



“MYSS” PROJECT – 2020-1-IT02-KA226-SCH-095487 3rd NEWSLETTER - March 2023

WELCOME TO THE THIRD NEWSLETTER OF THE MYSS PROJECT

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STATE OF THE ART OF MYSS PROJECT

The two-year history of the MYSS project

Digitalization and the use of digital technologies, both in the educational and professional field, are increasingly perceived as a need today. This is even truer following the pandemic that has challenged schools and teachers due to the lack of adequate digital environments and technological infrastructure and the gap in digital skills, teaching methodologies and approaches to be used online. In this context, MY Smart School wanted to support primary and secondary school teachers in reshaping traditional curricula and teaching environments towards distance learning, providing them with online courses on how to approach digital didactics and communication together with flexible and concrete solutions adapted to the age of the students, with the ultimate goal of overcoming the limitations experienced during the lockdown.

Already at the application stage, a project strategy, objectives, results and main dissemination actions were defined through the creation of a roadmap to also ensure the sustainability of the project after its completion. Despite the pandemic, activities took place as planned, except for the KoM, which, for obvious reasons, was held online. The other three meetings were held in person in Italy, Greece and Romania.

The work on the project results was carried out satisfactorily and in close synergy between all partners, who met online monthly to discuss and evaluate the progress of the activities. The IOs realized are 1) My Smart School e-courses for teachers on how to approach teaching and communication through online video sessions, 4 modules and 8 units developed in English and translated in Italian, Greek and Romanian. 2) MY Smart School e-platform for teachers and students with the realization of more than 150 customizable graphic templates, guideline and video tutorials on how to use the digital tools, also available in 4 languages. 3) Teachers' diaries and Recommendations with teachers' interviews, where teachers' didactic experiences and methodologies adapted to students' age are reported. The handbook is available in 7 languages (EN, IT, EL, RO, ES, FR, DE). All resources were tested with the strong support of the partner schools and improved according to the suggestions of teachers and learners.

In order to monitor progress, quality and achievement of project objectives, a project monitoring process consisting of a quality assurance was put in place to ensure that the planned actions and results were properly implemented and achieved and that any corrective actions were taken in time.

Each partner promoted MYSS in various formal and informal meetings with relevant stakeholders, both in virtual meetings and during the 3 multiplier events. In addition, intensive communication activities took place via social channels (Facebook, LinkedIn and YouTube),





followed by over 2000 users, via web-blogs on the project website, newsletters, press releases and graphic material distributed to target groups.

The consortium's intention to capitalize on its efforts is well expressed in the exploitation strategy and the intention to follow-up the project with more inclusive digital tools in line with new technologies.

INTELLECTUAL OUTPUTS

MYSS consortium and its aim of producing high quality outputs for teachers and students.

In order to ensure the quality of the project results, the project consortium carried out monitoring and evaluation activities both internally and externally. All evaluation activities were based on the quality criteria set from the beginning by the Quality Manager of the project. Both the input of partners due to their expertise and the feedback from the project target groups played an important role in improving the My Smart School outputs and ensuring the highest possible quality.

The internal peer review of the MYSS e-course for teachers yielded positive results. The consortium found the output to be of high quality and relevant to project objectives. Suggestions were made for better formatting of graphics and more images, but with minor alterations, the material will reach its highest quality.

The pilot testing for both IO1 and IO2 was successfully implemented in Greece, Italy and Romania. The online training course for teachers had mostly positive feedback, but course length was an issue. The MYSS e-learning platform was well received with only minor suggestions for improvements. Students also responded positively but suggested better organization, bug fixes, and translations. The testing confirmed the high quality of the project outputs and user satisfaction while bringing forward minor issues for improvement.

Regarding the IO3 Teachers' Diaries and Recommendations, partners evaluated the output as high-quality, attractive, and useful. The content deemed relevant to the objectives of My Smart School project. Though recommendations were made for further improvements, the project is already adequate and shaped. The product contains in-depth information and meets the needs and expectations of the project.



The project consortium demonstrated a strong commitment to ensuring the quality of the project results throughout the two years of cooperation. By engaging in both internal and external monitoring and evaluation activities, and by including input from teachers and students, the consortium was able to produce high-quality outputs that were relevant to the objectives of the My Smart School project. Overall, the consortium's inclusive and collaborative approach to evaluation helped to ensure that the My Smart School project achieved its goals of improving education for teachers and students alike.

