



Newsletter - June 2016

EELLSS at a glance

EELLSS stands for European Experiential Learning Lab on Soil Science and is a 2-year project (01-09-2015 - 31-08-2017) funded by the ERASMUS+ Programme. The EELLSS consortium aims to develop a comprehensive, versatile and extendable approach to integrate soils as a substantial learning field in European school education.

Soils and the connected soil sciences offer rich and contextualised learning environments for basic and science education, for practical and problem based learning and for interdisciplinary learning projects. They also differ from region to region, influence and shape the local and regional environment and climate and offer an interesting field for practical comparative research for students. Despite their interdisciplinary and practical potentials, soils have never been thoroughly introduced in school education, except maybe in vocational agricultural schools. In this situation, EELLSS aims to include soils and soil science in curricular and extracurricular activities and will do this by applying a competence oriented learning approach.

EELLSS addresses to teachers and educational professionals, pupils and students, schools, education institutes and informal learning providers, European stakeholders dealing with school and environmental policies and course providers.

EELLSS' first steps...

Up to now, the EELLSS consortium has organised two partner meetings, where the nine partner organisations, including BUPNET GmbH (Germany), Landkreis Kassel (Germany), Fontys (Netherlands), VGY (Sweden), Source (Italy), Aizputes Secondary School (Latvia), ODTU (Turkey); CECE (Spain) and blinc eG (Germany), came together to plan concrete steps, and to discuss and develop actual soil related topics and suitable learning activities. Questions that were in the focus are:

1. What do we want to achieve with the EELLSS project?
2. What actual soil-topics, relevant for learners, are there in each partner country which can be addressed to in the EELLSS project?
3. What learning activities would be suitable and desirable within the EELLSS project?

The discussion confirmed that there is a wide range of possible topics involving different subjects such as geography, biology, chemistry, physics, social sciences, agriculture, or even arts. The topic is an ideal one to be approached in a multi-disciplinary way. It can be easily brought home (e.g. doing field trips for taking samples), but offers also opportunities for bringing in aspects related to globalisation, climate change, mining, food production etc. Also, schools that work on similar topics can think of comparing results of analysis of e.g. soil samples taken from a specific area in order to intensify their cooperation.



EELLSS has developed a teacher training that shall enable teachers of all school types to learn about how to integrate soils as a substantial learning field in European school education.

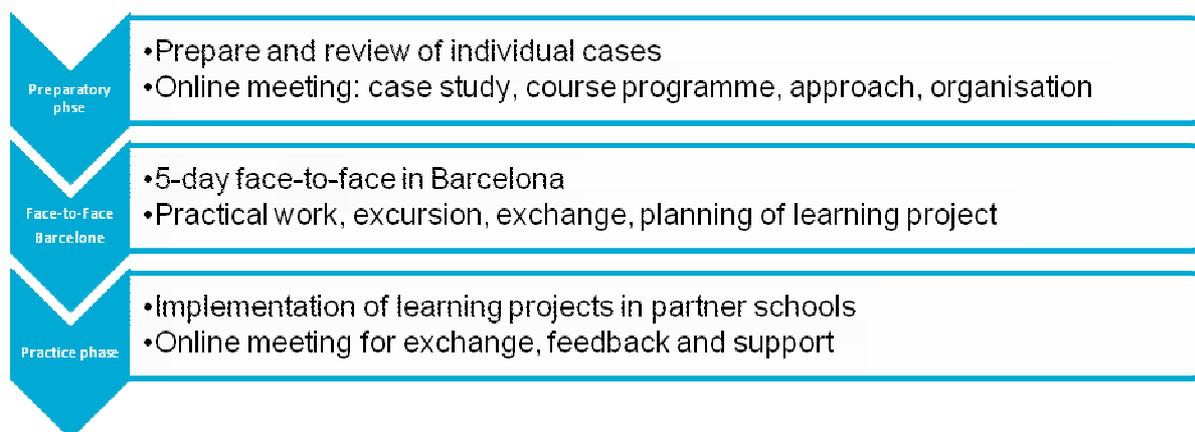
EELLSS introduces...

European Teacher Training

EELLSS will organise a 5-day training course for teachers from the project partner countries. The training aims to develop practical examples of learning activities on topics such as soil erosion, irrigation, food production, bio diversity, soil pollution, CO₂ cycle, etc. During the course participants will receive knowledge input on different soil science fields related to the school subjects, and to the didactical approach to teach and develop competence oriented learning offers for students both in curricular and extracurricular settings. Moreover, they will prepare a learning project that will be implemented subsequently in their practice in curricular and extracurricular learning activities with their students.

They will be able to connect their school subjects with the learning field of soil science, to design (theoretically) curricular and extracurricular learning activities, and to validate competences of their learners. More than that, one main objective of the course is the transnational collaboration among the involved teachers first, and in the follow-up phase also of student groups.

Training Course Overview



Where and when

The training course will take place from **4 to 8 November 2016 in Barcelona, Spain**, with 20 participant teachers from the partner countries Netherlands, Latvia, Italy, Germany, Spain, Sweden and Turkey. The training course will be held in English.

Please find more information on the training course here: http://eellss.eu/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/EELLSS_Teacher_Training_Overview.pdf



If you are interested in the course offer, please contact the partner organisation in your country (please find contact details on the EELLSS website) or:

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Be updated on EELLSS website: www.eellss.eu

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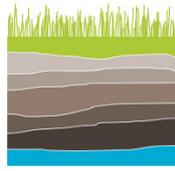
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