



NEWSLETTER

June 2023

“Promoting Open Educational Resources and Practices, as an opportunity to reduce the digital divide in the European educational context, building a more inclusive society”

What is OLA?

Open Learning for All-enhancing digital Open Educational Resources for inclusion against stereotypes (OLA) is a two year project (2021-2023) within the EU Erasmus+ Programme financed to:

- give an impetus to the development and diffusion of open educational resources (OER) and practices (OEP), also reinforcing European cooperation
- promote a wider concept of “digital competence”, including also the capability of using online platforms and information sources critically and responsibly, as a premise for exercising a conscious and informed citizenship
- spread awareness about stereotypes – starting from, but not limited to gender – and values implicitly conveyed by school textbooks and online resources

What we do?

As OLA partners, we integrate scientific research knowledge, expert know-how and real educational process at school to develop **MOOC courses, guidelines** for teachers and editors, and an open access online platform for creating and sharing **multimedia educational scenarios**. By the end of the project, 80 open scenarios related to STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, Mathematics) will be released



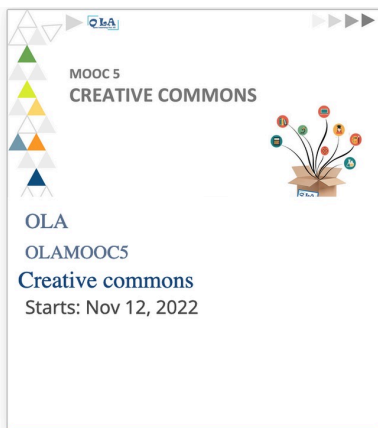
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OLA inheritance to the educational community: MOOC and scenarios

Despite OLA is approaching to the end, two tools developed and tested by the project about Open Educational Resources will remain available for the international educational community: 5 online courses – MOOCs - and a repository of 80 educational scenarios created by the partners schools.

OLA MOOCs (<https://mooc.olaproject.eu/>), which can be attended independently, are focused on: 'What OER are', introductory; 'Reusing OER', with practical suggestions about how to reuse and adapt already existing educational resources; 'Building and evaluating OER', guiding in developing own educational resources according to OLA principles; 'Open pedagogy and blended education', providing a more theoretical view; and 'Creative commons', related to open licenses. Each course provides an attendance certificate to those who pass the evaluation tests.

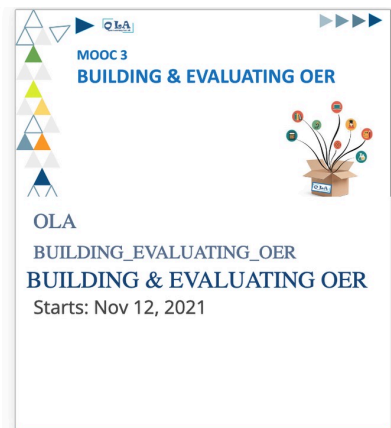
OLA repository (<http://repository.include-erasmus.eu/jspui/>) offers more than 80 educational interdisciplinary scenarios tested in lower secondary school, following the STEAM approach (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics) and OLA principles – inclusiveness, not conveying stereotypes, accessibility. The scenarios propose educational activities of about 2-3 hours. At the same link you will also find the scenario repository of INCLUDE project, another Erasmus+ that inspired OLA, focused on CLIL methodology.



