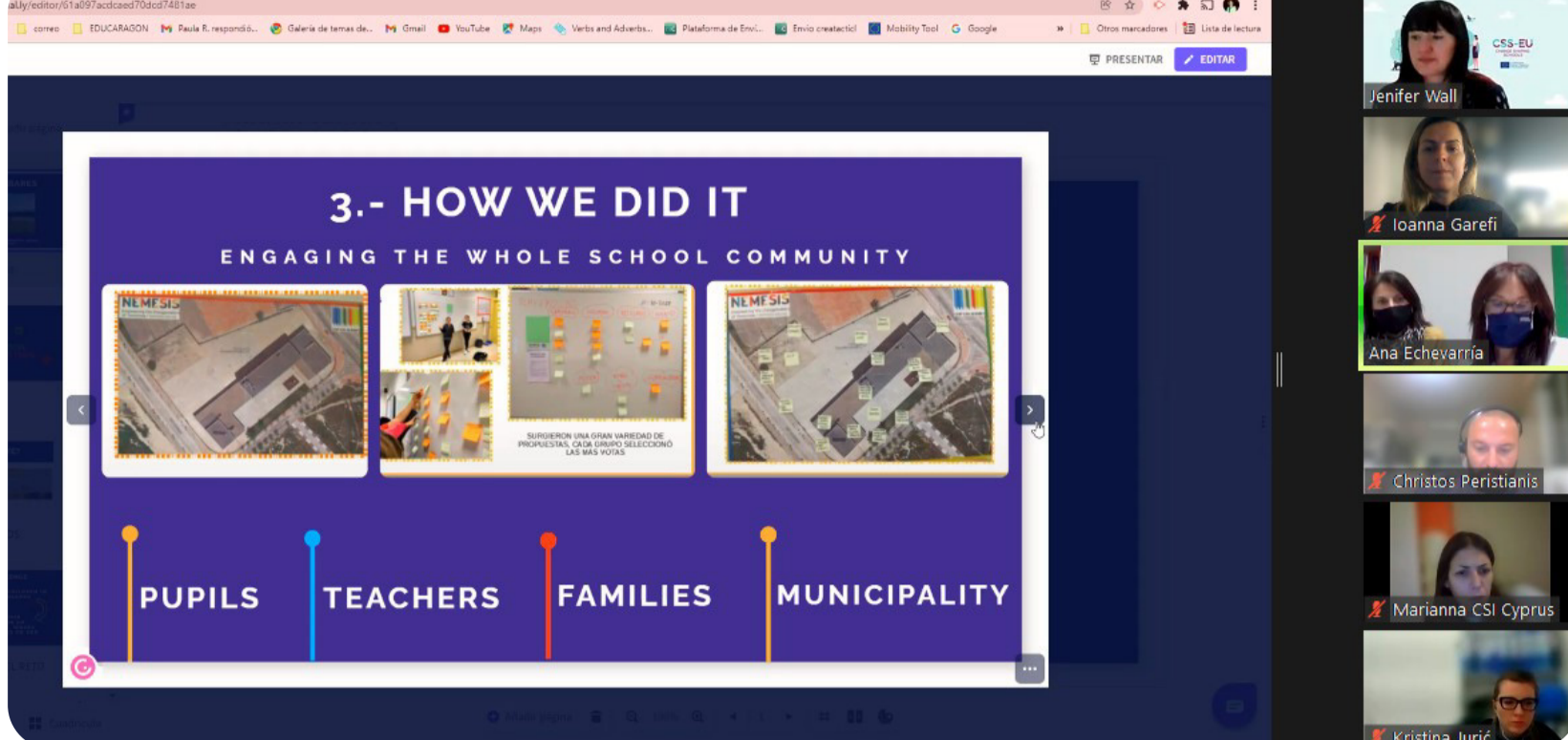


ABOUT CSS-EU

CSS-EU - ChangeShaping Schools: Scaling up an impactful Social Innovation Education model in schools around Europe is an Erasmus+ project that runs for three years, from January 2021 to January 2024.

The CSS - ChangeShaping Schools project, through the diffusion of "Social Innovation Education" model, aims to introduce a collective and collaborative learning process for the empowerment and socio-political activation of students to drive positive social change. The project overall seeks to promote common values and foster inclusive education, cultivate social and civic competences in schools around Europe, and enhance and support teachers' professional development contributing further to an improved education.

THE TRAINING BOOT CAMPS



The first part of the SIE Teacher Trainer Academy took place online as a 2-day Boot Camp in November 2021. 50 teachers from Croatia, Cyprus, Romania and Serbia attended two 5hr sessions to enable them to carry out a social innovation project in their school. The first Boot Camp took place on Friday November 12th. The first day offered teachers an Introduction into Social Innovation Education (SIE), understanding the benefits and design principles. The teachers were guided through the first stages of creating their own Co-Creation Lab, which is where a social innovation project is created and carried out, so they would know what it would be like for their students when carrying one out in their own school.

