



Newsletter The 2nd „eSchool4S“ workshop

No. 4/May 2016

## Workshop: Evaluation & revision of the eSchool4S web-based classrooms

Sofia, Bulgaria, 1st & 2nd of March , 2016

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**The implementation of the web-based classrooms started successfully!**

## News

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**Project information:** E-School for Sustainability in the Danube Region (eSchool4S) [More...](#)

**Workshop information:** The implementation of the web-based classrooms started succesfully! [More...](#)

**Participants:** 27 participants from educational institutions in Germany, Austria, Hungary, Slovakia, Croatia, Serbia, Bulgaria and Romania and guests of honour from Bulgaria.

**Presenters:** Stela Zaprianova - 73 school with teaching foreign languages "Vladislav Gramatik" (73SOU); Milena Damyanova - Parliament of the Republic of Bulgaria; Orlin Kouzov - Ministry of Education and Science; Lyudmila Kisjova - Risk Electronics; Gabriela Pico / Kim Jennifer Bauer/ Eva-Maria Geiger - Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ); Christiane Spies - Landesakademie für Fortbildung und Personalentwicklung an Schulen (LAK) and associated teacher Jörg Müller, Christine Lechner/ Reinhard Wieser - Pädagogische Hochschule Tirol (PHT); Danka Puric - University of Belgrade (UBG)

**Host:** School 73SOU, Sofia, Bulgaria [More...](#)

**Upcoming events:** The 3rd Annual Conference of the eSchool4S [More...](#)

## Project information:

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

The network-project E-School for Sustainability in the Danube Region (eSchool4S) unites 10 partners from Germany, Austria, Hungary, Slovakia, Croatia, Serbia, Bulgaria, and Romania who are specialized in different relevant fields of expertise and were brought together to pursue a common goal – bring sustainable development and European integration to schools.

eSchool4S designs an operational e-platform for cooperation and exchange of information and experiences in the field of Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) and develops interactive and 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. Students and teachers learn to which extent there is interdependence between social, economic, environmental, and political development of a country, and why the balanced interplay of the development dimensions is a condition for sustainable development at 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 Priority Area 9 "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>



## The implementation of the web-based classrooms started successfully!

An evaluation workshop organized within the eSchool4S project was held on 1st and 2nd of March 2016 at 73SOU School in Sofia, Bulgaria.

The workshop lasted two days, each with a full agenda, and was divided into an official part and an internal part. During the official part of the workshop, the event was focused on the developments regarding ESD and IT at schools in Bulgaria and the implementation stage of the project. Afterwards, during the internal part, the focus moved to the evaluation of the first testing phase of the web-based classrooms. Participants worked together to improve the Moodle courses based on the feedback received from the teachers and the students involved in the testing phase.



The opening session of the official part of the workshop was an opportunity to greet all participants and make a short presentation about the progress and achievements of the project so far. Thereby, Ms Stela Zaprianova, Head of 73SOU “Vladislav Gramatik”, briefly presented the school - among others - the high education level of the school which is based on national ratings; remarkable achievements of students and teachers in different fields; good facilities and modern ICT equipment. She confirmed 73SOU’s commitment to the project. She highly estimated

the results achieved so far by all project partners and wished the participants of the workshop fruitful work and success in future endeavours.

After that, Ms Milena Damyanova, the Chairman of the Bulgarian Parliamentary Committee on Education highlighted that the 73SOU school is well known in the country as it offers a high level of educational services. Then, she introduced the participants to the new "Law on pre-school and school education". One of its goals is to gain competences for sustainability through education. Thus, she confirmed that the project "comes at an appropriate moment", because Bulgaria supports the inclusion of topics related to sustainable development in education. Projects like eSchool4S make sure that this approach is applied. Mr Orlin Kouzov, Senior Expert in the ICT Directorate at the Ministry of Education and Science presented the status of ICT in schools, the opportunities for e-Learning and teaching and plans for future development. He introduced guests into the new ICT Strategy for effective implementation of ICT in education and science in Bulgaria until 2020 and highlighted the role of schools and in particular 73SOU in developing this strategy. Three stages should lead Bulgaria to a new quality of ICT in schools: 1) key investments in ICT, 2) mobility and security and 3) sustainability.



