

SUSTAIN Newsletter

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Introduction

This newsletter presents briefly the main achievements and developments of the UVT partner in the first year of the project.

SUSTAIN Website

The most important channel of the project dissemination, to inform the public about the project and its activities, is the project website. Therefore, one of the first steps in the project was the SUSTAIN website development. The website is under continuous development until the end of the project and for the moment it contains information about the project background, aims, partners, activities, events and results of the project. It also offers access to the project platform and database.

The project website is available at <http://sustain-project.eu/>. The content of the website is presented in English and also in the partners' languages: Turkish, Bulgarian, Romanian and Italian.

SUSTAIN Collaborative Platform

Another important outcome of the project is the SUSTAIN Collaborative Platform. This platform represents a customized implementation of phpGroupware software. The SUSTAIN Platform is available to registered users (project working team and pre-school and primary teachers involved in the SUSTAIN activities) and it is used in the frame of the project for documents and experience sharing between partners and between project team and teachers and for collaborative activities between partners. The platform includes in the public space important materials for the project development.

The Platform was the main channel use by the partners to distribute materials to pre-school and primary teachers for/form the two days local workshops.

The Sustain Platform may be accessed directly at <http://phpgw.sustain-project.eu/> or from the project website using the *Collaborative Platform* link.

Database for Good Practices

The Database for Good Practices accessing interface is integrated in the project website and it already contains the first good practices: models and teaching tools, lessons which implement sustainable development themes and follow to develop as many as possible of the eight lifelong learning key competences.

The Database provides features for customized search of teaching materials by topic, teacher's name, keywords, key competences, level, and language. The teaching materials are organized by implemented sustainable development themes.

Current Romanian Educational Context

In order to evaluate the current Romanian educational context and the teachers' needs related to the education for sustainable development there have been made two actions: (1) a theoretical research on the Romanian actual laws and specific materials and (2) a practical research by gathering teachers' perception on this topic.

In the practical research made to identify the teachers' opinions on the education for sustainable development in the current Romanian educational system and to evaluate the teachers' needs, there have been used two methods:

a) Semi structured interviews. During these interviews the teachers answered to a series of questions;

b) Questionnaire (on paper or in electronic format). The questionnaire included the same questions used during the interviews.

211 teachers have participated to the study, 159 pre-primary teachers and 52 primary teachers.

Besides other important findings, the research showed that although the Romanian curriculum for pre-school and primary education, according to the Romanian Educational Law, emphasizes on themes for sustainable development and key competences development, most of the teachers are not aware of that.

Two Days Local Seminar

On 23rd and 30th of March, 2012, it was organized a two day seminar.

To the seminar there have been participated: the project team from Valahia University of Targoviste, 25 pre-school (8) and primary teachers (17) and an expert from Turkey.





In the first day of seminar, there have been presented the project aims, objectives and activities, Sustaining Development, Education for Sustainable Development - Concepts and Approaches and the Sustain collaboration platform.

The teachers familiarized with the Sustain platform and were asked to present themselves to the teachers, from the other partner countries, on a forum, within the platform.

On the second day of the project the pre-school and primary teachers attended the presentation of the research findings related

The seminar participants are as follows:

Sustain local team:

Ana Maria Suduc (the local coordinator)

Mihai Bizoi

Gabriel Gorghiu

Luminița Drăghicescu

Crinela Dumitrescu

Radu Olteanu

Laura Gorghiu

Invited Turkish expert:

Duygu Dogan

Primary teachers:

Andrei Liliana

Balan Laura-Elena

Bratescu Mariana

Coman Daniela Alexandra

Dinca Elvinia

Ene Anca-Maria

Gheorghe Mihaela

Gherghinoiu Valentina Carmen

Ilinca Georgiana

Miricioiu Carmen Alexandra

Paunescu Oana Ionela

Petrescu Elena-Andreea

Petrescu Florentina-Rebiana

Pincovici Alina Ivona

Radu Florentina

Stefan Georgiana Flory

Toboșaru Iuliana Laura

Pre-school teachers:

Andrei Ramona Mihaela

Briceag Irina Elena

Ciolac Simona

Cotîrleț Gabriela

Dovleac Florina Iolanda

Negoescu Elena-Alexandra

Oprea Liliana

Solomon Cristina Elena