

NEWSLETTER



STEPS: Supporting Ties in the Education of Prisoners

EU programme: Erasmus+ KA2 Cooperation for Innovation and the Exchange of Good Practices Strategic Partnerships for Adult Education

Project duration: 01/11/2018 - 31/08/2021 (34 months)

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Intellectual Output O1 – VR Unit

The STEPs O1 – entitled VR Unit – includes the production of six (6) interactive biographical stories of prisoners, selected out of the 60 stories gathered and documented in STEPs O2. These six stories will be implemented as interactive Virtual Reality (VR) experiences (VR stories), hence the VR Unit includes the supply of 5 sets of VR equipment, one for each project partner. Each VR equipment set will include a state-of-the-art VR headset with handhelds (HTC VIVE series) as well as a portable VR-capable workstation (based on either a desktop or a laptop computer). Each partner will get the equipment by the end of 2019.

The VR stories production will be undertaken in two phases.

The first phase will include the production of two VR stories (due to February 2020) as well as a pilot phase (until June 2020) in order to gather feedback with respect to the VR experience from both the prisoner's (user) and the educator's (operator) perspective.

In a second phase, based on the feedback from the first two VR stories, the four additional stories will be produced (by the end of November 2020).

The VR stories include interactive objects, narratives of 8-10 minutes duration – with emphasis in sound effects – and flashback sequences, in 3D virtual spaces. Emphasis is given in gathering user statistics and feedback in order to analyze the overall quality of the offered VR experience.

Partners' CVs

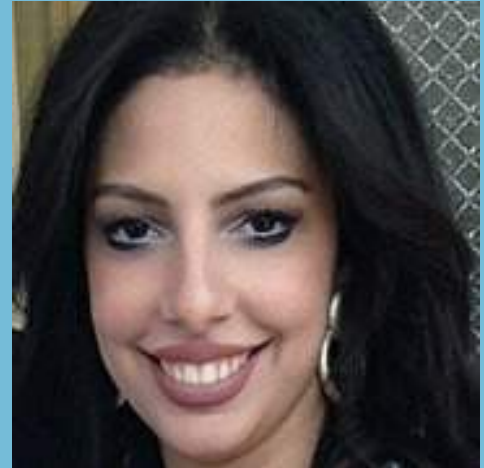
In this section we are going to introduce you with the partners who are working on STEPs project.

We start with Citizens In Power (C.I.P.), the organisation from Cyprus.



Angelos Parmatzias
(Founder and Director)

Angelos Parmatzias is the founder and president of CIP. Angelos is working to promote people requirements in Cyprus and Europe through training, research, democratic dialogues and motivational speaking. Through his extensive knowledge in educational projects, he provides training related to entrepreneurship and democratic dialogue. He is passionate about democratic dialogue and entrepreneurship and he is dedicated to their development in Cyprus and abroad.



Giota Mourettou
(Head of the department of Research)

Giota Mourettou is coordinating the projects of CIP. Giota has obtained a diploma in Applied Mathematics and Physics by the National Technical University of Athens. She has studied acting at the prestigious Drama School of Greek Art Theatre-Karolos Koun in Greece, whilst she has acquired a Master Degree (MSc) in Media and Communications by the London School of Economics (LSE).

Christoforos Hadjikyriakou
(Project Manager – Researcher)

Christoforos has studied Political Science and Public Administration at the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens with specialisation in International and European studies. After spending two years working as a paralegal in Cyprus, he completed his Masters in International Relations at Coventry University of the UK. Subsequently, he completed an internship at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Cyprus and the European Commission's Blue-Book traineeship in Brussels.



2nd Transnational Meeting

The second three-day transnational meeting of the partners of the Erasmus+ Program entitled "Supporting Ties in the Education of Prisoners (STEPS)" was successfully completed in the city of Porto between 20 and 22 of September 2019. The consortium consists of the Greek NGO EEPEK as the coordinator, and the partners, the Greek '2nd Second Chance School of Larissa', the Cypriot NGO 'C.I.P. Citizens in Power', the Portuguese NGO 'Kerigma', and the Italian school CPIA1.

The first twenty stories of incarcerated people in European prisons in Larissa, Rome and Portugal are ready. Teachers, working with detainees or inmates in the reintegration process, used storytelling and creative writing tools to shape the first stories. During the Second Transnational Meeting the five organizations which aim at empowering inmates with educational tools, selected the first group from those stories that will be screen written and subsequently will be transferred in Virtual Reality Rooms. The five organisations have found through the study of dozens of stories that the stories described can be experiences of any incarcerated person in Europe and the causes that lead to transgression and the suffering of incarceration must be addressed jointly.

