

INCLUDE

NEWSLETTER 1

December 2020

“Building a common European framework for Content and Language Integrated Learning (CLIL) to promote citizenship, cultural awareness and soft skills development through the co-creation of open digital educational resources”

What is INCLUDE?

INtegrated Content and Language via a Unified Digital Environment (INCLUDE) is a three year project (2019-2022) within the EU Erasmus+ Programme financed to:

- develop a communal European framework for CLIL in secondary school, also through an open access, multimedial and interactive online platform usable by teachers to develop and share CLIL scenarios
- promote key competences, with particular reference to the digital, personal and social, citizenship and cultural awareness competences
- reflect on and promote awareness about the concept of “Europeanness”, intended in an inclusive and open way

What we do?

As INCLUDE partners, we integrate scientific research knowledge, expert know-how and real educational process at school to develop and test interdisciplinary CLIL educational scenarios and an interactive multimedia digital platform, conceived as open educational tools/resources for the future



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First Italian Multiplier Event: perspectives on the futures of education

The first Italian INCLUDE Multiplier Event, initially planned as a participatory conference with panel discussions in May 2020, took place online due to the COVID-19 pandemics.

The event was entitled “Officina 2020: Education and Futures”, to give a sense of continuity with previous initiatives – the “Officine” - that the research group Social Studies of Science, Education, Communication of the Institute for Research on Population and Social Policies of the National Research Council of Italy – CNR-IRPPS organizes annually together with the Italian Ministry of Education to promote a reflection on strategic issues of education and educational policies. Instead, the introduction of the word “futures” in the title is due to a partnership with the “Futures of Education” initiative developed by UNESCO, expanding the temporal perspective up until 2050.

The Officina 2020 consisted of “virtual tables” on these issues and, more widely, on the aims of education and competences, considering the dimensions of uncertainty.

The tables took place on April 28, May 5 and 8, involving a total of about 40 students, scholars, teachers, policymakers, NGO representatives, plus a public via streaming.

A fourth virtual table, on May 13, was added to promote a connection with the Erasmus + project the Global Science Opera leverage students participation and engagement in science through art practices (GSO4SCHOOL), about the issue of integrating science and art in the educational field to develop scientific citizenship.



A [website](#) was developed for the Officina 2020, conceived as a virtual space to promote debate and exchange of experiences also after the end of the event.

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First INCLUDE Multiplier Event in Greece

The first Multiplier Event in Greece was co-organized by the two Greek partners of the INCLUDE project, that is the 1st Experimental Junior High School of Athens and the NTUA. Initially, it was scheduled to be held in the premises of the 1st Experimental Junior High School of Athens in May 2020. However, due to the COVID emergency, the event took place online using the Webex Event platform on the 18th of June 2020.

After a brief introduction of the INCLUDE project, crucial aspects of the project were discussed, namely the design of educational scenarios, CLIL implementation, aspects of Europeanity, enhancement of the educational material by using non textual resources (multimodality), transversal skills and how to promote them through specific scenarios. The participation of the British council was crucial in the event as it provided insights of the international experience of CLIL implementation, as well as similarities with other projects being currently implemented.



After a short break, participants took part in a workshop in which they had the opportunity to access the INCLUDE moodle platform and study the case of an INCLUDE scenario. First, they were guided through the INCLUDE moodle platform to understand its structure and then they explored an exemplary INCLUDE scenario. Afterwards, they were asked to evaluate the extent to which this scenario meets the INCLUDE scenario requirements using a Likert scale (1 to 5). Before closing the event, future plans of the INCLUDE project, including the educational repository that will be created next year, were discussed.

In total, 55 teachers and other stakeholders participated in the event. 17 of the participants were members of the staff of the organizing institutions and 38 were external. The majority of them were teachers (27 out of 38) but there were also Education policy makers (5 out of 38), researchers (5 out of 38) and one member of the Staff of the British Council.

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First Multiplier Event in Romania: CLIL – between theory and practice

The first Multiplier Event in Craiova was organized on-line on the 27th of May 2020 by Mircea Eliade Secondary School, involving various local stakeholders.

