



Newsletter

09/2023

Creating Organisational Structures for Meaningful science education through Open Schooling for all

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Interview

As the COSMOS project celebrates a significant milestone with the completion of its first implementation round and the commencement of the second phase, marking the project's halfway point, I seized the opportunity to conduct an interview with Jelle Boeve-de Pauw. He is the researcher representing Karel de Grote University of Applied Sciences and Arts (KdG) and has been involved with the COSMOS project since its inception.

■ Katerina Nevralova asks Jelle Boeve-de Pauw

Katerina: Hi Jelle, what is your feeling about the project? Is it going well?

Jelle: I think it is going very well. After some typical initial struggles with organizing all the work, we are now going full speed. It is so nice to see that many of the schools that participated in the first round of COSMOS are eager to join also in the second. As a researcher it is rewarding to experience that schools appreciate the work we do.

Katerina: Has anything changed from the original idea of the project?

Jelle: Yes, I think some things have changed. We have moved towards a more open and organic way of working with the schools. You know, you cannot predict and manage everything that happens in schools. So, while we still keep our work focused on reaching our objectives, our modus operandi has become more responsive to the schools. We have also changed, or rather, updated some of the core concepts of our project. It essentially deals with 'openness'. When we started the project we developed an academic notion of what that looks like in schools. Through our intensive collaboration and research with the diverse COSMOS schools across Europe, we have been able to match theory with practice. And not surprising, that has implications for our theories as well. I think this is a strength of our project: we are building a 'school openness' theory together with students, teachers and school leaders.



Katerina: What do you think is the highlight of this first implementation round?

Jelle: Last June, we met up with the whole consortium in Lisbon. It was great to meet in person and have opportunities to socialize. We discussed our progress and challenges for the year to come. As the leader of the evaluation work package, I had the pleasure to bring everyone up to date with our preliminary results of the impact of COSMOS on students. Our data shows that what we are doing matters: the teachers' implementations of SSIBL are increasing the students' interest in science. Students also report that SSIBL helps them to experience the relevance of science. And finally, it even gives some of them the motivation to act towards a sustainable future! Those are great intermediate findings that support our efforts.

Open Schooling Policy Event

■ Mart Doms

On the 26th of June, two members of the COSMOS consortium went to Brussel for the Open Schooling Policy Event. An interesting keynote by Paulo Blikstein and a high-level panel on

Innovating European Education: Open Schooling as a boost for Europe's skills



26 June, Brussels – European Commission, the One building, rue de la Loi 107, 1000

policy recommendations from open schooling initiatives were followed by a coffee break where we were proud to present our COSMOS project to the other attendants. The afternoon ended

with a world café where we discussed the future of Open Schooling in Europe. A thank you to the European Commission for making this interesting exchange possible!



Partners meeting in Lisbon

■ Andreia Penado

Ciência Viva-ANCCT was pleased to receive the 3rd Consortium Meeting at the Pavilion of Knowledge – Ciência Viva Science Centre, where the progress of the project was addressed and the steps to be followed were outlined in detail. However, there was time for the participants to visit the different exhibitions in the Pavilion of Knowledge and learn about Ciência Viva educational projects, namely Ciência Viva School ("Escola Ciência Viva"), where children from pre-school and primary education spend a whole week of classes in a live science centre accompanied by their teachers.



Teacher Professional Development Workshop, 15–16, November 2023

■ Daphne Goldman

A significant event of the COSMOS project is the upcoming international Teacher Professional Development Workshop to be held on November 15–16, 2023 at The Technology Center in Prague, Czech Republic.

This workshop comprises an important component of the participating teachers' professional development with the aim of reflecting and learning from the first implementation round (2022–23) towards refining the second implementation round (2023–23). Participants at this event will include some 40 dedicated teachers and principals from all the participating countries (Belgium, Israel, Netherlands, Portugal, Sweden, and United Kingdom) who have already contributed to the successful implementation of

COSMOS during round one, as well as representatives from new schools joining the COSMOS project and our invaluable COSMOS partners.

This two-day workshop aspires to enable COSMOS participants to:

- **Share and critically reflect** on experiences and insights gained from first implementation. The collective knowledge and insights gained will enrich the entire COSMOS community and strengthen the teachers' competencies around these core aspects of COSMOS.
- **Benefit from mutual learning** around key aspects of COSMOS implementation, such as: learning in and as a community, creating Communities-of-Practice around authentic social scientific issues in which diverse stakeholders are deeply engaged and part-take in the



co-design of learning units, designing, and implementing the SSIBL (Social-Scientific Based Inquiry Learning) pedagogy, and creating viable school leadership teams towards promoting a school culture of open schooling.

- **Co-design SSIBL** implementations that deeply reflect the 'COSMOS open schooling mindset' of learning in and as communities around meaningful science education.

Importantly, this event provides an opportunity to promote the creation of a European teachers' 'COSMOS Community-of-Practice' who are passionate about transforming education through innovative approaches like COSMOS.

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