The first day focused on stages 1 and 2 of the Co Creation Lab and introduced them to the Lab Planner so by the end of the two days training they had created their own Lab Planner to take back into their own school. Louise Greenwood, School Leader from Rockingham School in the UK, is already involved in SIE and she spoke to us about how to run SIE in a school whether it's a big or small project that students want to lead. It was so helpful to have first-hand experience shared! As well as taking part in some interactive activities teachers got to understand the [Sustainable Development Goals] and were shown inspiring videos they could share with their students and colleagues, so they would have a deeper understanding of the SDGs and be inspired to be a Social Innovator.

A social Innovator from Greece, Alexander Theodoridis the co-founder of Boroume ("We Can"), spoke to all the teachers about his Social Enterprise, a leading food saving organization in Greece which directly links food donors with local charities. Alex explained his journey and why he created Boroume. He also talked about the huge benefits students gain from when they get involved in SIE and all the teachers found his talk truly inspiring.

Day 2 of the Boot Camp, held on 26th November, led onto training the teachers in Lab stages 3, 4 and 5 of the Co Creation Lab. The teachers analysed their local area for sustainability challenges and were then able to get involved in several activities that involved analysing their local challenge and coming up with a plan to run their own social innovation project. Stages 3, 4 and 5 enabled them to complete a Lab Planner, using their idea as a project. They created their own action plan and in break out rooms were able to discuss their ideas with other teachers from their country and the country partner who is supporting them locally on their SIE journey.

On Day 2 we had a second Inspirational Social Entrepreneur Aaron Probert (UK Social Enterprise) who talked to the teachers about his amazing business Labre's Hope, which he set up to support the homeless of the local area, giving them employment opportunities through making soap and offering them coaching and wellbeing support. Aaron has worked with a local school in South Yorkshire on a Co creation Lab which the students decided to create was a food bank, so he knows first-hand what is like to work with a group of students.

Ana Echevarria, School Leader at Los Albares school in Spain and Itziar Sanmiguel Fuente, a teacher at the school, talked to the group about their experience of introducing SIE into their school. Not only did they showcase what their students have come up with in their co-creation labs, they also talked about the benefits to the students and how their students have developed and grown from this experience and process. The most powerful learning they shared was it's OK for the students to make mistakes as they learn from this process.

The teachers during the two days were able to share the activities with other teachers from countries in Serbia, Croatia, Romania, and Cyprus and were supported by their Country Ambassadors. The teachers will continue to have support over the next two years by the Teacher Trainers Jen Wall and Katrina Dunne from Social Enterprise International and by the Country Partners, KidHub, AllGrow, PAR University College, CSI Cyprus, and the Programme Leaders Stimuli for Social Change.



MASTERCLASSES

We were excited to kick off the Masterclass series as part of the ongoing support for teachers new to setting up and running Social Innovation Education in their countries. The first Masterclass built on the initial training and took place in January 2022 and recapped the most important parts of SIE then allowed teachers to discuss ideas, queries and approaches.

Next Masterclasses will take place this May and they are going to be about the more practical side of social innovation projects, with practical tips from teachers who have already done SIE projects. So, we're looking forward to welcoming back School Leader Ana Echevarria from Los Albares in Spain who had some fantastic ideas for how to get students and teachers involved plus logistical advice! More specifically:

Masterclass 2 is on Wednesday May 4 at 2 CET. You can find the invitation here: [Eventbrite](#) and you can access it through this [Zoom link](#).

Masterclass 3 is on Tuesday May 17 at 2 CET. You can find the invitation here: [Eventbrite](#) - and you can access it through this [Zoom link](#).

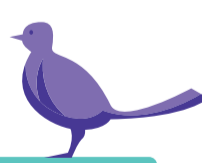
THE STEPS FORWARD

The implementation phase in the schools participating in the project has already started. Teachers who attended the Bootcamp and will continue to be trained in the Masterclasses, started implementing the SIE methodology in their school's context. More than 25 schools in Croatia, Cyprus, Romania and Serbia will implement and test the SIE model, introducing this innovative change-making methodology to the teachers, students, parents and members of the local community.

Project partners have already prepared the necessary training material for the implementation phase, which are also available in Croatian, Greek, Romanian and Serbian. The SIE resources will be freely available for any school/ teacher that wants to embrace the SIE methodology, upon request to the local ambassador.



Romanian school implementing the CSS-EU project



WHO WE ARE



Web: stimuli.eu/
Email: info@stimuli.eu



Web: www.allgrowconsulting.com/
Email: info@allgrowconsulting.com



Web: sei.coop/
Contact: ei.coop/contact-page/



Web: csicy.com/
Email: info@csicy.com



Web: www.kidhub.rs/
Email: office@kidhub.rs



Web: par.hr/?lang=en
Email: info@par.hr

<http://css-project.eu/>

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