Among the participants there were two university professors from the University of Craiova, specialised in education sciences, two inspectors from Dolj County Inspectorate, two guests from Craiova Prefecture and the City Council. We also had one guest from our local county library - Alexandru and Aristia Aman Dolj County Library, as well as teachers from other major cities in Romania. Students of different ages took part in the event, from both secondary school and B.A. university level.

The event was structured in three sections.

Section 1: After the welcome address given by Mircea Eliade School's Principal, Genoveva Ioana, followed a brief presentation of the project by the coordinator Lidia Cazacu, there were two keynote speeches delivered by Prof. Titela Vilceanu, PhD and Lecturer Alexandru Strunga, PhD from the University of Craiova. The representative from the Prefecture, Marina Andronache, offered a speech on Europeanity and European Projects, while the delegate of the School Inspectorate, Ani Draghici, talked about learning strategies that support CLIL. Mrs Madalina Bailesteanu from the Alexandru and Aristia Aman Dolj County Library presented a wide range of materials that the library can provide for teachers to design the scenarios.

Section 2: There were four breakout rooms in which the INCLUDE scenarios, designed by Mircea Eliade teachers, were presented: Every drop counts, EU-ID Card, I am a child, I have rights, Neoclassicism in ar-kid-itecture, Water - importance, uses and protection measures.

Section 3: There were open discussions on the scenarios with feedback and suggestions.

The event involved a total of 18 participants on-site and 45 participants on-line. It is possible to watch the video recording of the event (in Romanian language) [here](#).



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Cyprus study day: New Horizons in Education

The University of Cyprus organized a public online event titled “The INCLUDE project: New Horizons in Education”, on November 20. The event, in English, was aimed at introducing secondary teachers to information about as well as skills and techniques used in the INCLUDE project, ultimately in order to transfer them to their schools.

Mohammed Shormani of the University of Cyprus talked about how INCLUDE was motivated and initiated, shedding light on INCLUDE’s nature, its partner countries, mission and objectives. Claudia Pennacchiotti of the National Research Council of Italy focused about the competences in the INCLUDE approach and how competences have become a substantial part of the curricula today. She also talked about how skills and competences are incorporated in the INCLUDE approach, especially in INCLUDE scenarios, focusing mainly on *digital, citizenship, multilingual, personal, social, learning to learn and cultural awareness*.

Phoevos Panagiotidis of the University of Cyprus, on *CLIL as the basic ground of INCLUDE*, after introducing CLIL as a valuable approach to teaching and learning, focused on CLIL objectives, CLIL 4Cs, CLIL conceptual framework, CLIL benefits, recent development in CLIL and evaluation in CLIL. He then talked about how INCLUDE incorporates CLIL, by also adding a fifth C², which is *cooperation and re-creation*, and by integrating novel concepts and skills such as “Europeanity”, and transversal skills and competences.

Cleopatra Kalogerakou of the 1st Experimental High School of Athens presented an INCLUDE model scenario entitled “Tourism in Europe”, detailing components, activities, drills. She also showed how the scenario was created, and how the basic components - multimodality, Europeanity, transversal skills and key competences - were employed and promoted.

The final presentation was delivered by Shormani on the role of the University of Cyprus in INCLUDE as project evaluator, outlining the elements – linguistic and non-linguistic - to be evaluated.



INCLUDE ONLINE TRAINING

At the beginning of November 2020 (November 4th and November 11th), a two-day INCLUDE online teacher training took place with the participation of staff from all partner organizations. The training had initially been programmed to be face to face and take place at the 1st experimental gymnasium of Athens. Due to the COVID emergency though, the face to face training was postponed and a brief online training event took place instead. This gave the opportunity of participation to all teachers from partner schools who were interested in INCLUDE. Thus, 45 teachers participated.

The training, coordinated by the 1st experimental Gymnasium of Athens and designed together with the NTUA, the CNR and the University of Cyprus, addressed three main subject areas: a) the INCLUDE methodology, b) the INCLUDE ICT systems and c) the evaluation of the INCLUDE scenarios. Participatory teaching methods were used in order to increase the teachers' engagement.

