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PROJECT ACRONYM: SPACE EDU

2nd Space-Edu Transnational meeting
Naples September 5 2023
Centro Congressi Federico II, Via Partenope

Minutes

Participants:

Sergio Caserta UNINA, Italy
Stefano Guido UNINA, Italy
Daniele Marra UNINA, Italy
Sotiris Evgenidis AUTH, Greece
Rania Oikonomidou AUTH, Greece
Thodoris Karapantsios AUTH, Greece
Maria Petala AUTH, Greece
Ioanna Diamantoulaki AUTH, Greece (online)
Zoran Hadzi-Velkov UKIM, The Republic of North Macedonia
Valentin Rakovic UKIM, The Republic of North Macedonia
Romain Briandet INRAE, France

- Sergio Caserta (UNINA) welcomed the participants and presented the agenda for the day, which was attached for reference. It was noted that Ioanna Diamantoulaki (AUTH) was participating online.
- Romain Briandet (INRAE) began his presentation by discussing the last summer school he attended in Thessaloniki in July 2023. Moreover, he talked about the close collaboration between UNINA and INRAE, facilitated by the exchange of a PhD student (Daniele Marra, from UNINA) through the OSIP project. He also mentioned a forthcoming collaboration with AUTH, through the exchange of a PhD student coming from AUTH, expected to take place in September and October 2023. Romain Briandet listed the publications related to space, including one review and two papers.
- Zoran Hadzi-Velkov, cooperating with Valentin Rakovic, and Marija Poposka (UKIM), started his contribution by discussing a PhD student who is expected to start in September. They also

discussed UKIM's ongoing work in the Space Edu project, including resolving administrative issues and developing a course focused on satellite and deep space communication related to the Space Edu activities. Zorna Hadzi-Velkov enlisted the activities developed by UKIM during the summer school in Thessaloniki. They conducted a lecture on "Introduction to Satellite and Deep Space Communication," organized a workshop on "Moon Colonization", and held a lecture on the "Basics of Orbital Mechanisms" by Prof. Valentin Rakovic. At the end of his contribution, Zoran Hadzi-Velkov provided a schedule for optimizing the project's budget. Further details were shared among the partner through a power point presentation.

- Sergio Caserta (UNINA) started his presentation by giving a brief overview of past, ongoing, and upcoming projects involving UNINA and primarily focused on the space field. These include ESA (European Space Agency) OSIP project and ESA-Topical Team called "Biofilm". He also discussed potential new projects that could be initiated by members of the Space Edu project. After this, Sergio Caserta presented the results of a satisfaction questionnaire that was proposed to the UNINA students who participated in the Thessaloniki summer school. He divided their responses based on their backgrounds and grades. The survey results indicate a strong preference for scientific topics related to the space field, which aligns with the Space Edu program's focus. Additionally, the multidisciplinary approach adopted was well-received by the students, highlighting its effectiveness in providing a holistic educational experience.
- Sotiris Evgenidis (AUTH) delivered his speech, highlighting the project's progress through various meetings. He began speaking about the kick-off meeting in Thessaloniki on the 24 of February 2023, then he discussed about the summer course in Thessaloniki in July, which included 30 participants, 9 courses, 5 keynote speeches, 2 lab visits (parabolic flights and Kerberos machinery), 2 roundtables, and 4 workshops. He also mentioned the forthcoming International Space Technology events (details from shared by power point slides).
- After the last contribution, participants take a coffee break. The meeting continued with the second session.
- Sotiris Evgenidis provided a budget summary and noted that 70% of the first instalment was spent by September 30, 2023, as prefixed in the kick off meeting. Members confirmed that there were no issues regarding this requirement. He also outlined the organization of AUTH University (see slides) and mentioned that a meeting with John Tziouras would be organized to demonstrate expenses for deliverables. This point of discussion was further discussed later during the meeting. He presented the project's start and end dates (November 1, 2021, to October 31, 2024) and listed the project results. In future meetings, analytical information would be provided for drafting an Interim Report, and he requested financial tables for the meeting by October 5th. This table must be an Excel file declaring the list of deliverables with the corresponding prices. No documents or recipes are needed for the meeting of October but may be needed in the future.
- Sergio Caserta (UNINA) asked if any rules, such as the 70% expenditure requirement, needed for the first instalment would be applied also for the second instalment. He asked to Ioanna Diamantoulaki for clarification, and she replied that this information will be delivered in future.
- After these few questions, participants attention focused on the forthcoming Space Edu meeting that must be organized in Paris. After discussions, participants proposed to organize this meeting in the month of March, but further details must be discussed through email. Romain (INRAE) expressed agreement, and a more precise date would be discussed via mail. Participants also discussed about the final meeting, in Skopje and they proposed a tentative date between September and October 2024.

- Sotiris Evgenidis continued talking about the next steps for future collaborations. The network built thanks to Space Edu project can be used for new application such as the New Erasmus KA220 Erasmus+ organized in 2024. Participants proposed to search relevant calls from national funding. Sergio Caserta asked if previous experience in this field would be considered as an advantage for such calls, emphasizing whether it was better to focus on improving existing projects or exploring new fields. Sotiris Evgenidis replied that he was unsure and other details must be searched.
- At the end of November, there is the deadline for a Marie Curie application (idea proposed by UKIM participants). Sergio Caserta suggested that the deadline might be too soon to write a good proposal, but he agreed to work together to apply for a future call next year.
- Sergio Caserta asked if there were any other opportunities apart from the regular Erasmus+, possibly smaller ones. Stefano Guido (UNINA) proposed the BIP (Blended Intensive Programmes) Erasmus+, which could benefit from the existing network. These projects typically last one year and have three partners. The funding is approximately 6-8k, but it is worth it for gaining visibility in Europe.
- Stefano Guido and Theodoris Karapantios (AUTH) discussed about the Erasmus Mundus, where students have courses for six months, and then move in another institution. There is also a summer school at the end. However, they both discussed that this type of fundings is difficult to obtain.
- Romain Briandet proposed the European University Alliance for Global Health (EUGLOH) network, a project in which 9 partner cooperate. Further information must be searched.
- Sergio Caserta suggested ESA events, in which the Space field is strongly relevant. Among the forthcoming events Sergio Caserta mentioned Space for Inspiration (<https://bsgn.esa.int/space-for-inspiration-2024/>)
- Thodoris Karapantios suggested something similar to Master's program for post graduate student. The advantage of this option it isn't too difficult to organize.
- After these discussions, Romain Briandet asked if it was possible to organize another summer school similar to the one in Thessaloniki, in the frame of SPACE EDU project, asking for further budget. Sergio Caserta supported the idea, given the great success of the school in Thessaloniki, as proved by the students survey. The School could be hosted either in Naples or in Paris, even if also a second edition in Thessaloniki could be an option. Sotiris Evgenidis mentioned that he was unsure if they could reapply for other funding for a second summer school, and he would have further info during the forthcoming videoconference meeting.
- Meeting closure.