LET'S BE INNOVATIVE!

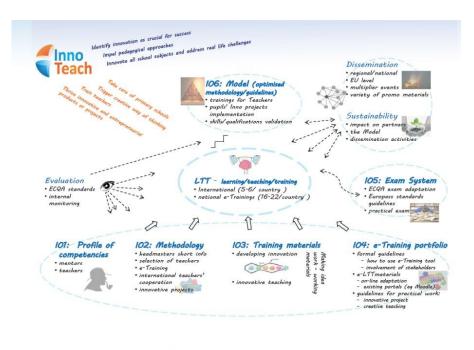## DEVELOPMENT OF CREATIVITY INNOVATION AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP FOR PRIMARY SCHOOL TEACHERS

Innoteach
Final info

Erasmus+

The research and development of new and improved services, systems, and products is an important driver for the European market. Innovation necessitates people who can cooperate in innovation teams, generate innovative and new ideas, boost creative environments supporting the creation of innovation and innovation processes that support the entire chain from idea creation to their implementation. Ideas and innovation are closely correlated with entrepreneurship, considered keys to a wealthy and sustainable economy. The InnoTeach project empowers the innovation mind-set in the European Union by way of establishing learning environments in schools which fertilize the grounds for young people to apply innovation principles in problem solving and at the same time learn about entrepreneurship concepts. These can be used everywhere; in all school subjects, in daily situations in school and in real life challenges.

Project duration: September 2016 – August 2018.
Trajanje projekta: september 2016 – avgust 2018.

The Project

"InnoTeach" is a European project (Slovenia, Austria and Hungary) that transferred the innovation best practices from industry to the education and provided certification to school teachers.

The project's **target group** were teachers for the 2nd and 3rd triad in primary schools (pupils aged 9-14). The project's indirect target group were pupils.
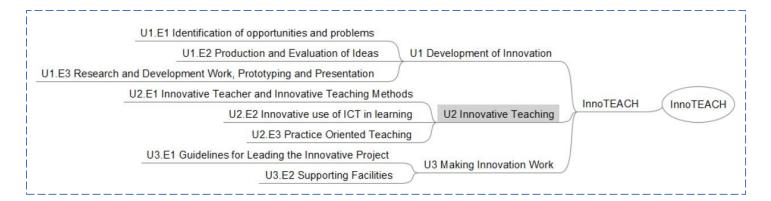
How does InnoTeach work?

Firstly, the **profile of competencies**, which teachers needed to gain, was defined. With the goal of the validation and recognition of competencies our exam system has been based on the Europass guidelines and ECQA standards.

A comprehensive training methodology was prepared. We strongly believe that a teacher, who has practical experience on concrete innovative work, can become the best mentor to pupils. Therefore, the InnoTeach training programme addressed three pillars, three main skills units: U1 Development of Innovation, U2 Innovative Teaching, and U3 Making Innovation Work. U stands for Skills Unit (pls. see the picture).

Based on the prepared concept and training materials, we carried out an **international joint staff training event** in Budapest. 17 trained teachers became mentors to their colleagues from school. For them, and also for the forthcoming generations, **e-Training portfolio** was prepared. Not only short power point presentations, but also additional explanatory sequences, examples, videos, useful links as well as other supporting materials and many concrete "homework" were prepared. We developed an up-to-date blended learning platform; e-learning environment (Moodle), which is supported by internationally trained mentors. The result is a highly motivating and efficient learning environment. Due to hard working participants and dynamic programme the training resulted in teachers' concrete, inspiring and innovative projects, which are presented herein.

Within InnoTeach an international Exam System focused on **validation and recognition of skills** and competences was developed in line with the ECQA (European Certification and Qualification Association) exam methodology. With the aforementioned certificate, we set very high standards for all project activities and presented an additional motivation factor and reference. In addition, teachers-mentors received also the Europass certificate.

International conferences

The main project achievements and results were presented at 3 national multipliers events (Ljubljana-Slovenia, Graz-Austria and Gödöllő-Hungary) and at the international conference in Krems-Austria. The presence of two mayors (Ljubljana's and Grosuplje's Mayor), secondary and university level representatives, researchers, economy and policy makers additionally confirm our thesis that the InnoTeach idea and achievements are an integral part of inter(national)innovation ecosystem. Within our events, there were also representatives of eminent institutions, such as Joaneum, Grenoble INP, Jozef Stefan Institute and participants from France, Germany, Australia, Finland, Kazakhstan, the Check Republic, Italy, Hungary, Austria and Slovenia.

Achievements

Firstly, the InnoTeach Innovation Training Model was set up. Almost 80 InnoTeach mentors were trained and internationally certified, namely from Slovenia, Hungary and Austria.

*In cooperation with hundreds of pupils, they developed **16 innovative projects**, which tackle various challenges.*

AUSTRIA - Innovative projects

Exercises for Optimising Concentration Levels of Students - a tool for teachers which enables them to enhance the pupils' ability to concentrate.