Ms Ludmilla Kisjova, CEO, Risk Electronics Ltd., Sofia, Bulgaria gave insight into the IT solutions in the education sector offered by the company she represents. She highlighted the importance of the content when approaching and informing different target groups and the possibility for every school to work with

different operating systems. The eSchool4S partner SOU73 is successfully implementing such an IT approach to inform and approach teachers, students and parents.



Ms Kim Bauer (GIZ) presented a review of the achieved progress within the project, starting with the inception and establishment of the eSchool4S network and ending with the extension of this network. The network extension phase included the production and steady optimization of e-Learning materials and of the Moodle platform. Moreover, GIZ gave a short overview on the structure of

the platform and on the content of the e-Learning courses. As far as the implementation of the first testing phase of the eSchool4S goes, Ms Christiane Spies (LAK) summarized the experience and results of the first testing phase. During the testing phase, partners selected teachers and teachers selected courses to test with their students. Next, students and teachers evaluated the platform and courses via a survey developed by the Austrian partner PHT in cooperation with the German partners GIZ and LAK. Teachers involved into the testing phase got a certificate of participation.



Ms Christine Lechner (PHT) who is responsible for monitoring and evaluation, presented the results of the evaluation of the first testing phase. 80 respondents participated in the evaluation. Students reported that the teacher is very important to support them to better understand the courses (60%). This observation is in line with the project's didactic concept since the eSchool4S-Moodle-courses are not intended to be self-study courses but require that teachers actively participate and lead the learning process of students. For students, the courses contribute to motivate discovery and open new perspectives in the field of sustainability. These comments are in line with the general observation that courses had a positive impact to strengthen competences which are crucial within Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) (i.e. Understanding sustainability; Forming an opinion; Knowing how to act and how to live in a sustainable way). The 12 evaluating teachers are very satisfied with the structure and quality of the eLearning material. They think that the available learning material and the teachers' corner are helpful to prepare their lessons and they observed that courses enabled students to engage in self-directed learning. In general, the teachers' comments on the content and impact of the courses are extremely positive.



After the official part of the workshop Ms Gabriela Pico (GIZ) introduced the partners into the guidelines to proceed with the peer review of all Moodle-courses. The partners were divided into groups and received relevant documents for the working groups. The main conclusions and recommendations concerning the further optimization of the eSchool4S Platform and Courses were summarized at the end of the first day.



The workshop's second day began with a presentation in the plenary of the overall results of the working groups' sessions of the previous day: conclusions and recommendations regarding the further improvement of design, content, structure and procedure of the web-based

classrooms, including next steps and deadlines were made. All partners agreed on observing the feedback and recommendations for improvement and implementing them directly in the courses on the platform.

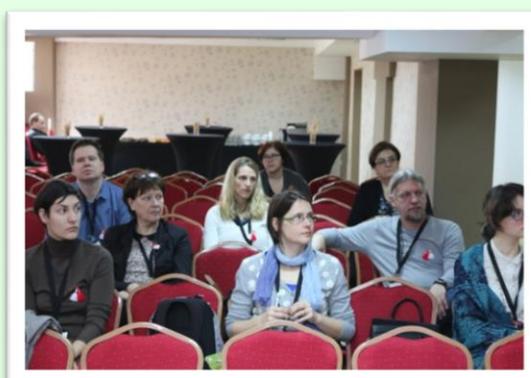


Furthermore, partners agreed on the operation plan of the second testing phase, the follow-up of the eSchool4S and the 3rd Annual Conference of the eSchool4S network presented by GIZ. The conference will take place from 17th to 18th November 2016 in Stuttgart.

The second day of the workshop finished with highlighting the issues for successfully implementing the next steps: recruiting further teachers, students and schools for the 2nd testing phase, bringing ideas for guaranteeing the further existence of the Moodle Platform after official project termination in December 2016.

During the two days workshop partners managed to successfully analyse stages of the project implemented so far and to define clear measures and deadlines for further steps. Project activities will continue to comply with the action plan set out in this workshop.

### Impressions of the event



## Upcoming events

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### The 3rd Annual Conference of the eSchool4S

**Date:** 17th to 18th November 2016

**Location:** Stuttgart, Germany



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