MYSS PROJECT MEETINGS

Several meetings took place throughout the project. There were both monthly meetings, related to the organization and coordination of activities, as well as transnational meetings. As planned, five transnational meetings took place. Due to the crisis caused by Covid-19, the project launch meeting and the first meeting were held online. The third meeting took place in Catania (Italy), the fourth in Greece and the last one will be held on 27.03 in Alba Iulia, in Romania.





The KoM took place on 19.04.2021: at this meeting, the six partners of the project introduced themselves, presented the organizations they belong to and the area they come from. During the second online meeting that took place on 25/02/2022, it was presented the MYSS action plan, including information about what has been done, numbers and results achieved, and what is missing.

The third Transnational Project Meeting took place in Catania, on 19/05/2022, and the fourth was held in Piraeus, in Greece, on 15/09/2022.



During these TPMs were discussed the activities already carried out and finalized, those ongoing and those remaining to complete IO2, IO3 and dissemination, together with the deadlines set for each activity.

The fifth meeting was held at the end of March 2023 in Alba Iulia (together with the final conference of the project, where more than 50 teachers from the county of Alba and local inspectorate are expected to attend) and in the town of Ciugud, in Transilvania.

During the two years of the project, 20 online regular project meetings were held to discuss the activities that were ongoing at that time, what was to be done in the future, organizational issues and the coordination of the next activities.

DISSEMINATION

Dissemination activities

The dissemination activities of the project are based on the following pillars: The website, social media, newsletters, brochures and leaflets, press releases, meetings and events.

The **website** of the project contains information about the MYSS project, its progress and achievements, and it is constantly updated with news and articles posted on MYSS social media. It is available in English, Italian, Romanian and Greek at www.myss-project.eu.



The IO2 e-platform for teachers and students is available on the website. Additionally, the website contains links to the project's Facebook, LinkedIn, and YouTube pages. Until now 24 articles have been published, available on the website and shared in MYSS social media pages.

The “Multimedia section” of the website contains video tutorials on the use of our digital tools, videos of testimonials who have already benefited from the project’s resources, as well as photos of the project. MYSS is online also on the partners’ websites.





Social Media has also been used to disseminate updates, news, events and project's activities/achievements, as well as to promote discussions and engage teachers, stakeholders and students.

A **Facebook page**, a **LinkedIn account** and a **YouTube channel** page have been created for the "My Smart School" project.

On YouTube, are published actions related to multiplier events, short entertaining videos with testimonials of professors and their interviews. Currently, on MYSS YouTube channel there are a series of "mini guides" in Italian, Greek and Romanian, both for students and teachers, concerning the functioning of the "MYSS Online Platform".

Prior to this, **2 newsletters** have already been created and distributed to interested parties.

The first newsletter has been shared in December 2021 and the second has been shared in September 2022.

The newsletter content dealt with: the idea behind the project; the consortium; the aim of the project; an explanation of the structure of the project; the target group, the results achieved and the progress of the project.

Press releases were created and disseminated within project partners networks.

Specific **brochures and leaflets** have been released (also available on the project website) with information about the project's objectives and outputs, activities and events.

The project partners have created and distributed press releases to their national networks to announce key events or achievements.

During the last phase of project implementation, a series of **meetings and events** have been organized at local level with the aim to implement the communication plan and disseminate the results of the MYSS project.

The final project event was organized in Alba Iulia, in Romania, on the 28th of March 2023.

The **Multiplier Event** was not just a dissemination event, but an open dialogue event involving target groups and stakeholders in general. It is not seen as a simple dissemination event, but as an open debate event, in which target groups and stakeholders in general will participate.

MULTIPLIER EVENT AND FINAL CONFERENCE

Multiplier events: exciting opportunities to share the project achievements

In the last phase of the project implementation, each of the three partners has organized a public multiplier event at local level in order to disseminate the project results and measure the impact of this ambitious project on the various stakeholders and institutions.

The first ME was held on the 14th of December 2022 in the premises of the 3rd Gymnasium of Nikaia, in **Greece**, thanks to the collaboration with IDEC. It was attended by 60 teachers from the Gymnasium and, mostly, from other schools in the Attica region. During this successful event, in the presence of the Educator Advisor of the Ministry of Education and with the contribution of the teachers involved in the project, many issues about their direct challenging experience and the new digital technologies in school education were discussed.