OLA
OLAMOOC5
Creative commons
Starts: Nov 12, 2022



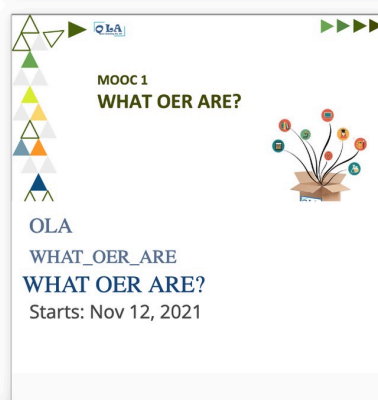
OLA
Building_evaluating_OER
Reusing OER
Starts: Nov 12, 2021



OLA
BUILDING_EVALUATING_OER
BUILDING & EVALUATING OER
Starts: Nov 12, 2021



OLA
Open_Pedagogy_Blende_Education
Open Pedagogy and Blended Education
Starts: Nov 12, 2021

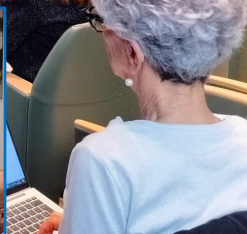


OLA
WHAT_OER_ARE
WHAT OER ARE?
Starts: Nov 12, 2021

OLA celebrates the 100th birthday of the National Research Council of Italy

'Officina Education and Futures' is a national conference that CNR organizes every year in collaboration with the Ministry of Education to involve the scientific community, educators and other social actors - students, policy makers, associations and companies active in the area - in the reflection on strategic issues of education and educational policies (<https://www.officinaeducazionefuturi.it/en/>). In 2023 the event was organized with OLA project and the national Erasmus+ Agency INDIRE to celebrate the centenary of CNR.

The event, held in Rome on May 17, hosted 3 work-tables focused on different topics: "Inclusions and exclusions" in the educational contexts, considering a wide variety of perspectives; "Stereotypes in art and science", connecting the STEAM approach and stereotypes to be overcome with reference to art, science, their connections; "Sustainability: competences and values", focused on environmental sustainability. The results of the tables were shared in the following plenary session, where we also had the valuable contribution of 2 researchers relevant at international level: Silvio Funtowicz, theorist of the "post-normal science" framework, and Bruna De Marchi, risk sociologist.



The Officina event was preceded by a work table held in Florence on May 8 within the Europa Festival organized by INDIRE, which involved representative students of the Tuscany Provincial Student Councils in a collective reflection about the topic of inclusion...



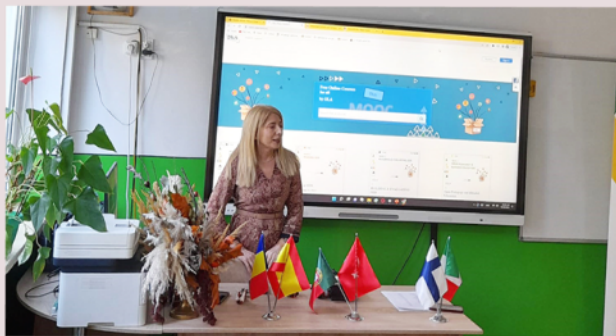
.... and by a seminar for university students co-organized by CNR and OLA with Tor Vergata University of Rome about the framework of 'post-normal science', which represents one of the main scientific references for the CNR research group that coordinates OLA while involving social actors and civil society in their research processes, to 'extend the peer community'.



OLA national conference in Romania

The Romanian School Mircea Eliade of Craiova organized a national event about OLA project on 26 November 2022, having as guests a large community of educators, students, researchers and policy makers. The meeting began with the Welcome Speech given by Mircea Eliade School's Deputy, Marinela Draghici, followed by a presentation of the development of the project by the teacher Simona Popescu. Then group debates were organized, focused on strengths and weaknesses of OLA toolkits and overall educational process, including the STEAM approach (joining Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics) and how not conveying stereotypes while teaching. Moreover, OLA moodle digital platform was introduced, showing the OLA MOOC – online course - about Open Educational Resources and OLA Repository of educational scenarios; here the focus was also on the competences acquired by teachers Lidia Cazacu and Diana Vancica, giving examples of STEAM scenarios uploaded in the Repository.

OLA Dissemination



A workshop with students, "Robotics 101", took place in the second part of the event and the guests were presented a scenario in which the STEAM approach was used.

