CONNECT
Inclusive open schooling with engaging and future-oriented science

BEST PRACTICES

Description for the website:

Title: Mapping my school

This good practice reports an open schooling initiative about (Creation and using maps for solving problems), which was developed by Model Junior High School of Heraklion (teacher: Maria Eleftheriou) during (15/10/22 to 25/5/23). The activities included a professional in science (Dr in Geography). It was supported by RDE Crete. This practice was presented previously:

- https://connect-eu.exus.co.uk/el/members/marel/document/folders/213/

- https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/a537207b886440c6ae47af6f6bf376db

Care: Students were interested to find out if their school can be accessible in other persons with disabilities, a real-life problem that occurs due to the old building where the school is located. Students who participated in the activities were 24 boys and girls of age 13-14.

Know: Students used knowledge about maps (general and thematic). The skills that students practiced were to create specific questions about the access in the building, to analyze the data, to create maps with the arcgis software, to discuss their findings and to write the conclusions of their study.

Do: At the end, students were worked in small groups of 3 or 4 persons, prepared maps, create a story map, participated in a Greek Contest "Χαρτογραφώντας την προσβασιμότητα" and present their findings in the Greek Students Conference of the Connect project. They supported by their families and the local community of the school.

Findings related to Open Schooling approach: The activity fitted in the curriculum. It was useful for our class of geography because students create their own maps. It was also innovative due to the real problem of the access in the bulding of school . Open schooling might be helpful for other teachers because students learn by doing themselves.

Change/innovation supported by: [x] schoolhead [ ] school association/network [ ] local government
[ ] Other: _____

Students' Outcomes: Students were create maps and a story map that includes all their work. A group of students participated in the Greek Student Conference for the Connect project and they feel confidence about the project. As an example, a students mentioned " I enjoyed so much to participate in the Greek Students Conference!", " I like to create my own map, I can learn by myself what are the important elements of a map."

This practice contributed to increasing:
[x] families' engagement in science [ ] girls' participation in science. [ ] students' science careers awareness

Please justify: The school faces real problem as concerns the access for persons with disabilities. Students discussed with their families what they can do and what are the solutions in order to reduce this phenomenon.

Please select the most relevant photo about your initiative (which will be public, and will be published with open license to represent the practice.

ABOUT THE CONNECT institution who supported the school	
ORGANISATION	Regional Directorate of Primary & Secondary Education of Crete (RDE)
COUNTRY	Greece
Partner' name (contact)	Giorgos Panselinas
Period of implementation	Initial date: 15/10/22 Completion date: 25/5/23
ABOUT THE TEACHER(S) INTERVIEWEES	
SCHOOL	Model Junior High School of Heraklion
TEACHERS Names (for best practices certificates)	Maria Eleftheriou
GENDER	Female
DISCIPLINE (Science, Physic, Chemistry, Biology, …)	Science teacher
How many lessons were used in open schooling?	5
Title of the open schooling resource used	Map our region
Type of science-actions (structured or open scenario)	Structured
Curriculum topics	Geography
ABOUT THE TEACHERS' STUDENTS	

Grade	8
Average age	13
Total of students' participants	24
Total of students' who completed science actions	24
SCIENTISTS INVOLVED:	
Name	Dr. Margarita Stergiou
Field	Geography

QUESTIONNAIRE

01. **How did you (teachers) use open schooling resources? Could you please describe what did you do in your lessons?**

Activities of Students with scientists:

Students participated in a virtual meeting with the scientist. They asked questions how they can create a digital map, what are the important elements of a map and other relevant questions.

Activities of Students with families:

Students discussed with their families at the begginning of the project in order to find out what are the problematic points of the school. Also they discussed mistakes that parents do when they leave their kids in the school, for example they leave their kids in the opposite side of the school. Through a specific questionnaires students analyzed the data from their families.
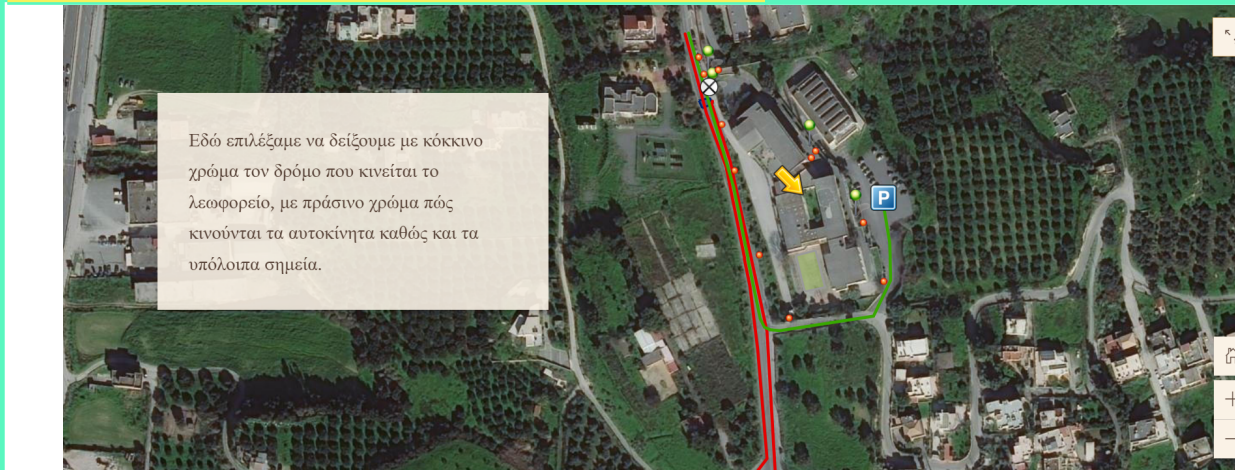
02. How did your students used CONNECT resources? Do you have (or could describe) any samples of best science actions (for our website / reward)?

The students story map is here:
https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/a537207b886440c6ae47af6f6bf376db

Slide? Poster? Video clip? (Add some images if it is possible)

03. How well did science-action resources meet your needs?

Needs for example related to school curriculum:

The project fitted pretty good with the school curriculum.

Students' engagement:

Students were curious to find out how they can create their own maps. Their engagement was in a very high level.

Students' interest and confidence in science:

In gereneral some of the students don't like the class of science, having an interest in theoretical subjects like history. With this project even these students liked the didactic procedure and acquired a positive interest and confindence in science.

04. How easy or difficult were science-action resources to use?

Please add any specific issues related to materials, procedures, interactions or curriculum:

It was pretty easy for the students to use the resources, e.g. the instructions for the arcgis software.

05. What were the benefits of open schooling for your students?

Describe the students' outcomes in their science-actions related to:

KNOWLEDGE	They learn by doing, they learn to handle acgis software
SKILLS	Creation of digital maps, analyze data, writing conclusions
ATTITUDE	Interest for the persons with disabilities, positive interest in science

06. What were the challenges of using science-actions for your students?

Select the main challenges faced by students with and example:

☐ Difficult…

☐ Long…

☐ Boring…

☐ Other (Please, specify): Students had to discuss with their families and then they had to collect in a quantitative way the results.

07. Which activities worked well with the curriculum?

What helped kids to meet the learning objectives:

Students create digital maps that helped them to learn by doing.

08. Which activities did not work well with the curriculum?

Anything that could be done differently or avoided:

Students used tablets in order to create the digital maps. Some of the tablets were not working

properly.