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REthinking
EDUcation COmpetencies.
Expertise, best practices
and teaching in Digital Era

RE-EDUCO Newsletter

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Erasmus+

RE-EDUCO: a brief summary

RE-EDUCO (*Rethinking EDUcation COmpetencies. Expertise, best practices and teaching in Digital Era*) is a project co-financed by the Erasmus+ - KA2 program - which is part of the Strategic Partnerships in the Field of Education (Project No. 2020-1-IT02-KA201-079433).
RE-EDUCO is a research and action project for the exchange of good practices and the production of innovation and cooperation with and between the countries involved, thanks to the use of new approaches and training methods in digital culture. Given the dramatic mismatch between job supply and demand, the growing proportion of young NEETs (*Not in Education, Employment or Training*), and the complexity of transition paths, the idea behind the project consists in creating spaces and opportunities for experimentation and virtuous collaboration, in promoting the creation of an educational chain understood as an integrated macro-system: education-training-university orientation and work transitions.
The project involved partners from different countries: the *Digital Technologies Education & Society* research centre of the University Link, AIDR (Italy), Hellenic Open University (Greece), Insomnia, Accelerator and Business Incubator (Spain), the Cyprus Computer Society (Cyprus), and Omnia, the Joint Education Authority in the Espoo region (Finland).
RE-EDUCO focused on the need to: improve teaching-learning processes related to digital skills through the understanding of digital transformation and emerging skills required by the world of work; implement the strategic competencies of teachers in the use of new online methodologies and tools; test a new training model for students and teachers to foster the dissemination of digital skills and increase the quality of teaching, as required by European policies for the digitisation of the knowledge society.
The RE-EDUCO project was developed through the realisation of the following Intellectual Outputs (IOs) and a staff training action.

IO1 - Needs analysis: active citizenship for a digital society
The IO1 was created under the responsibility of the DITES research centre, and thanks to a close and virtuous collaboration with the Italian partner AIDR that has contributed, in this phase, through many of its most assiduous supporters, the co-planning of pathways for schools, and the reconnaissance of the European framework needed to launch the field research phase at a national level.
During the IO1, two closely related actions were developed. First, a needs analysis was carried out to highlight professional development trends related to digital transformation. For this purpose, an on-desk analysis has been carried out, based on secondary data, to investigate, in the partner countries involved in the project, the misalignment between job supply and demand determined by digital innovation. After having produced national reports

useful for exploring local labour market trends, and the impacts on the redefinition of the training offer for the development of digital skills, the results were summarised and described in a final comparative report to trace similarities and differences in the strategies and policies for digitisation pursued by the different countries.

The reports are available on the project website at this link: http://re-educo.eu/outputs/

Based on the results of the desk analysis, each partner country has developed pathways aimed at high schools and professional training agencies, students, and teachers. These courses were divided into: information seminars, orientation activities, and training courses and involved more than 2000 students and almost 300 teachers.

IO2 - Excellence in teaching, learning, and skills development

The IO2 was carried out under the responsibility of the Hellenic Open University (HOU, Greece) and focused on developing training courses and promoting a community of practices formed by teachers. This *Intellectual Output* included the realisation of an online training course for teachers, realised in the e-learning learning environment set up by the Hellenic Open University. On the platform, students and teachers from the partner countries shared a learning path to improve teaching/learning methodologies enhanced by digital technologies, share experiences and practices, and critically assess these instruments. More than 650 teachers enrolled in the course. The high interest shows the topicality of the issues addressed and teachers' sensitivity to these issues. However, the course was completed by 214 teachers as English delivery, for many, represented a barrier to access. In Italy, the experience of the practice community continued to be active and was established in EDU HUB with monthly online meetings, with great flexibility in participation. A community of practices and sharing revolves around the interest in continuous improvement in teaching/learning processes and promoting a digital culture spread at school. An attentive culture to pursue the potential of technologies without ignoring the risk.

IO3 - School competition: from research idea to digital startup.