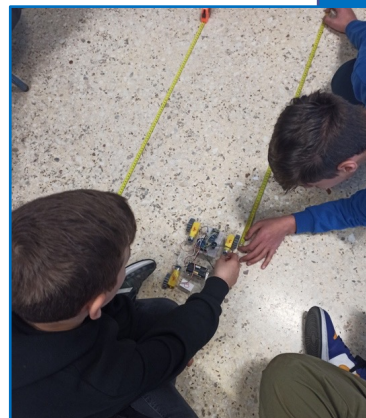
As conclusion, open discussions were stimulated about the scenarios and the way they were implemented in class, pointing out the strengths of using STEAM methodology.



Among the participants, there were university scholars from the University of Craiova, inspectors from the Dolj county Inspectorate, but also guests from the Local Council Craiova, the County Library Alexandru and Aristia Aman, the History Museum in Oltenia, and the Research Institute C. N. Nicolaesc Plopsor, as well as educators from high schools and primary schools from Dolj county.

Implementation of OLA scenarios in the 1st model school of Athens

During the organization and scheduled meeting for the school year 2022-23 in September 2022, the teachers of the 1st model school of Athens decided to include in the main goals of the school for the current school year the implementation of scenarios created in the OLA project. The topics of the selected scenarios varied from STEM (Probability using Arduino, Arduino vehicles, Speed of sound) to art and history (Lord Byron and the Parthenon Marbles, Art outdoors, A glimpse at the life of Byzantine women) and from the cultivation of soft skills such as information evaluation (Is it a CRAAP?) to life skills (Sustainable diet for a healthy planet). Nine teachers actively participated in the implementation. The first feedback reported by them is that all scenarios managed to engage the students and meet the educational goals in a most satisfactory way. Most scenarios have been adopted in the curriculum with minimal adaptations and the teachers suggest incorporating them in the curriculum permanently. This initiative has significantly enhanced the interdisciplinary approaches used in the 1st model school of Athens and reinforced the collaborations between teachers of different subjects. The positive results pave the way to experimenting with the implementation of more scenarios in the next years.



OLA in Cyprus: New Horizon in MOOC Online Learning

In Cyprus an online conference entitled *The OLA project: New Horizon in MOOC Online Learning*, on February 4 2023, presented the project to policy makers, scientific community, teachers and students in the Cypriot context. The conference, chaired by the scholar Elena Ioannidou of the *University of Cyprus*, had the contributions of *Claudia Pennacchiotti* of *CNR, Italy*, who gave an overview of OLA and provided a wide perspective about the issue of OER, in which she defined OER and pointed out how to *retain, reuse, revise, remix* and *redistribute* OER; of *Sofia Mouggiakou* of the *1st Model School of Athens*, who presented an example of OLA scenarios, among the ones developed by the OLA project staff; of Dr Mohammed Shormani of the *University of Cyprus*, who talked about the MOOC *Open Pedagogy and Blended Education as a model*, concluding with an emphasis on the whole OLA MOOC importance to education in general and E-learning in particular. Finally, Dr Marilena Paraskeva of the *University of Cyprus* gave a wrap-up of all the talks.



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To deepen OLA issues

Starting from OLA research in the Italian context, we developed the following scientific publications:

-the monography *'Education in times of uncertainty. Imaging and shaping futures of education in a European and global context'*, C. Pennacchiotti, V. Tudisca, A. Valente and Officina Network 2020-21 (2022). Roma: Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche – Istituto di Ricerche sulla Popolazione e le Politiche Sociali, here available in English and in Italian <http://epub.irpps.cnr.it/index.php/mono/article/view/282>

-the chapter *'Comunità estese di pari nella ricerca educativa: il caso delle Officine CNR'* of the book *'Scienza, politica e società: l'approccio post-normale in teoria e nelle pratiche'*, by V. Tudisca, C. Pennacchiotti, A. Valente (2022). CNR Edizioni, Collana Scienziati in affanno?, here available in Italian https://www.cnr.it/sites/default/files/public/media/attivita/editoria/collana_scientiati_affanno/SIA1/Tudisca_et_al_SIA1_24.pdf

