

TEASPILS: Teaching Environmental Awareness with Smart IoT Planters in Learning Spaces

Newsletter II: April 2022

Project Number: 2020-1-ES01-KA203-082258

Small Private Online Course

The Small Private Online Course (SPOC) organised by TEASPILS partners was completed on the 19th of January. It included five online sessions with the 6th session to be held face-to-face in Vienna at the beginning of June 2022.

Session 1: How Plants Influence Learning

During this first session, participants were welcomed by the project team and informed about the project and its aims and objectives. Also, they looked at the influence plants have on the indoor climate and air quality. These environmental factors facilitate concentration and well-being among students and teachers. The session's lecture looked at a literature review dealing with the benefits of the presence of plants in learning spaces.

Session 2: Planters

The 2nd sessions of the SPOC, named 'Plants and their requirements', discussed the criteria for plants in the classroom. The invited speaker Caro Katzmann, guided the participants on how to choose plants for their classrooms and provided them with useful information on how to take care of them.

Session 3: Plants in Culture and Symbols

This session dealt with the importance of plants in our cultures, where they serve as important symbols and are often connected to cultural concepts like healing, political and social ideologies, aesthetics or religion. This lecture tried to stimulate new ways of approaching cultural and environmental awareness in teaching and learning.

Partners



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Session 4: Pedagogic Action Research

The participants were able to reflect upon the possible pedagogical applications of the provided plants in their classrooms as well as potential hurdles, which they might encounter. We also focused on the topics of inquiry-based and exploratory learning. The participants were introduced to teaching approaches on how to foster their students understanding on how sciences work. They were provided multiple practical examples of inquiry-based teaching strategies and had the chance to discuss their own development of similar teaching-learning settings.

Session 5: Plants, Sensors & Visualisation Technology

The 5th session of the SPOC facilitated by UPM and UPF was about Internet of Things (IoT) technologies. The next iteration of the sensor spike was presented with an updated list of the capabilities of the device, gathering the relevant measures of the soil and the indoor air quality around the plants. Also, the dashboard had some updates, allowing session login, comparing measures in the same plot chart, and connecting to a remote source of data.

Session 6: Learning Teaching Training Workshop (01-03 June 2022, Vienna, Austria)

This final session will be held face-to-face at PHW in Vienna. Educators will have the chance to meet one another, exchange experiences and ideas and learn more about the digital environmental awareness. The program will soon be announced. Stay tuned!

2nd Transnational project Meeting

On 17th and 18th of March, the project partners organised and held the first physical meeting in Vienna, Austria. Partners discussed and reviewed progress in the context of the anticipated intellectual outputs, project management, project dissemination and the quality assurance plan. Also, UPM presented the first prototype of the SPIKE to partners and the consortium team discussed several potential applications of it.

