

Wat.Edu ERASMUS +

Water Education for Innovative Environmental Learning

How can children face with the huge challenges which are the consequences of a greater environmental crisis? How can we teach them to treat ongoing difficulties that threaten our environment?

Wat.Edu is an Erasmus + project the main target of which is the development of horizontal water-focused learning material for transversal skill improvement and environmental awareness raising of students. The project started in November 2018 with the participation of four educational institutions and four professional organizations from Slovenia, Greece, Czech Republic and Hungary. Significant progress has been made since then, and work is now underway on second year's project tasks.

In the first phase of the project, our target was to develop the two elements of the Handbook, the theoretical and the methodological. The professional input for the content was provided by IMRO, IREAS, ANATOLIKI and Vodna Agencija, while schools of the partner countries were responsible for relevant methodology and applicability. So far, following the kick-off meeting in Szombathely, the partnership has organized two transnational meetings to coordinate the work of the above-mentioned handbook: in March 2019 in Ostrava and in October 2019 in Thessaloniki.

At the current stage of the project, the developed methodological material is being tested. For this purpose, Water Clubs were formed in the partner schools with the participation of 12-14 year old students. Club programs are held on a monthly basis, where teachers select from the collection of water-related activities, test them with students, and then the activities are evaluated in terms of efficiency, novelty or time span. Before the formation of the water clubs, the 12-14 year-old students, both the club members and the control group, completed an input test, with the aim of comparing it with the output at the end of the trial phase. The differences reflect the knowledge acquired during the activities and, at the same time, qualify the methodological material.

Along with running Water Clubs, dissemination is an ongoing responsibility of the partners. It is important to raise the interest of many educators in Wat.Edu and perhaps involve them as stakeholders. Focusing on this, our partners have organized fruitful regional workshops for

teachers and heads of institutions. Experience has shown that many people are attracted to these programs.

The third item of the project is the development of joint e-learning material for Wat.Edu Handbook. These phase started in January 2020 with the cooperation of our Greek partners. The e-learning will provide fascinating digital learning material as a toolkit for both formal an non-formal learning and teaching. It supports gamification, co-working, discussion and sharing of experiences. Moreover, it raises awareness and sensitivity to the total environment and its allied problems. Now, in parallel with the translation and testing of the methodological material, our Greek specialist is working on the development of the e-learning tool in partnership with the partner schools.

We are confident that our efforts will be useful and we will develop an innovative learning toolkit that can be used successfully in European countries.