



NEW E-STEP PROJECT STARTED

E-STEP Project supports the collaboration of schools and parents

Teachers' and school managers' skills to collaborate with pupils' parents has been identified as one of the priorities of the European Member States

Schools as Learning Communities

Teachers' and school managers' skills to collaborate with pupils' parents has been identified as one of the priorities that EU Member States should promote both in initial teacher training, as well as in teacher's ongoing professional support, in order to achieve high quality of teaching. Schools are viewed as 'learning communities', where pupils, parents and teachers commit to a common vision about the values and objectives of schooling. Effective school leadership is also associated with building active partnerships with parents so as to



foster higher achievement levels as well as to support pupils' overall cognitive and social development.

The final outcome of the project will be a specialized training framework and supportive materials for teachers around Europe on:

- How to support, engage and motivate parents to utilize social networking systems in order to

collaborate with teachers

- Developing strategies and initiatives that teachers and school managers could use to communicate effectively with parents and to engage them in support of their children's learning at home and at school.
- Specific approaches for school leaders on how to support their school teachers on designing and effectively implementing parental engagements activities.

Partners of E-STEP project introduce themselves

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CTI, Computer Technology Institute and PRESS "Diophantus", Greece

<http://www.cti.gr/en>

The Computer Technology Institute and Press "Diophantus" is a research and technology organization focusing on research and development in Information and Communication Technologies (ICT).

Particular emphasis is placed on education, by developing and deploying conventional and digital media in education and lifelong learning; publishing printed and electronic educational materials; administrating and managing the Greek School Network; and supporting the organization and operation of the electronic infrastructure of the Greek Ministry of Education, Lifelong Learning and Religious Affairs and all educational units. Since its establishment in 1985, and in the past decades of rapid technological development, CTI has actively contributed to many of the advances that today are taken for granted.

The Sector of Telematics and Applications for regional development (abbrev. "Telematics Center") of CTI "DIOPHANTUS" COMPUTER TECHNOLOGY INSTITUTE & PRESS, was established with the basic objective to enhance regional development through the effective use of new ICT for the regions covered from the institute. Basic aims of this department are:

- To operate as a lever for regional development and interregional collaboration
- To carry out applied research for the development and support of specialized ICT applications for

the public and private regional sectors (in Western Greece)

- To develop, support and operate information systems useful for the activities of education in Greece



BCU, Birmingham City University, United Kingdom

<http://www.bcu.ac.uk>

Birmingham City University is a large, diverse, modern University with around 22,000 students drawn from 80 countries. The University has an enviable reputation for providing quality, student-focused education in a professional and friendly environment. Our superb courses, state-of-the-art facilities, first-rate staff, and focus on practical skills and professional relevance is producing some of the country's most employable graduates.

The Faculty of Education, Law and Social Sciences comprises three Schools: Law, Education and Social Sciences, all of which enjoy a national and international reputation for excellence in teaching and learning. From foundation degrees and undergraduate courses to postgraduate diplomas and PhDs, our courses combine academic excellence with a strong vocational focus, equipping students with the intellectual skills they need to be successful and the ability to transfer their knowledge to the workplace. The School of Education at Birmingham City University is one of the UK's leading providers of teacher education and enjoys an enviable reputation for delivering the highest quality courses, with our primary and secondary teacher training programmes rated by the national inspectorate, Ofsted, as Grade 1 'Outstanding'. We offer a range of courses for educational professionals, trainee teachers and serving teachers that cover the school age phases from primary

through to continuing adult education, at every study level from undergraduate to PhD. The School of Education provides high quality teaching, delivered by dedicated and caring staff, all of whom have either been teachers or have worked in education. The School trains more teachers than any other university in the West Midlands and is the 10th largest teacher training provider in the UK.



BMBF, Federal Ministry of Education and Women Affairs, Austria

<http://www.bmbf.gv.at>

The Federal Ministry of Education and Women's Affairs (Bundesministerium für Bildung und Frauen, BMBF) is responsible for the Austrian school system including adult education and lifelong learning, and women's affairs mainly supporting gender equality. BMBF is the follow-up ministry of BMUKK (Federal Ministry for education, arts and culture) since March 2014.

Since 1997 the Federal Ministry of Education has taken part in a variety of international projects in the field of ICT and education, together with partners throughout Europe. The focus is on projects dealing with science and learning resources, key competences as well as innovation and learning with ICT.

The Federal Ministry of Education organises many conferences regularly in different provinces, e.g. BildungOnline and eLearning Conference. These networking activities enable dissemination, focus groups for evaluation and validation and synergies to other projects. Results of former and existing ICT projects will be a main focus for future recommendations.

Within the Federal Ministry of Education the Department IT/3 – "ICT for



educational purposes" has regular tasks as follows:

- Change agent functions for ICT in education with emphasis on pedagogical use
- Evaluation and documentation of projects with ICT integration in schools
- Transfer of out-comes/deliverables into the national school system coming from international ICT- projects and education policy
- Perception of socio-political aspects of ICT
- Support of innovation in schools through ICT related teaching and learning scenarios by networks of innovative schools



NRN Association, National Research Network Association, Bulgaria

<http://nrn.bg>

The Bulgarian National Research Network Association (NRN Association) is registered under the Bulgarian Law as a non-for-profit legal entity carrying out activities to public benefit. Among its founding members are some of the biggest universities in Bulgaria, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, Ministry of Transport and Communications and ICT Development Agency. At present the organization comprises 25 academic members, as well as the Ministry of Education, Youth and Science, where is registered the official address of operation and associations' headquarters.