By the end of the year, virtual reality equipment will have been shared in Larissa, Rome, Nicosia and Barcelos in order the stakeholders to test them by navigating through the use of special tools (glasses and wireless controls) and provide their feedback. The participants in the meeting discussed the development of a manual, which will be necessary for future use with equipment in any prison or reception area in Europe. It is noteworthy that a panel of scientists and experts from different countries will follow the evolution of this innovative venture which enables the expression of feelings of incarceration and release while experiencing borderless experiences.



At this phase of the project, the partners have launched the preparation of an innovative output which will be used as supporting material for partners' work on VR rooms and narrations' booklet. This output is called 'Innovation Box' and it is consisted of a Comparative Survey about educational policies for the targeted groups plus detection of innovative initiatives, tools and methods and an Innovation guide based on the survey's results. It will also include the narration of the Steps project. The purpose of the survey and subsequently the innovation guide will not be to get an academic report. It will be done in the idea to collect a maximum of information in terms of existing systems and intervention frames in order to define which could enrich the general topic of professional training to help prisoners, ex-prisoners for their social inclusion and support teachers', professors' and other professionals' work in terms of best practices and also in terms of case studies or tools.



EEPEK's 5th International Conference for the Promotion of Educational Innovation

During the 5th International Conference for the Promotion of Educational Innovation (<https://synedrio.eepek.gr/en/>) the working team of EEPEK announced the STEPs project as an innovation method on the prisoners' education at the key topic of the adults' education. The Conference was supported by the French Institute of Larissa - the French Embassy in Greece, the U.S. Embassy in Greece, the Greek Physicists Union, the 'Teachers for Europe' (T4E) organization, the Panhellenic Association of Graduates of Geoinformatics and Topography Engineering, the Regional Directorate of Primary and Secondary education of Thessaly and it is under the auspices of the Greek Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs.

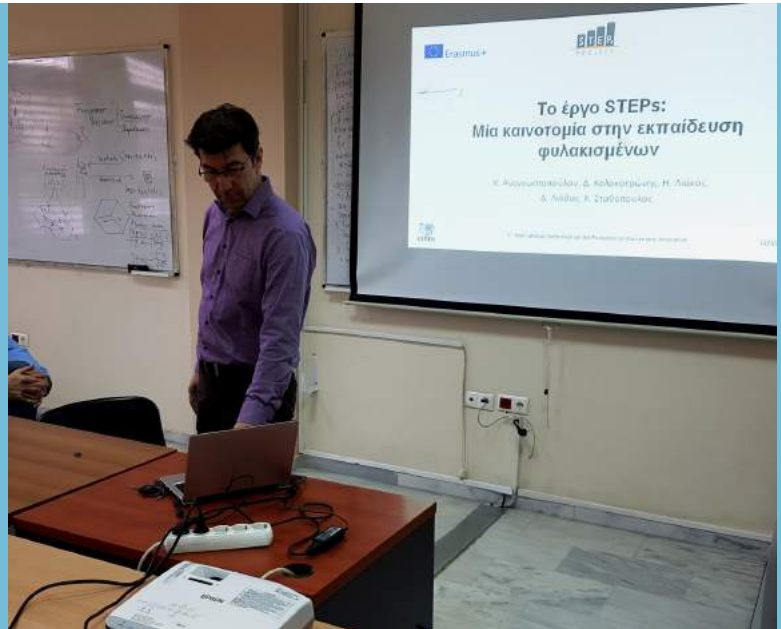
The conference aimed at promoting fruitful and constructive dialogue within the educational community and at laying the foundations of broader concerns regarding the adoption of any educational innovation form relating either to the teaching and learning at all educational levels or any other aspect of the educational process and school life. The conference addressed teachers and university students with interests in all educational issues.

KEY TOPICS:

- Innovative teaching practices and methodologies, in all levels of education (pre-school, primary and secondary education, colleges and universities), and for all specialties.
- Harnessing ICT in teaching and learning (educational software, Internet, etc.).
- Special Education (at all levels of education).
- Adults Education.
- Educational Psychology.
- Evaluation in Education.
- Organization and Management of Education.
- Educational Robotics and Technology.
- Teachers Training.
- Educational Policy Issues.
- History and Sociology of Education.
- Innovative Actions in Education.
- Education and School Activities.
- Educational Research
- Philosophy of Education
- Education and European Programmes
- Intercultural Education
- Art and Education
- Counselling in Education and Vocational Guidance.
- Biomimicry in Education

- Education and Local Community
- Education of Refugee students.

The working team of the EEPEK informed the audience that the first project's intellectual outputs will be presented at the 6th conference and participants will have the opportunity to share a unique VR experience.



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