IRPPS National Research Council
Institute for Research on Population
and Social Policies



EDUCATION IN TIMES OF UNCERTAINTY

Imaging and shaping futures of education in a European and global context

by
Claudia Pennacchiotti, Valentina Tudisca, Adriana Valente
and the Rete Officina 2020-2021

MONOGRAFIE

Collana editoriale
Scienziati in affanno?

edizioni
Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche

Scienza, politica e società:

l'approccio post-normale in teoria e nelle pratiche

a cura di
Alba L'Astorina e Cristina Mangja



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OLA final TRANSNATIONAL MEETING

OLA final meeting took place at the Mircea Eliade school in Craiova, Romania, on May 22-23.

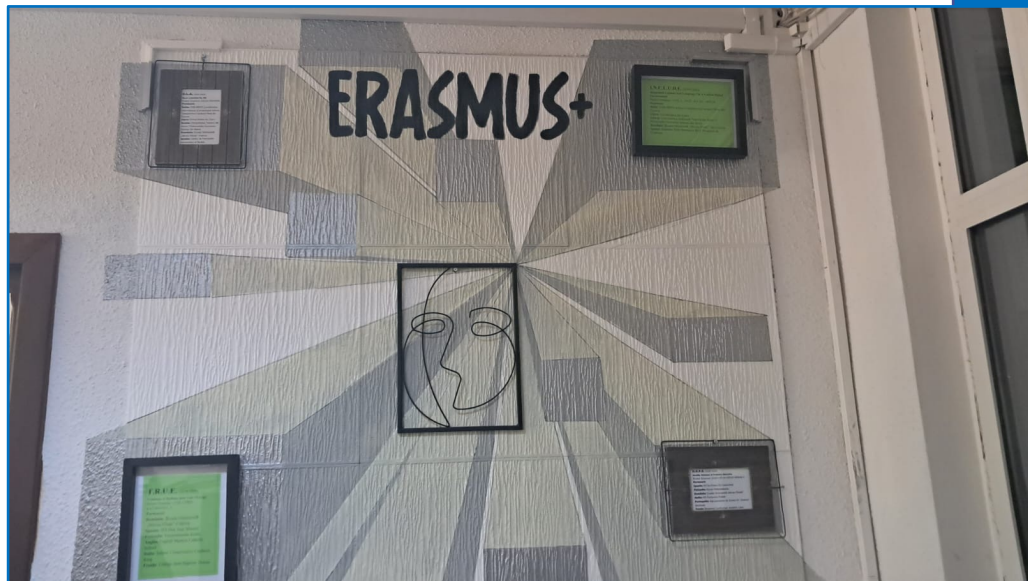
Craiova is a welcoming and relaxing city in the Oltenia region, with interesting street art and green areas, including a beautiful botanical garden.

It is a pleasure to share with you some pictures of the Craiova experience.





*the entrance of the
Mircea Eliade
School
and an artwork
based on their
Erasmus+
projects*





*examples of Craiova street art
(some authored by a Mircea
Eliade former student!)*





*street art in Craiova center
and a picture of the wonderful
flowers of Craiova botanical
garden*





PARTNERS

Italy: CNR-IRPPS (international coordinator of the project)
Istituto Comprensivo Carducci-King of Casoria

Cyprus: University of Cyprus

Greece: National Technical University of Athens
1^o Peiramatiko Gymnasio Athinas of Athens

Romania: Scoala Gimnaziala Mircea Eliade of Craiova

Spain: Centro de Formación Somorrostro

Contact: ola.management@irpps.cnr.it

Official website: <https://mooc.olaproject.eu/about>

Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/OLAeuproject/>



National Research Council
Institute for Research on Population and Social Policies



University
of Cyprus



AITLS



Școala Gimnazială "Mircea Eliade"



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