

Workshop on Organic.Edunet: Challenges in Linking Environmental Education to Sustainable Development and Environmental Protection

1. Workshop Description

The Organic.Edunet project aims to facilitate access, usage and exploitation of digital educational content related to Organic Agriculture (OA) and Agroecology. It has deployed a multilingual online environment (the Organic.Edunet Web Federation portal) that will facilitate end-users' search, retrieval, access and use of the content in the learning repositories (available at: <http://portal.organic-edunet.eu>). The project studies educational scenarios that introduce the use of the Organic.Edunet portal and content to support teaching of topics related to OA and Agroecology.

The Organic.Edunet project offers to the users a social networking tool, such as "Confolio" (<http://confolio.vm.grnet.gr>) to support effective collaboration and communication over the web. The users of the Confolio service can store files, links, ideas etc, collaborate with other portfolio owners by sharing information (access control), structure their content using international standardized formats (e.g. IEEE LOM) and publish opinions on contributions by others, in such a way that these opinions are retrievable from the contribution itself.

The workshop's aim is to familiarize the participants with the use of educational portals in order to search, bookmark, retrieve and interact with digital learning resources on their topics of interest as well as to enhance their understanding in learning design processes and strategies by using ICTs. The workshop begins with an introductory presentation to the process of retrieving educational content through search engines over the World Wide Web, and continues with a hands-on session on retrieving learning resources with the use of simple and advanced searching functionalities. Then, a discussion of innovative educational practices implemented in schools that capture associated educational approaches as well as a description of how these approaches are instantiated into actual practice is further examined.

During the workshop teachers will have the opportunity to design their own learning activities as well as to get familiar with new technologies applied in the field of environmental education.

Moreover, teachers will use the Organic.Edunet portal to search for learning scenarios, while they will have the opportunity to use these scenarios in their own educational context.

2. Main research questions addressed at the workshop

1. How ICTs and specifically social networking applications can facilitate the process of searching, retrieving, accessing and using educational content related to Organic Agriculture and Agroecology?
2. How innovative educational practices can enhance environmental education in schools?
3. How can we develop environmental and ecological awareness to students growing up in rural areas?
4. How the design of an educational scenario with the use of ICTs can support teaching and learning related to OA and Agroecology?



Figure 1. The Organic.Edunet website

4. List of speakers & the title of their talks

Convenors: *Petros Lameras &
Nikos Palavitsinis*

Dr. N. Manouselis and Mr. N. Palavitsinis,
(GRNET)

“Retrieving learning resources with the use of
simple and advanced searching functionalities”

Mr. N. Tsagliotis,
(Primary Science Laboratory , 9th Primary
School of Rethimno)

“An Organic Garden Coming into Being”

Dr. S. Sotiriou
(Ellinogermaniki Agogi)
“Enhancing Social Networking and Teachers’
Professional Development in Remote Rural
Schools

Dr. P. Lameras
(Ellinogermaniki Agogi)

“Designing and delivering learning scenarios
with the use of ICTs to support teaching and
learning related to environmental education”

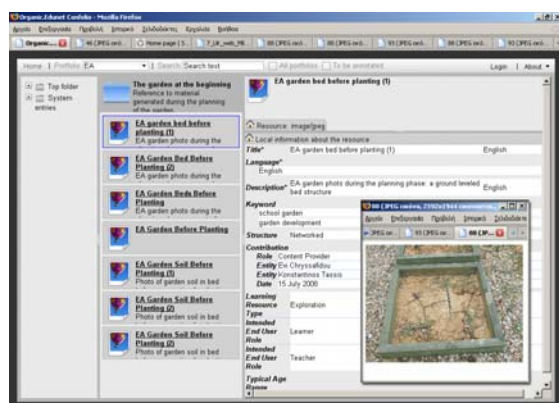


Figure 2. The Organic.Edunet Confolio