Facebook page for WIN branch of ORG Schulschwestern - to make the activities and projects of the new school branch WIN visible to parents, the school community and the wider public (which includes potential new pupils).

Social Room for Teachers - to facilitate communication, socialising and relaxation among teachers, who thus have an innovatively-designed retreat and a better infrastructure for problem- and conflict-solving communication.

HUNGARY - Innovative projects

Let's Have Fun Together – so as to break away from daily routines in an innovative way teachers want to organise a project day where pupils, teachers and parents can work together, exchange information, and ask for help if needed. It improves socialisation and innovation ecosystem.

Career Orientation Day at Hevesy School - Professionals Market - stalls will be set up in the school yard and classrooms displaying different professions. The idea is to strengthen the link between the pupils, school management, parental community, local environment.

Tura Tour - a full day competition entailing knowledge on the city, skill tasks located at several stations of the town, ending with a joint picnic and a party.

Skywalker Bee – an innovative board game to help pupils to learn the constellations.

Read and Write - to encourage students to read more either in their mother tongue or in a foreign language and write their own stories, thus increasing "classical" literacy which declines in the ICT era.

National Holiday - in a New Way - classical National Holiday performance at the Cultural Centre with a twist, i.e. innovative presentation of handicraft activities at 4 locations, historical games at 1 location, singing and song learning at 1 location.

SLOVENIA - Innovative projects

Good Mood Readers - a project aiming at increase pupils' reading motivation by designing and implementing a stimulating reading environment in cooperation with the local community, resulting in increasing a joy of reading and thereby strengthen literacy.

School Garden as a Peace Oasis - to improve the school garden with some innovative solutions: portable beds for vegetables, herbs and flowers, a gutter with plastic bottles for collecting rainwater, benches made out of pallets, etc.

Silent Clouds Incorporated - to change the cafeteria into a place with less noise and a cosy atmosphere where pupils can socialize and enjoy the food.

Active Breaks - the closing product entails a newly/better organised school breaks; hence, pupils may spend their free time on school playground or take part in different relaxing activities in different locations situated on school corridors and get ready for next school hour.

Innovative Learning Path – Treasure Hunt in Ljubljana - the project offers an alternative and innovative learning experience during which the participants get to know the capital city of Slovenia and various typical Slovenian products, while interacting with the citizens as well as business owners.

Reduction of Noise Levels during Breaks - a number of projects aimed at reducing unpleasant and harmful noise levels during the school brakes.

First Lego League - the project entails applying newly gained knowledge on project management, problem- and project-based learning, and prototyping to the concrete innovative projects focusing on water – how to find, transport, use or dispose it.

Therefore, mentors started to create a new generation of innovative citizens and pupils. How was it done? One of the final achievements of the InnoTeach Project at the base Project's level are numerous and versatile, starting with the application of different methods and techniques and valuable interaction with the real-life environment – teaching process innovations, improvements for school and its local environment, e.g. innovations in schools garden; development of tourist destinations, cooperation with elderly people's home, local flower shop, local entrepreneurs, and suchlike; socialisation and closer cooperation of pupils/teachers and parents, entrepreneurial challenges, and suchlike.

It should also be mentioned that the projects are **"real-life" cases**, which required cooperation of various experts. Therefore, many teachers were cooperating in a single project, e.g. ICT, maths, biology and ethics teacher, teacher for pupils with special needs and a student from the field of electro-technical sciences. In many projects, various stakeholders actively participated, e.g. kindergarten, elderly people's home, municipality, parents of pupils involved, etc.

Moreover, the Project contributed to the application of various motivational elements, thus encouraging pupils to co-create a learning process.

At the schools' level, a critical mass of teachers was reached and innovative culture in schools was enhanced by way of applying multidisciplinary approaches. At the end of the Project teachers joined and now interact in various international networks and they obtained the actual non-formal education ECQA and Europass, while pupils boast with concrete innovative projects. The entire course of the Project and its final results received a very good media response.

In addition, InnoTeach addressed at least 3 of top 10 skills for businesses to thrive in the Fourth Industrial Revolution, identified by World Economic Forum (WEF 2016), i.e. Complex problem solving, Critical thinking and Creativity.

Down to a well-prepared project, highly motivated participants, concrete and state-of-the-art outputs, we strongly believe, the project represents an excellent base for further implementation within national elementary school environment; hence, we also believe that InnoTeach has a great potential to be transferred to other countries as well as to other educational levels. And what is more, our children can eagerly expect highly-motivated teachers, well-equipped with the competences for the 21th century.

Project: http://innoteach.itstudy.hu/

Publication: InnoTEACH – Applying Principles of Innovation in School

PROJECT BASICS

English title: LET'S BE INNOVATIVE!
Development of Creativity, Innovation and Entrepreneurship for Primary School Teachers

Acronym: InnoTeach

Project no°: 2016-1-SI01-KA201-021641

Programme: Erasmus+ Strategic Partnership

Web: http://innoteach.itstudy.hu/

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