. Now we are looking forward to seeing the results of our observations and conclusions from real scientists.

About the event on Tuesday 5th of June, we enjoyed learning from other students. It was very interesting to hear what they have done and which approach they have used to reach the project goals. We were very proud to present our project, but also that we had the strength to speak in English!"

The experience of a teacher with open school projects and the event at Cité de l'espace:

"I experienced that a student project with the involvement of external partners fosters autonomy, curiosity and initiative. Participating students of the 'open school' project found out new ways of how to deal with knowledge and skills acquired thanks to involvement of different stakeholders. Furthermore, students discovered practical applications to a science issue that affects them all: the preservation of the Pyrenees, their home.

The event on Tuesday 5th of June was instructive, many projects were presented by students and we could see that they triggered the students' interest, which ensured that students were really motivated."

Interested? If your child's school is not yet taking part, please contact our national coordinators. They can help you to bring that school into contact with the OSOS-project.

Inspiring open school projects



The OSOS-project already includes inspiring open school projects and these projects will contribute to the transformation towards an open school. Schools from the first phase have tested and improved the open school projects. This has resulted in excellent open school projects. Short descriptions of the projects can be found on the [OSOS website](#) and the complete projects can be read on [the OSOS portal](#).

A teacher experience with one of the open school projects:

“The project we have carried out has as its objective: studying the approach to green spaces as a learning and environmental awareness laboratory. We thought it was important to address the issue of environmental awareness. Environmental awareness has reached our students through knowledge of the environment from different perspectives. Many stakeholders were involved in the OSOS-project, such as artists, former teachers, associations and professionals. The students have transferred their experiences to their families, something we had previously discussed with them.”

Name of the OSOS-project:

GREEN SPACES AS A LEARNING AND ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS LAB

School:

IES Las Salinas (Laguna de Duero, Valladolid, Spain)

More information at:

<https://reveropenschool.wixsite.com/misitio>

Do you want to be the next participating school of the OSOS-project?

Every primary and secondary school can join the OSOS-project and thus join a network of schools that all want to open up to their community. Our national coordinators can help you to come in contact with these existing networks of schools. They can also help you to become an open school. If you are interested in OSOS, you can attend one of our events which will be organized in all participating countries. These events provide information about the project: what does it deliver to a school, what does it require from teachers and students and what are the steps that each school takes? Are you interested in joining the events? Please contact [your national coordinator](#).

Contact

Do you want to know more about the OSOS-project? Read more on [our website](#) or [contact your national coordinator](#). If you want to be inspired regularly by experiences and good examples from our OSOS-project, you can follow us on Twitter and Facebook.



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