The IO3 was created under the responsibility of INSOMNIA, a Spanish partner, to create an international school competition to promote the development of creative ideas and entrepreneurial and digital skills among students. The competition of ideas, and the full involvement of students and teachers, was reached in two stages. The first phase included a series of mentorship meetings with experts in several key sectors of the European economy driven by the digital revolution (climate change, education, health, and well-being, smart cities) for the elaboration of creative ideas by the groups of students and teachers participating in the competition. In the second phase, public presentations were made and

evaluated nationally by a committee of industry experts, which provided feedback to the student teams, and identified the two best ideas worth participating in the international contest. The Liceo Buchner of Ischia, with its five students, led by Prof. Raffaele Campanile, was the winner for Italy, presenting a project on climate change.

IO4 - Active learning for digital innovation.
With the IO4, created by the partner Cyprus Computer Society, all the students participating in the contest took the self-assessment test *MyDigiSkills* that investigates the areas of digital competence corresponding to the European framework DIGCOM (Information and Data Literacy; Communication and Collaboration; Digital Content Creation; Security and Troubleshooting). The evaluation results of the test showed that area 3 was, in general, the weakest, especially concerning programming skills, licenses, and Copyright. Downstream of this activity, partners have designed educational modules to support student teams in developing their digital skills on these issues. The training was designed to help students fill their gaps and also to present their projects in the international contest. All learning materials produced during this output were released in open access via the RE-EDUCO YouTube channel. The main objective of this channel is to create a useful space to share good practices related to the formal, informal, and non-formal learning world between partners, experts, teachers, and students from an international perspective.

IO5 - Products Release
Two different dissemination products were created To enhance and testify to all the work done and the results achieved during the RE-EDUCO project. A final report, which will be freely downloadable from the official website of the project, and a final publication entitled *Active Citizenship For The Digital Society. Expertise, Best Practices, And Teaching In The Digital Era*. A special edition, edited by Stefania Capogna, Danila Scarozza, and Manuela Minozzi, published by the scientific journal *Quaderni di Comunità Persone, Educazione e Welfare nella società 5.0*, Anno 3 n. 1/2023, Roma, Eurilink University, which aims to:
- to contribute to the revision of the theoretical framework of active citizenship for a digital society;
- rebuilding the framework of information and data to guide educational policies toward a more informed and person-oriented digital culture;
- propose an "integrated approach" to digital innovation in the teaching-learning environment;

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- provide a general framework for understanding the problems and opportunities related to digital transformation and its impact on the education system and society;
- promoting digital innovation and sharing best practices between partners and stakeholders.

To stay updated on the activities and results of RE-EDUCO, and on the initiatives promoted by the DITES research centre, and project leaders, subscribe to the quarterly newsletter free of charge by filling out the form available at this link.

Final conference

The Final Conference of the RE-EDUCO project - an Erasmus + project which aims to develop new teaching methodologies for secondary school students and teachers, helping them to integrate digitalisation and new learning methodologies - took place on 31 of March.

During these days, we not only had the opportunity to meet with the project consortium, which includes partners from Italy, Cyprus, Greece and Finland, but also the final conference of the project on digitisation and entrepreneurship in education took place.

During this event, we organised a round table discussion to discuss the various challenges of digitisation and entrepreneurship in the different education systems of the partner countries. The participants of this debate were:

- Hellenic Open University, Patra, Greece: Theodor Panagiotakopoulos, Project Manager at Hellenic University.

- University of Valencia: Manoli Pardo, Professor at the Faculty of Economics, University of Valencia.

- Link Campus University of Rome, Italy: Stefania Capogna, Associate Professor at Link Campus University, Scientific Director of the RE-EDUCO Project.

- Omnia Educational Institution for Vocational and General Upper Secondary Education, Finland: Ms. Sirje Hassinen, International Affairs Expert, Ph.D.Omnia.

In addition, on the occasion we presented the main objectives and results of the project, and the winners of the international project competition (IO3) had the opportunity to present their business ideas in front of a panel of experts. The students received mentoring on their proposals for the future development of their projects, thus creating synergies between students, teachers and experts.

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