

COLOURS Open Education Internship Projects

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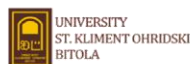
WP3 Team

The COLOURS' Open Education (OE) Strategy is about how the COLOURS Alliance can prepare students to become active agents of transformative change in their regions, while also being European citizens driven by European values. It represents a first step, taken in the first two years of the Alliance, in implementing a truly challenge-based education model as one of the key goals of COLOURS.

The aim is thus to develop and implement innovative educational formats, built in collaboration with both students and regional stakeholders in order to co-create new knowledge and competencies able to address regional, European and global challenges effectively. This will ultimately foster innovation, societal engagement, and collaboration among universities, regional stakeholders, and the civil society.

In this second year of existence of the COLOURS Alliance, Work Package 3 is dedicated to Open Education (as a first step towards challenge-based education), defining a new educational format, starting from traditional internships to innovative projects based on the involvement of students to work and resolve challenges faced by regional stakeholders.

OE internships are thus innovative projects where international teams of students jointly address regional challenges in direct interaction with stakeholders. The teams work flexibly in presence or at a distance, under the supervision (and collaboration) of at least two professors from different partner universities, allowing blended mobility and also inclusion of all types of students, regardless of their socio-economic background, nationality, gender or age.



Exciting and engaging opportunities for OE internships for 2025 have been collaboratively published by all partners. This year, as we continue to experiment, the projects vary greatly in type and setup. There are at least 15 projects involving various stakeholders, ranging from private local companies and NGOs to the public sector. For example, the National Hydrogen Centre (CNH2) is collaborating with the University of Castilla - La Mancha (Spain) to tackle the renewable energy challenge. Meanwhile, the NGO SEGA Kolaicija na mladinski organizaciji (Youth Organisations' Coalition) (North Macedonia) is focusing on Digital Business. The City of Paderborn (Germany) offers three projects on data strategies, applications of AI in public administration, and the digital transformation of municipalities, allowing students to participate through online, onsite, and blended methods.

At the University of Ferrara (Italy), international student teams are working on five projects focused on space regional ecosystems for the Emilia-Romagna Region and the Art-ER agency. Guided by professors, students from Spain and Italy are exploring ecosystems across five countries to identify valuable case studies. This effort aims to provide Emilia-Romagna with crucial insights into stakeholder roles and strategies for building a sustainable space sector system.

COLOURS is ready to embrace more challenges and collaborate with stakeholders! Do not hesitate to contact us with your challenge, and together, we will tackle it and find a solution. Helping local businesses thrive is one of the key goals of the COLOURS alliance!