The second multiplier event has taken place on 2 March 2023 in **Italy**, in the premises of “Liceo Majorana”, partner of the project, in S. Giovanni la Punta, a town close to Catania, with the collaboration of different partners and institutions as the High school Principal, the VITECO’s CEO and the Erasmus Ambassador in Sicily. It was organized by the lead partner VITECO in cooperation with Liceo. The involving conference started with the introduction of the project coordinator A. Cucinella about the purpose of the project, the goals achieved and the learning tools created by the consortium for the benefit of teachers and students. Then, two professors of the school illustrated some units of the teachers’ training course and the recommendations on best practices in the use of the digital tools, already published in the handbook on the “teachers’ diary”.



The final conference was held in the historic city of Alba Julia, in Transilvania, **Romania**, on the 28th of March 2023. It was a big multiplier event that represented the culmination of the MYSS Project in which were widely disseminated the project products and results to different transnational, national and local stakeholders and institutions of the educational field. All the people from different schools involved as teachers, principals, inspectors’ staff, were informed about the outcomes of the project with slides, videos, interviews with participants, photos and articles. It was an exciting celebration of the achievements of this successful Erasmus + Project.



EXPLOITATION & SUSTAINABILITY

The task of creating an Exploitation Plan, which is an updated version of the dissemination plan helping to manage the second year of the project and ensure its sustainability, has been taken on by CENFORM as dissemination manager for the MYSS project. Transferring the project's successful results to schools and other stakeholders and effectively communicating its aims is the main goal of the dissemination plan and of its update as an exploitation plan. This would entail promoting the adoption of the project outcomes by specific end users as well as the growth of new initiatives that make use of the project's contents. The plan has updated the project's dissemination strategy prepared at the beginning of the project and detailed how to act in the year 2 of MYSS's implementation. It also described how the project's sustainability period





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would be managed to increase its effectiveness by enhancing specific performances.

All national and international partners should adhere to the comprehensive guidelines of the new plan for all online and offline marketing and promotional efforts. These rules can help ensure that the MYSS project's information campaign is in line with the broader strategy.



The project team will be able to effectively reach a wide audience and communicate the project objectives with the help of the exploitation plan, which is a key tool. The strategy outlines how to interact with stakeholders through a variety of platforms and channels, such as social media, websites, events and other marketing initiatives. With an exploitation plan in place, the MYSS project team can ensure that its outreach efforts are effective and successful. Project partners use the plan as a roadmap, which helps to organize and streamline their dissemination activities.

FINAL CONFERENCE IN ROMANIA

On the 28th of March 2023, the final conference of the Erasmus+ project “My Smart School” took place in Alba Iulia, în România. The conference, organized by the Romanian partner CENFORM in cooperation with the “Scoala Gimnaziala Ciugud”, the other local partner of the project, took place in the Apulum ballroom of the Hotel Transilvania, in the city center of

Alba Iulia, in the Transilvanian region of Romania. The event, moderated by the Ciugud’s school director Teodora Simion, was a great success according to the interest and to the positive feedback gathered from around 60 persons, mostly teachers from the Alba County, who actively attended the conference.

After the institutional greetings of the mayor of Ciugud, of the responsible for International projects of the County Inspectorate of Alba and of the General Inspector of the local Inspectorate (ISJ Alba), a detailed description of the project itself and its results started.



MYSS project coordinator Antonietta Cucinella, representing lead partner VITECO, took the floor and introduced the purpose of the MYSS project, the goals set and achieved, the methodologies and distance learning tools created by all partners for the benefit of teachers, students and schools. The Ciugud’s headmaster Teodora Simion presented in detail the Intellectual Outputs and project results successfully achieved in order to improve teachers’ digital skills and adapt their school curriculum to the needs of the 21st century.



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After this presentation, Tommaso Busini (from CENFORM), as communication responsible of the consortium, pointed out on the issue of the sustainability of the project for the next period and on MYSS online and offline project results' dissemination. Afterwards, representatives of the partner schools from Italy, Greece and Romania intervened, describing publicly their personal experience as teachers in testing with their classes the MYSS innovative tools, in using the e-courses, the e-platform and the handbook. Many attended and the event attracted great interest and attention from the schools of Alba County and Transylvania in general. The event ended with a networking moment and a final buffet where all participants (teachers, school directors, educational stakeholders, inspectorates) had the occasion to commend the efforts made so far for the project, and to informally discuss the follow-up of the project and the project results successfully achieved thanks to the collaboration of different partners and institutions.



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<https://myss.project.eu>
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