



Newsletter

Final conference info

11/2024

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

www.cosmosproject.eu/en/conference/

The COSMOS project is approaching its end; please join the final conference by registering » [HERE](#) «

Invitation to the COSMOS final conference

Place and date: [De Vereniging in Utrecht](#), the Netherlands, Friday 22 November, 2024

- The results of the three-year collaboration in the COSMOS project will be presented
- Workshops and round table discussions are on the program for teachers, school leadership, educational researchers and policy makers
- An opportunity to get to know:
 - COSMOS' pedagogy and framework for Open Schooling in Science Education
 - the school projects and their experiences with the COSMOS approach



Learn how we can grow to become more open in our science education by collaborating with

stakeholders in our community!

[More information](#)

"Our students turned out to be science researchers"

During the 2023–2024 school year elementary school VBS Sleutelhof participated in the European COSMOS project. The focus of that project: how to make science education more societally relevant? Headmistress Tine Hendrickx and teacher Sarah Herman explain how their pupils turned out to be real researchers who managed to reduce the school's ecological footprint.

Read their story [HERE](#).



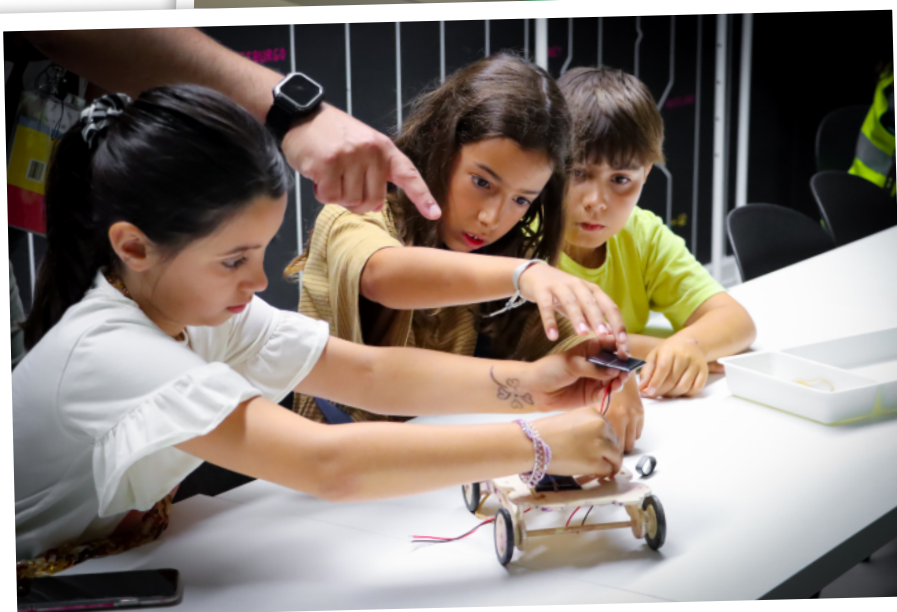
Building a Green Future: Celebrating Sustainability Achievements from the COSMOS Project

On the 27th of June, students and teachers from the Alfredo da Silva School Group in Sintra and the Romeu Correia School Group in Almada took part in the final event of the European COSMOS project at the “Pavilhão do Conhecimento” – the biggest science centre in Portugal – a partnership between Ciência Viva and the Instituto de Educação da Universidade de Lisboa! It was a moment to present their projects and to celebrate their achievements!

The different classes from the 4th, 8th and 11th grade presented their school projects and actions about sustainability – focused on how to make the school and the community around them better prepared for a “green future”. The discussed actions included exhibitions of sustainable building models, letters to the municipality and school directive board proposing feasible projects – involving photovoltaic panels and air-conditioning units – to improve the schools’ environmental sustainability, the implementation of nature-based solutions – placing potted plants at the windows, planting trees in the school yard and vertical gardens on the fences – to increase biodiversity in the schools’ area and to provide cover and reverse the ‘shade deserts’.

The young ones spent the morning learning more about bats with a scientist, from the Faculty of Sciences at the University of Lisbon, and took part in workshops where they learnt how to build solar-powered cars.

The Cosmos project brings together children and young people learning science in schools with their communities, local organisations and municipal services to make science education and culture more impactful, thus preparing young people for a sustainable future and considering how science is an integral part of their lives.



Pigeons in the city

It's a familiar sight in every major city: pigeons feeding on waste or being fed in a square. Less well-known are pigeons with deformed legs due to toes being trapped by human hair. Do pigeons belong in the city? What perspectives are there on this issue? What is your opinion? These are just a few questions addressed in this SSI. Also, how has the pigeon adapted to pollution in the city? How can you conduct research on pigeons? With these questions and their own inquiries, 195 students (aged 14–15) from AcademieTien set to work. They learned how to conduct research: a social science study based on a question about the role of pigeons in the city. They also participate in an ongoing natural science study on pigeon adaptation in the city by Utrecht University. The kick-off for the 7-week project took place at the University Museum Utrecht. A wonderful museum for the curious. Students learned about various research methods by meeting researchers and exploring their inventions from past and

present. And in such an interactive way that they start seeing themselves as future researchers.

During the day, there was an interactive lecture with pigeon researcher Wouter Schaake. He aimed to spark interest in pigeons with questions such as: What is the highest amount ever paid for a pigeon? (€1.6 million). How fast can pigeons fly? (160 km/h) What might have caused this evolution? With such questions, he placed the pigeon in an evolutionary and cultural context, presenting various perspectives from the past. He also elicited views from the students, ranging from "flying rat" to "A homie's pigeon."

During the weeks before summer break, students conducted research at various locations in the city to collect data to answer their social science and natural science

questions.

The driving force behind this project is Myrthe van Dijk.

'We actually want to use this SSIBL approach every year in our science curriculum. It fits very nicely and makes it very fun, because doing research can be very ballsy, stuffy and boring, but if you can actually influence the world as a student yourself, that is of course fantastic, so we are going to try to build that out further'.

It was a fantastic kick-off, thanks to the wonderful UMU and their logistics team.



Photo by Ivar Pel

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Visit our web page to find out more about the COSMOS project and its partners www.cosmosproject.eu

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