The Association achieves its objectives by the following means:

- Building up and maintenance of virtual spaces (Internet portals)
- Support and participation in

projects and initiatives for the development of the information technologies

- Organization of information workshops and trainings for different social groups, including distance learning
- Supporting the education and qualification of pupils, students and specialists
- Technological, administrative and financial optimization of the connections of Bulgarian organizations and persons of the scientific, information and cultural spheres to the research networks
- Provision of support to schools and educational institutions that offer ICT training
- Organization of educational seminars, conferences, symposiums, exhibitions and other public events
- Consulting on technological solutions on ICT Projects, as well as participation in national and international initiatives aiming at the ICT development in the European countries



EA, Ellinogermaniki Agogi, Greece

<http://www.ea.gr>

Ellinogermaniki Agogi is an educational organization of private law, officially recognized by the state. It is an institutional member of EDEN (European Distance Education Network) and of STEDE (Science Teacher Education Development in Europe) network. EA was the national representative of the Greek Ministry of Education in the International exhibition "Salon de l' education" that was held in November 2000 in Paris in the framework of the e-Learning Initiative of the European Commission. EA was

the first Greek educational organization, which applied ODL in secondary level education in the year of 1993. Since 1995, the organization has established a devoted department, the Research and Development (R&D) Department for the design, development and implementation of the research activities in education, expanding the collaboration with Universities and pedagogical Institutions across Europe, as it provides the best test-bed for research applications. During the last years the R&D department has coordinated and supported the participation of EA in more than 100 European (IST, eContentplus, Socrates/MINERVA, Leonardo da Vinci) and National projects. The R&D department of EA has great experience in the coordination of research and demonstration projects focusing on teacher training and professional development. EA runs a certified training centre from the Greek Ministry of Education since 2000. EA is also running a large-scale European project, the "Open Discovery Space", that aims to offer a socially-powered and multilingual open learning infrastructure in order to boost the adoption of eLearning resources in European schools that will be implemented in 2000 schools across Europe (2012-2015). It has also run other European eLearning and educational eContent projects, i.e. AGROweb, WebTV for schools, EUROSPIN, Organic.EduNet, COL-LAGE, METASCHOOL, LD-Skills.



ULS, Universal Learning Systems, Ireland

<http://www.ulsystems.com>

Universal Learning Systems is an educational, training and development consultancy working in the area of research, evaluation, course development and educational access. ULS



undertakes projects in the educational, community development, social inclusion and management sectors. It operates in Ireland, the Czech Republic, Scotland, Netherlands and Finland. Its focus is on professional development with a particular emphasis on work based learning. ULS works in Ireland, Europe and the United States with a wide range of clients: these include universities, open learning institutions, schools, employers and community associations. It has particular expertise in learning around transformative education, e-learning, diversity, interculturalism, immigration and strategic management. ULS has extensive experience of promotion of educational and learning innovation. It works closely with community stakeholders, adult education and employer networks.

Moreover, ULS bases its work on the development of key challenges and opportunities for innovative learning competence to address future challenges. Identifying need has to be complemented by definitional clarity and methodological application. Capturing this innovation has become a

key focus for ULS projects in recent years around advanced technologies and their application to human learning needs. ULS engagement with EDEN at the most senior level has enabled it to develop competence in addressing the fragmentation of knowledge and best practice around creative learning. Through its expertise on migration and interculturalism, ULS has developed robust training methods and guidelines based on individual and community learning and development needs – particularly in a time of challenge and socio-economic crisis.

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What does that do for me?

- Specialised framework for trainings and workshops at schools
- Strategies and initiatives for an effective communication between school and parents
- Providing of guidelines and supporting materials

Project Duration: 24 months (Dec. 2013 to Nov. 2015)

Main Target Groups:

- Teachers
- School directors
- Parents

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Further Information can be found on our website:
<http://estep-project.eu>



Project partners at the second project meeting in Vienna, April 2014.

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2nd project meeting in Vienna

The 2nd project meeting was held on **8th of April in Vienna** at BM:BF offices. Crucial issues of the project were discussed and a new plan for the upcoming tasks was defined. The 3rd project meeting will be organized on **17/7/2014** from 9am until 18.00 (in Sounion or Athens). Mrs Chelioti presented the plan and the contents of the **Summer School** to be organized by ODS project from 13/7 until 18/7 in Sounion/Attiki. On 16/7 the portion dedicated to E-step will be organized and BCU. The new partners from BCU agreed to have



a first version of Training Framework until the Summer School on July in order to organize a pilot workshop there.

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E-STEP parent survey

In the frame of the WP2 (preparation for 1st version of Training Framework), BCU prepared a questionnaire for parents. The survey is completed anonymously, can be saved part way through and takes about 10-15 minutes to complete. Here you will find the English version of the questionnaire:

<http://www.survey.bris.ac.uk/bcu/e-step-en>

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School

The project will set out to enforce teachers' and school managers' awareness, motivation, knowledge and skills that will enable them to strengthen parents' roles in schooling. This is planned to be implemented by utilising state-of-the-art ICT networking tools. Teachers and parents will benefit from such technologies by getting the means for connecting themselves to education services, resources and collaborative learning support opportunities.

State-of the-Art Technology to support schools

Services

The training framework will be sustained in the future through the use of an online training process along with toolkits and guidelines for school staff. This process will enable teachers to be familiarized with the empirical knowledge about parents' engagement, and to directly apply this knowledge base in real-life situations in selected pilot schools around Europe.

Parents

Parents get the ability of bring in their engagement to organize, co-create and monitor the education of their children. Therefore digital resources and social networking tools will help parents and teachers to collaborate effectively. The school staff and the project support the parents to use the provided tools and services in order to build and strengthen the parents' and school partnership.

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