



Newsletter Second Annual Conference „eSchool4S“

No. 3/January 2016

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Conference

College of Nyíregyháza, Hungary

4<sup>th</sup> November 2015



**The eSchool4s is on the right track!**

## News

**Project information: E-School for Sustainability in the Danube Region (eSchool4S)**

[More...](#)

**The eSchool4s is on the right track!**

[More...](#)

**Participants:** 36 participants from ten educational institutions located in Germany, Austria, Hungary, Slovakia, Croatia, Serbia, Bulgaria and Romania.

**Presenters:** Dr. Ferenc KISS (rector of the College of Nyíregyháza), Dr. Csilla STÉGER (Head of Higher Education Department (Ministry of Human Capacities)), Gabriela PICO and Maria CARCIUMARU (GIZ), Radoslav VICIAN (e-code-Slovakia), Zuzana ŠTEFÁNIKOVÁ and Marta JENDEKOVÁ (AINOVA), Valerija RADICEVIC (Aquilonis), Christine LECHNER (Pädagogische Hochschule Tirol), Mimi VIDENOVA (73 school “Vladislav Gramatik”), Mihai ENESCU (TERRA Mileniul III Foundation), Danka PURIC (University of Belgrade), Christiane SPIES (LAK)), Ingrid JUNG (ESD-Expert)

**Host: College of Nyíregyháza, Hungary**

**Upcoming events:**

Evaluation & revision of the eSchool4S web-based classrooms (workshop)

[More...](#)

## Project information:

### eSchool4S - a transnational e-learning platform for collaborative learning

The network-project E-School for Sustainability in the Danube Region (eSchool4S) unites ten partners from Germany, Austria, Hungary, Slovakia, Croatia, Serbia, Bulgaria, and Romania. Each partner is specialized in different relevant fields of expertise. They were brought together to pursue a common goal – bring Sustainable Development and European Integration to schools.

eSchool4S designs an operational e-learning-platform for cooperation and exchange of information and experiences in the field of Education for Sustainable Development (ESD). It develops interactive web-based teaching and learning concepts to cover cross-border issues in the fields of sustainable development and European integration. The approach brings together decision-makers, (in-service) teacher training institutions, schools, and students across the Danube Region to raise their ecological awareness and to promote inclusion of these issues into the school curricula of secondary schools. Students and teachers learn to which extent there is interdependence between social, economic, environmental, and political development of a country. Hence, afterwards they know why the balanced interplay of the development dimensions is a condition for sustainable development at the national, regional and European level. They improve their computer skills, cognitive competences, communication as well as soft skills.

The eSchool4S is a project within the framework of the EU program "Lifelong Learning Programme" (LLP), Comenius-Multilateral Networks. It was recognized as an official project in the Priority Area nine "Investing in people and skills", within the framework of the EU Strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR).

### Project data

Duration: 1st January 2014 – 31st December 2016

Target Group: students between the ages of 15 and 18

Project Lead: Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), Stuttgart

Internet: <http://eschool4s.eu>

Moodle platform: <http://moodle.eschool4s.eu>



## The eSchool4s is on the right track!

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Conference of the project took place on 4th November 2015 at the College of Nyiregyhaza, in Eastern Hungary, seat of one of the project partners. The Conference programme followed two aims - presentation of project progress so far and interventions by the Hungarian experts on project related topics. The project is concluding its second year of implementation. Since then, several milestones have been successfully achieved and were presented during the Conference: the Moodle-Platform and E-Learning-Materials on sustainability have been created and a teachers' training has been implemented. The pilot phase for testing the web-based classrooms with teachers and students will start soon. The issues discussed with the invited experts covered, among others, the innovative ways of tackling sustainability in teacher training and the challenges of teacher education in the European context. The experts emphasized the relevance of strengthening English language competencies and quality through networking, such as ENSI (Environment and School Initiatives).

On behalf of the College of Nyíregyháza Dr. Judit VALLNER welcomed the audience, the keynote speakers and the partners of the eSchool4S. She introduced the program of the Conference. Ms. Gabriela PICO, project coordinator from GIZ, explained the aim of the Conference: that the participants become familiar with the eSchool4S-Moodle Platform for e-Learning on ESD, the didactic architecture behind it and are aware of its relevance and usefulness to promote Sustainable Development and European Integration in the Danube Region.



As a first keynote speaker Dr. Ferenc KISS, rector of the College, ratified the importance of a truly sustainable development, which cannot be measured only by GDP. He insisted on the necessity to consider sustainability not only from the point of view of natural sciences, which address primarily the mind. The arts - films, poetry, photos, humour - play an important role in addressing heart and soul and only these instances will make people move to more sustainable behaviour. Thus education for Sustainable Development and teacher training should have a holistic approach.

