

# Project announcement

## The Open Schools for Open Societies project

Utrecht, 30 September 2017

### The context

There has been a great deal of research into and discussion about education. In the last few years, there was growing consensus that the traditional and knowledge-based form of education was insufficient to prepare learners for the increasingly complex society in the 21st century. This has to do with a changing society: ICT has become very important, organizations need to be more flexible and they are asking for more flexible employees, knowledge outdates much faster, and also traditional jobs are replaced by jobs as yet unknown. This means that we do not know exactly what we are educating learners for. All of this requires a broader way of education and people's willingness to lifelong learning. Research focuses on re-designing education to make a better connection with the demands of the 21st century. In the meantime, international agreement has been reached on the development of skills on which education must focus. These are called 21st century skills: creativity, critical thinking, problem solving skills, communication, collaboration, digital literacy, social and cultural skills and self-regulation.



### The Open Schools for Open Societies project

A consortium of in total 20 universities, research centers, science centers, schools, policy makers, companies and organisations representing school heads and physics around Europe are proud to introduce the Open School for Open Societies project.

The OSOS project encourages an open school approach. An open school opens up to the community and uses the school's environment to enrich the learning experience of the students. It imports external ideas that challenge internal views and beliefs and uses these insights to innovate education. Furthermore, an open school is a more engaging environment for learning and makes a

vital contribution to the community: student projects meet real needs in the community outside school and draw upon local expertise and experience. And finally: learning in and together with the real world creates more meaning and more motivation for learners and teachers.

**The OSOS project will support participating schools with:**

- Inspiring projects that schools can implement to become open communities of learning
- The OSOS model that enables schools to become Open Schools and redefine their role in their communities
- The OSOS community of 1000 Open Schools. The OSOS project will guide teachers to participate in our communities

This European project will last until 2020 and consists of two phases. Initially, 100 primary and secondary schools will be involved, while in the second phase up to 1000 schools will be supported by the project members to implement the open school approach. Schools will be supported to make vital contributions to their communities, student projects will meet real needs, they will be presented publicly and draw upon local expertise and experience.

**The OSOS project will enable schools to**

- reach out to members of your community and build lasting relations
- offer learners the unique possibility to learn from real life projects,
- develop learners' competences like team work, problem solving, entrepreneurial and presentation skills,
- improve learners' motivation and self esteem,
- build a network of stakeholders and benefit from their knowledge and resources

Participate in the OSOS project

Participating schools will work closely together with national coordinators. These coordinators will coordinate and support all participating schools that aim to enrich the education of learners by offering real life experiences to all learners. All participating schools will have access to a rich online database of inspiring projects and other curriculum materials. Participation is free for all European primary and secondary schools. Interested schools may visit the website at [www.openschools.eu](http://www.openschools.eu) and get in contact with their national coordinator or contact Fred Verboon from European School Heads Association at [Fred.verboon@ESHA.org](mailto:Fred.verboon@ESHA.org).



This publication has been funded with support from the European Commission under the Grant Agreement Number 741572