The training consisted of short presentations and two workshop sessions. During the first day, the presentations were about the four characteristics of INCLUDE scenarios (namely CLIL methodology, multimodality, promotion of the Europeanity and fostering of transversal skills and key competences). In the workshop session, teacher groups from all schools had the opportunity to present one scenario they had created during the first year of the project and receive specific comments on the strengths and weaknesses of their scenarios as well as suggestions for improvements. During the second day, the presentations addressed topics such as specific examples of scenarios that foster transversal skills, the copyright policy of INCLUDE and how to find multimedia material with Creative Commons copyright licenses that can be used in the scenarios, the INCLUDE repository, the evaluation of the scenarios and finally some good practices from the first year scenarios. During the workshop, teachers had the opportunity to use the moodle platform developed by the INCLUDE project to upload one of their scenarios receiving step by step guidance.

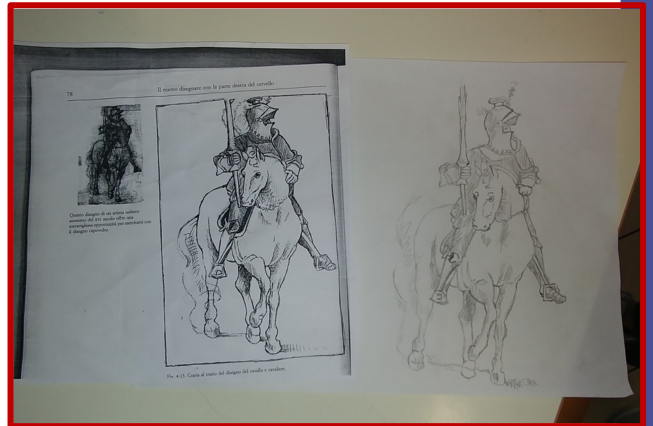
The first feedback from 24 of the participant teachers on the content and organization of the training event was very positive: they rated the training in terms of Quality and Relevance to their needs with a mean of 4.25/5 each.

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An INCLUDE scenario integrating art and science presented at the CASE-GSO4SCHOOL International Conference

Multidisciplinary approach is at the basis of INCLUDE project. One of the INCLUDE scenario, "Top Down drawing exercise", was presented at the "[CASE & GSO4SCHOOL International Conference: STEAM Approach in Science Education](#)" (1-3 December 2020), focused on the possibility of teaching science using arts activities. The education system is centered on logical-deductive reasoning and on systems that imply all the people converge on the same solutions and answers. This type of thought, if used as unique mode of thinking, precludes the person from "creating knowledge" and exploring all the possible perspectives, as it implicitly sets up "barriers" and "prejudices". This approach does not guarantee

the future citizen those key competences and awareness useful in facing up to life in its complexity. To this end, it is important to re-discover creativity as a transversal human dimension enabling people to find new routes, to think "out of the box" and develop useful competences. Creative processes are precious in art as in science and are strictly connected with a kind of "lateral" and "divergent" thinking, enabling people to find alternative perspectives and face apparently "illogical" problem.



The aim of the educational scenario is to promote lateral thinking and key competence development within the school through artistic expression. Since this type of thought is inhibited by the western context, together with its expressive modalities, the educational scenario proposes "unconventional" drawing exercise for science classes, designed by the artist Betty Edwards, as a means of accessing and unblocking the artistic expression and the connected lateral thought.

CASE & GSO4SCHOOL
Conference

STEAM Approach in Science Education

This approach was firstly tested in an Italian vocational school in 2018 during math classes and will be tested in schools of different European countries together with the other INCLUDE scenarios in 2021.

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PERSPECTIVES ON INCLUDE 2021 ACTIVITIES

In 2021, we plan to:

- test the INCLUDE interactive platform as a new open educational resource that will be available for teachers;
- test INCLUDE multimedia scenarios in different European countries;
- create new INCLUDE multimedia scenarios;
- organize Multiplier Events in each partner country, to share INCLUDE findings and create connections with other projects and people interested in the project themes – CLIL methodology, Europeanity, transversal competences, Open Educational Resources.

If you are a teacher and have the curiosity to test an INCLUDE scenario, please write to: include.management@irpps.cnr.it

*In the meanwhile, we wish all of you
a happy 2021!*



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PARTNERS

Italy: CNR-IRPPS (international coordinator of the project)
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Cyprus: University of Cyprus

Greece: National Technical University of Athens
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National Research Council
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Școala Gimnazială "Mircea Eliade"



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