

April 2018

# The Open School for Open Societies project

## Newsletter

The three-year Open Schools for Open Societies project (OSOS-project) encourages 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 raise 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

### First year

The Open Schools for Open Societies project aims to support 1.000 schools in 12 countries to become Open Schools. What has the OSOS consortium achieved during the first year of the project?

At the end of the first year, 129 schools have joined the OSOS adventure. During the next two years, these schools will be empowered to act as the core of different school networks, called school hubs, and they will expand to 1000 schools. Such a hub, an open and curious environment, will support the development of open school activities and the implementation of the open school approach. In addition to the school hubs, supporting tools, such as teacher training, have also been developed. Finally, 35 inspiring projects have been collected, which

are now being tested and improved by the participating schools. This means that the schools of the second year can choose from many excellent tested 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.

**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? There is certainly a chance that the event is action-focused, which ensures that you can take the first steps to an open school immediately after the event. An example of such an active approach is that you are talking to other schools about working together with the community. You exchange experiences and you get new ideas of collaborations with stakeholders that have been discussed.

Are you interested in joining the events? Please take a look at our website: <https://www.openschools.eu/join-osos/> or contact your national coordinator.



### **School-parent partnership**

The Open Schools for Open Societies project can help both parents and school staff work more cooperatively. Together they can ensure that children develop the necessary skills and competences of the 21st century. Previously, the European Parents Association have outlined their [vision of a 21<sup>st</sup> century education system](#). The Open Schools for Open Societies project offers excellent tools to realise this. It provides parents and schools with the guidelines and examples on how to work cooperatively in a pleasant way.

If your child's school is not yet taking part, [our national coordinators](#) can help you to bring that school into contact with this project.

*'It takes a village to raise a child – Parents, grandparents, family members, neighbours, local businesses, youth organisations, libraries, museums, sports clubs and of course schools are all part of this village. Parents have a special role, some may not be aware of. By law, according to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, it is the parents (and not the school that many think) who bear the full responsibility for the upbringing and education of their children. It is thus not enough to decide which school to choose for your child, but you need to be there to shape, support and evaluate their work to ensure the best interest of your child. School is changing by cater for these relatively new needs, but sometimes they need a little push from responsible parents.'*

Eszter Salamon, President of the European Parents' Association

### **Inspiring open school projects**

The OSOS-project already includes interesting 'open school' good practices. These good practices are called accelerators and are a very important part of this project. They will contribute to the transformation to an open school. Project partners collected inspiring projects, which are tested and improved by schools of the first phase. This results in excellent good practices for the participating schools. A short description of these projects can be found on the [OSOS website](#) and the complete projects are on the OSOS portal.

The next two years, we will continue to collect inspiring projects, so that our database will remain interesting for the current schools. If you have an activity or project that might fit into OSOS, please share it with us. Find more information about sharing inspiring projects at the bottom of this page: <https://www.openschools.eu/inspiration/>

## OSOS Summer School 2018

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 info about the training and the Funding opportunities of Erasmus can be found at <http://osos.ea.gr/> or please contact [osos\\_summer@ea.gr](mailto:osos_summer@ea.gr) for further information.

## Contact

Do you want to know more about the Open Schools for Open Societies project? Read more about it 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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The project @OpenSchoolsEU has arrived to Afula! Photography and Science students are searching for innovative ways for weed control in the fields nearby. With local farmers and researchers from Volcani Center #school #community #partnership