Dr. Csilla STÉGER, Head of Higher Education Department (Ministry of Human Capacities), explained the challenges for the school system and the implications for teacher education in Europe in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. In a knowledge-based economy young people need to acquire knowledge, skills, attitudes and values, as well as the tools to gain new knowledge. These competencies include also communication and cooperation skills as well as critical thinking. These requirements imply a paradigm shift for the role of the teacher who needs to become leader and facilitator of children's and youth's development. Life-long learning opportunities for teachers are crucial to help them adapt to the pace of societal transformation.

The following sessions aimed at presenting the progress achieved so far within the eSchool4S project. First, Maria CARCIUMARU (GIZ) and Radoslav VICIAN (e-code-Slovakia) presented the Moodle platform as it has been developed for the eSchool4S as well as the course structure. Zuzana ŠTEFÁNIKOVÁ and Marta JENDEKOVÁ, (AINOVA) showcased their course on the topic "What is Sustainability?" as an application of the jointly agreed structure of the Moodle courses including activities for students and special orientation for teachers.

After the break, Valerija RADICEVIC (Aquilonis) presented the methodology and implementation structure of the first teachers' training. The teachers' training included a webinar which allowed teachers to learn about Moodle, the eSchool4S-Platform, the course "What is sustainability?" and how to use it in their classrooms as well as about Copyright and ESD issues. Christine LECHNER (Pädagogische Hochschule Tirol) presented the results of the evaluation of the teachers' training. One important result was the clear interest of teachers in using Moodle and in the topics addressed by the *eSchool4S*. However, many teachers were not yet very confident to be able to use these media in the classroom. English language is still a major obstacle for some teachers.

The next session offered an overview of the content of the thematic Moodle courses (Water: Mimi VIDENOVA (73 school “Vladislav Gramatik”), Climate Change: Mihai ENESCU (TERRA Mileniul III Foundation), Social Inclusion: Danka PURIC (University of Belgrade), Sustainable Consumption: Christiane SPIES (LAK)). The presentation included the level of lessons and gave the audience an insight on how these topics are being addressed in the respective courses.

The session “How to create competencies? The didactic approach of eSchool4S” created a link to the keynote speeches at the beginning of the Conference. Both speakers referred to the necessity to promote not only knowledge but also skills and values. The presentation of Ingrid JUNG and Gabriela PICO deduced the necessity to promote competencies to the specific challenges in a globalized world, which needs to find a way towards sustainability. The societal changes that are necessary are possible only if people understand the systemic nature of global problems and possess competencies for addressing these issues in their specific context. The implications for education for sustainable development and the eSchool4S are clear: promote competencies for problem analysis, evaluation and action in relation to each topic, and with the clear objective to foster regional integration in the Danube region.



At the end of the day, Attila VARGA from the ENSI Network held the third keynote speech of the Conference. Firstly, he explained the structure and aims of ENSI, secondly he informed about the eco-School Network in Hungary and its international connections. He recommended the *Danube box*, a learning platform that has already been created for regional integration and information on environmental education as well as the *Green pack* designed for Central and Eastern

Europe.

Finally, Ingrid JUNG, facilitator of the Conference, gave a brief summary of the topics addressed during the day and Judit VALLNER closed the event by thanking presenters and the audience.

The eSchool4S can proudly state that the project aims and activities are in line with the current trends in European teaching and learning approaches and topics related to sustainability, ICT and English language competencies. Moreover, the didactic concept of the eSchool4S is fully aligned with the value based approach which is the main way to achieve the change in attitudes and motivate young people to assume responsibility and take actions.



## Upcoming events

---

### Evaluation & revision of the eSchool4S web-based classrooms (workshop)

Date: 1-2 March 2016

Venue: 73 SOU "Vladislav Gramatik", SOFIA, BULGARIA

The next meeting will be held in early March in Sofia. The main goal of the workshop is that participants become familiar with the implementation and results of the first testing phase of web-based classrooms of the eSchool4S-Moodle Platform for e-Learning on ESD. During the workshop, the evaluation report of the testing phase will be presented and conclusions and recommendations for further optimization of the e-Learning materials will be discussed.

### Impressions of the event



[BACK TO THE TOP](#)



This project is co-funded by the  
Lifelong Learning Programme of  
the European Union



The European Commission's support for the production of this newsletter does not constitute endorsement of the content which reflects the views only of the authors, and the Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of information contained therein.