YSC

September 2024

The Project

Young Smart Cities will deliver a high-quality educational tool that facilitates the engagement of the youngest citizens in Smart City solutions. The YSC Portal will include Lesson Plans, Trainings, Contests, Forums, Knowledge Pills, etc. that will help students and teachers co-design solutions to some of the challenges that require a multidisciplinary approach. It will build skills that are relevant worldwide and support pan-European exchanges and strengthen social cohesion and active citizenship.

Young Smart Cities

Co-funded by the European Union

A European Erasmus+ Project

Our Newsletter First Edition

Young Smart Cities is an innovative Erasmus+ project. It shows how we can work together across generations and institutions to implement young perspectives in real cooperation. We are pleased to present this project to you in this first issue of the YSC Newsletter.

The first meeting in Bologna March 2024

www.ysc-eu.net/en

Prof. Dr. Ralph Dreher
Project Lead

Foreword

Dear Colleagues,
Dear Sustainable Thinkers,

YSC - “Young Smart Cities” is a project with which we want to further sustainable thinking in schools. We focus on the living environment of our students: consumer behavior, mobility and future work. We combine this with the realities of the city administrations involved and the perspectives of the economy and its technical and technological solutions. The aim is to create self-responsibility and participation in shaping one's own future.

We use modern teaching and learning approaches to achieve this. A tool we use is problem-based learning to tackle cases with no easy solution, showing that true sustainability requires more than just a change in course. In our complex world, every change also means facing up to the consequences and having the courage to change things for the better.

Teachers who are self-aware can make a difference. I know from many conversations that we can work with an excellently trained teaching staff who are passionate about what I have described above. We will keep you informed about our ideas and results and give you the chance to benefit from our developments. We hope that, thanks to your feedback, we will be able to develop our project to benefit European school education.

I hope I've piqued your interest. I look forward to further cooperation with you and the project partners.
Yours

Ralph Dreher

Kontakt

University Siegen
MINTus
Universität of Siegen
Breite Str. 11
57076 Siegen
dreher.tvd@uni-siegen.de
+49(0)271 / 740-4010

Project description

YOUNG SMART CITIES

Young Smart Cities propose to equip youth (aged 12-16) with the right skills to contribute to the building and growth of Net Zero Smart Cities and join a global network of next-generation leaders that will set the trends for a more sustainable and healthy life in cities.

Project duration and funding: 3-year project (2024-27), with a budget of EUR 400 000

Erasmus+ 2023 Call: Partnerships for cooperation are transnational projects designed to develop and share innovative practices and promote cooperation, peer learning, and exchanges of experiences in the fields of education, training, and youth.

PROJECT SUMMARY: KNOWLEDGE-BUILDING AND ACTION

Europe has pledged to lead on climate action and set ambitious goals to achieve that commitment. The European Green Deal, along with the climate-neutral and smart cities mission and many other supporting policies and directives, strives to support Member States in achieving a **55% cut in emissions by 2030 and climate neutrality by 2050**.

The YOUNG SMART CITIES builds on the EU **100 climate-neutral and smart cities by 2030**. The objective is that the 100 selected cities will act as experimentation and innovation hubs to enable all European cities to follow suit by 2050. Climate neutrality means massive efforts in energy provision, construction and renovation of buildings, waste management and transport to make cities more **efficient**, **climate-friendly**, **equal and just**, and thus **more sustainable and liveable for all**.

Achieving the Smart City goals will require a **complete system change** of how we govern our cities, produce our products, provide our services, and renewed processes. It also means updated and upgraded infrastructure supported by highly integrated and networked information and communication technologies. These changes **must involve all relevant stakeholders**, including research organisations, industry and businesses, public organisations at the local level and, of course, the citizens that live in the cities.

Participation of the citizenry is crucial as the top-down approach must accompany and complement the bottom-up approach in collaborative models capable of involving citizens in decision-making and implementing processes. **A central role must be entrusted to the younger generations**, who will not only be the primary users of the Smart Cities but will also be designing and delivering the change needed in the form of significant realisations and innovative products and services of these cities in the future. The high sensitivity of young people to global issues such as climate change, gender justice and increased equality is the basis for their mobilisation and active participation in change. Furthermore, they are generally digitally savvy, well networked and educated, and ready to take on this new task.

Despite being well networked and educated and having access to an overwhelming amount of information online, few **STUDENTS** are fully aware of the Smart City concept and what it entails, let alone the skills needed to design and deliver future Smart Cities. The skills required for jobs in the future are rapidly changing and are very different from those needed in the past.

YOUNG SMART CITIES aims to provide **TEACHERS** with content and tools that will allow them to **introduce their students to the concept of Smart Cities** in a fun and engaging way, as well as **train**

them in skill-based learning for the future, which will help them better prepare their pupils for the jobs of the future.

The key objectives of Young Smart Cities are to:
1. Develop **engaging and age-appropriate content** that facilitates understanding of the complex Smart City concept and **produce a series of case studies** that fosters the application of the content to real-life current and future challenges of the Smart Cities to be solved.

2. **Map the skills needed** to contribute to the achievement of Smart Cities and **develop appropriate training** material for teachers to facilitate the development of these skills in and outside the classroom.

3. Build a **global community of teachers and students** to share experiences and solutions to smart city challenges and support the next-generation smart city leaders in their development.

4. Document **communication methods that are productive and efficient** for students to learn and engage with stakeholders from industry and business as well as public authorities.

Partners

Universität Siegen, Germany
Der Mittelstand. BVMW e.V., Germany
Abtei Gymnasium Brauweiler, Germany
Fondazione AEM, Italy
Istituto San Giuseppe, Italy
International School Bologna, Italy
Erasmus Learning Academy, Spain
Prywatne Akademickie Liceum Ogólnokształcące (PALO), Piaseczno, Poland

Homepage:

www.ysc-eu.net/en

Project coordination:

Dr. Luciana Stortoni-Wortmann
Mail: stortoni.tvd@uni-siegen.de

Manuela Bubenzer
Tel.: +49 (0)271 740 3604
Fax: +49 (0)271 740 13604
Mail: manuela.bubenzer@uni-siegen.de

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Universität Siegen
Prof. Dr. Ralph Dreher
LS für Technikdidaktik am Berufskolleg
Breite Str. 11
57076 Siegen