

November 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

Achieved goals in the pilot phase of the OSOS-project

The Open Schools for Open Societies project aims to support 1.000 European schools to become Open Schools. What has the consortium achieved until October 2018?

183 primary and secondary schools from 10 different European countries have joined the adventure in the pilot phase of the project. The schools are supported by national coordinators. They have helped the schools with drawing up an Open School Development Plan, the implementation of at least one open school project and the formation of a network with other open schools with the same mission. Together, the schools carried out 212 open school projects and these are shared on the [OSOS portal](#).

In conclusion, great results were achieved in the pilot phase of the Open Schools for Open Societies project. The pilot phase will be completed at the end of 2018 and the

implementation phase will start in January 2019. Curious which schools are already participating? [Look at the OSOS portal](#) and search for a school to see their level of Openness.

At the end of the implementation phase, at least 1000 schools in Europa will have joined the OSOS-project. It is expected that together they have implemented more than 1500 open school projects.



Is your school interested to participate in the OSOS-project?

Does your school want to become an open school, please contact your national coordinator. Your national coordinator will ensure that each new school can join an existing network of open schools and will also support the school with all the important steps that are necessary to take. New schools can choose from many tested and improved open school projects, but they can also be supported with the creation of a completely new project.

If your school is not taking part yet, please contact the [national coordinator](#) in your country. If you want to join an OSOS-event, then you can also contact your national coordinator.

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.

European Open Schooling Event

In Spring 2019, the first European Open Schooling Event will take place at Cité de l'espace in Toulouse, France. This event is a unique opportunity to share the existing open school projects and to reflect on the learnings of the schools from the pilot phase. About 200 people are expected to participate in this event and every participating country will be present.



Are you interested in joining this event? Please, contact your [national coordinator](#) and you will receive more information.

Inspiring open school projects

In the Open Schools for Open Societies project we want to realise a transformation in the schools and for this we use open school projects. Excellent school projects can certainly contribute to this.

There are many inspiring school projects collected by the consortium partners of the Open Schools for Open Societies project. Schools from the pilot phase have tested and improved these projects and this has resulted in excellent open school projects. Short descriptions of the final projects can be found on the [OSOS website](#) and the complete projects are on [the OSOS portal](#).

Curious about one of our open school projects? Below you can read more about the popular [project School Study Earthquakes](#) and the experiences of one of our schools from Greece.

Open school project School Study Earthquakes and the experiences from Greece

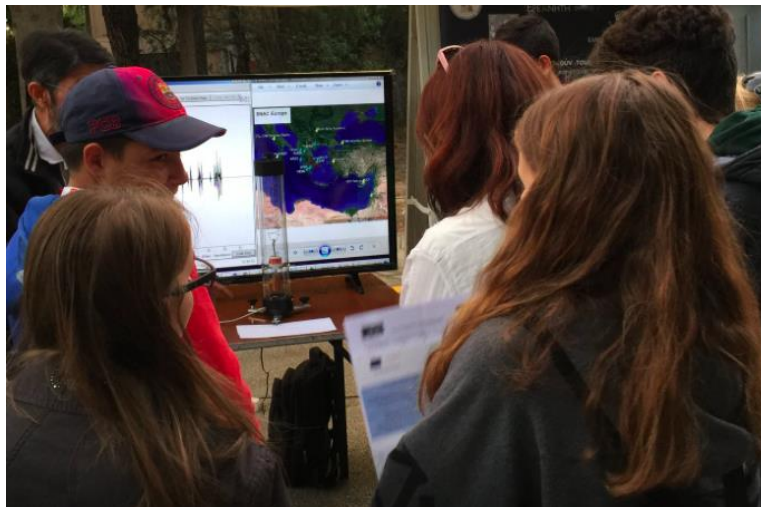
In the framework of the OSOS activities in Greece, Ellinogermaniki Agogi supported the implementation of innovative actions in the field of the study of earthquakes. Schools acted as information and awareness-raising research centers for earthquake and civil protection in collaboration with research institutions to increase the science capital of the community. The implementation was supported by a comprehensive framework of four actions, based on the needs of schools and local communities.

1. Development and Operation of a network of school seismographs

The result of the OSOS activities is the development of a network of schools equipped with school seismographs, ready to support new innovative educational activities in collaboration with research institutions and other local actors.

2. Build your own seismograph school contest

Ellinogermaniki Agogi in collaboration with the Geodynamic Institute of the National Observatory of Athens organised the school contest "Make your own seismograph" for secondary school students. In the context of the competition, groups of students are invited in collaboration with their teachers to build an improvised seismograph and record the whole process in a presentation accompanied by photographic or other audiovisual material. You can find more information at seismografos.ea.gr. "Scientific Research has to be introduced in our schools" said the President of the Hellenic Republic, Prof. Prokopios Pavlopoulos, during the [award ceremony](#) of the "Build your Own Seismometer" Contest that was organised in the framework of the Open Schools for Open Societies project.



3. National Student Science Parliament on Earthquakes.

Throughout the course of the action, students work on the themes they have chosen to better understand the subject, draw conclusions and formulate their own positions and suggestions on the subject. Through this process they cultivate those skills that are necessary for a thorough argumentation in favor of their positions. The theme for this year was: "Earthquakes: Exploring today's achievements, future challenges and aspirations in relation to education, protection and prevention"

4. Research "earthquakes and earthquake protection".

An example of the OSOS implementation was the research on earthquake awareness and earthquake protection for students and parents that was carried out in the framework of the project in collaboration with the Geodynamic Institute of the National Observatory of Athens.

The network of schools working on the "Schools Study Earthquakes" accelerator is expanding in numbers and in new countries. A series of events, like the Thessaly Science Festival, continue to be organized in order to support the related innovative activities.

OSOS Summer School 2019

Are you a school head or a teacher seeking to bring innovation to your school and open it to the local community? The OSOS Summer School aims to offer a high-impact and transformative experience in personal and organisational level through a series of workshops, good practices and challenges. Contributing to your own professional development, we will provide open school strategies and tools to implement the necessary changes in order to introduce openness in your own school. During the OSOS Summer School, personal and individualized support will empower you to engage in innovative practices. Instead of suggesting a one solution fits all approach, you will learn how to choose existing or design new open school activities addressing real needs of the local community.



More information about the training and the Funding opportunities of Erasmus can be found at <http://osos.ea.gr/> or please contact osos_summer@ea.gr for further information.


It was a combination of hard work and relaxation in Marathon, Greece. The program was varied with many interactive moments. There was contact with Biosphere 2 in Arizona and we had a virtual visit to a space center in Russia


I have learned a lot, especially from the experiences and stories of other teachers. Hopefully I can help other schools in the Netherlands with the next step. I am absolutely convinced that OSOS has potential. I am even more enthusiastic after the Summer School and do really hope that we can go a few steps faster in NL.

Cynthia Homminga, Teacher in primary education, The Netherlands

Contact

Do you want to know more about the OSOS-project? Read [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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