NEWSLETTER

e-SL4EU

Project   *Quarterly*   NO 2   **DECEMBER 2022**

VOICING GREEN LEARNING IN RURAL AREAS THROUGH SERVICE-LEARNING
A ROMANIAN EXPERIENCE

LOREDANA MANASIA

Various factors hinder the smooth and effective development of green competencies, especially in rural areas. Consequently, well-designed pedagogical approaches are needed for these learning outcomes to be successfully achieved.

For this purpose, Florența Dogaru, a master's student of the University POLITEHNICA of Bucharest and a teacher at the Ion Iorgulescu secondary school in Arges county, Romania, designed the project "Viitor Sustenabil" – VIS (en. Sustainable Future; the acronym of the project means DREAM in English) aiming to mitigate the hindrances to effectively addressing green competences through advocacy service-learning.

By employing advocacy service-learning and photovoice activities, the learners participated in authentic learning experiences.

The VIS project started from an analysis of the curricular context concerning the Sustainable Development Goals, identifying the need to shape and develop green and transformative competencies in 5th-8th grade students and to promote a different attitude regarding responsibility towards the use of limited resources to meet unlimited needs and desires. The project started during the pandemic when the school was oscillating between online and face-to-face courses, adding an e-Service-learning component to the VIS project.

Teachers and students aimed to teach objects and materials that were no longer useful to dream of a new future. In Technology Education and Practical Applications classes, students made products from materials they have in their households that are no longer useful, creating objects with a new utility. The learning experiences were enhanced by using photovoice to stimulate students' reflection on the learning process and products, i.e. a method of dissemination and advocacy. Photos of the products made and their stories were disseminated on the project's Instagram account.

Given the participatory nature of service-learning and photovoice, the proposed learning activities motivated students to learn differently, to learn with meaning and to learn better. The learning outcomes showed that service learning boosted the enjoyment of learning and triggered deep learning strategies. Moreover, the sense of belonging was strengthened in multi-ethnic classrooms. The project results led to conclude that experiential learning pedagogies (such as service-learning) combined with participant research methods (such as photovoice) can contribute effectively to boosting green learning and green competencies.

PRESENTATION OF PROJECT PR1 BY LUMSA TEAM DURING THE ECSLHE 2022

The 5th European Conference on Service-Learning in Higher Education, hosted online by Rotterdam School of Management Erasmus University, was held on October 6-7, 2022.

Irene Culcasi, Maria Cinque and Alzbeta Brozmanova Gregorova presented Project Result 1 (PR1) of the e-SL4EU Erasmus project in the Digital Empowerment session.

The topic was e-Service-Learning for more digital and inclusive EU Higher Education systems; PR1 focused on the design process of Service-Learning in the digital environment and the new quality elements which should be considered, according to international experts. The aim was to open a debate on new digital requirements for an effective and inclusive e-SL course and to address the open issue of the qualitative transformation of SL into e-SL.

PR 2 PARTIAL TIME RANGE: AUGUST 2022 – NOVEMBER 2022

This stage is to prepare training materials and supporting training tools for academics to adopt e-SL to build inclusive higher education systems. It aims to develop the blended training materials that the project partners will deliver to other HE teachers/trainers to present them with how to embed e-SL in their courses. Leading Organization: Sveuciliste u Zagrebu (FFZG, Croatia).

All academic partners revised the general objectives of the course and defined their learning objectives of e-learning content for the chosen module. Each partner team develops a specific unit of the eLearning course and prepares examples of their eService-Learning courses or projects. The eLearning course will be available in English and in the national languages of the partners.

WORKS ON THE E-SERVICE LEARNING COURSE

Preparation of an electronic version of the e-service learning course on the MoD platform is underway (PR2). All Academic partners prepare the first version of their units (in English) for the University of Zagreb (FFZG is working on the Moodle platform on which the e-service learning course is to be built.

The partners from Matej Bel University in Banská Bystrica (UMB) prepared the first draft of the survey for community partners (PR3). The partner Universities will conduct at least one interview in each partnering country with community partners.

FOLLOW US ONLINE

We invite you to visit our project's website and public domain in social media, where we publish the latest information on the activity of all consortium teams. We encourage you to share your opinions and the results of our work.

https://e-sl4eu.us.edu.pl

https://www.facebook.com/100086623302990

https://www.linkedin.com/in/e-sl4eu-094457253

e-sl4eu@us.edu.pl