

COLOURS Open Education Projects

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The COLOURS alliance is making significant strides in advancing open education through its innovative, challenge-based learning model. Our recent projects have enriched educational experiences, fostered meaningful collaborations, and produced actionable insights that promise to drive future developments.

Hands-On Project (HOP) in the Space Sector:

In May 2025, the University of Ferrara (UNIFE), in collaboration with the Emilia Romagna region's space sector, successfully concluded a pivotal Hands-On Project. This initiative exemplified the power of collaboration in addressing real-world challenges. The Emilia Romagna regional government and the Art-ER Agency, a regional consortium focused on technological transfer, open innovation, and regional development, presented their challenge to UNIFE. The project involved 11 students, including representatives from the University of Paderborn and the University of Castilla-La Mancha, both COLOURS partners. It aimed to develop strategic policies for the regional space ecosystem. Key findings highlighted the importance of public-private partnerships in driving innovation and commercialisation of space technologies. By leveraging local strengths in advanced manufacturing and AI, the project demonstrated how regions can gain a competitive edge and foster economic growth. The emphasis on supporting SMEs highlighted their potential to drive innovation when backed by robust regional networks. The project also stressed the importance of strategic investments and integrating sustainability into space strategies. As a next step, in-depth interviews with stakeholders will be conducted to refine these insights, aiding the Emilia Romagna region and Art-ER in making informed decisions to enhance the region's space ecosystem.

School-University Transition:

COLOURS is committed to facilitating the transition from school to university, showcasing the benefits of multicultural and international collaboration for primary and secondary school

students. In North Macedonia, the #COLOURSJuniors initiative, led by UKLO, has been a resounding success. The "Roots and Wings" competition for secondary students garnered over 30,000 views nationwide, culminating in UKLO's annual celebration. This initiative has profoundly impacted young learners by inspiring them to envision their academic and professional futures, fostering a sense of community and collaboration among students, mentors, and citizens, and promoting STEM education through engaging activities like the STEM Fair "POGON." These efforts have encouraged students to pursue careers in STEM fields, highlighting the real-world applications and opportunities available to them.

International Summer School:

The International Summer School held in Ferrara brought together 50 participants from seven universities to tackle the pressing issue of climate change in Italy's Po Delta region. This event significantly impacted both local and academic communities. Through a series of press releases, art exhibitions, and collaborative efforts, the summer school successfully raised public awareness of climate change challenges and the importance of sustainable practices. The event also strengthened collaborations between universities and external partners, such as the Ferrara Plains Reclamation Consortium, demonstrating the power of collective action in addressing environmental challenges. By integrating research into real-world applications, the summer school showcased the potential of challenge-based education to positively impact local economies and reduce CO2 footprints.

Field Study:

On 28 May 2025, Ventspils University of Applied Sciences hosted a field study that offered valuable insights into the integration of advanced industries and smart technologies with research facilities. Over 45 participants, including students and colleagues from six COLOURS partner universities, visited the Ventspils International Radio Astronomy Centre. This centre, featuring the largest antenna in northern Europe, provided a unique opportunity to understand the role of cutting-edge infrastructure in solar research and satellite communication. The visit emphasised the importance of renewing historical research sites to foster sustainable future collaborations and innovations. Participants gained a deeper understanding of strategic infrastructure planning and its contribution to regional and European scientific advancement.

COLOURS remains steadfast in its commitment to championing open education and challenge-based learning. We invite stakeholders, partners, and communities to collaborate with us in addressing pressing global issues. If you have a challenge, we encourage you to contact us to explore solutions and make a meaningful difference together!
