



Lifelong Learning Programme
Erasmus Virtual Campus
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www.oikodomos.org

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www.oikodomos.org

OIKODOMOS Workshops: Ghent Workshop

Life-long living Dwelling – One side of Sustainability

As mentioned in the first issue of the Oikodomos project newsletter, a series of three workshops is being organised in 2008 and 2009 as part of the learning activities of the Oikodomos virtual campus project. During these intensive events, students are encouraged to think about the sociological, architectural, urban, technological and economical dimensions of this issue.

The first of three planned workshops took place at the Hogeschool voor Wetenschap & Kunst, Department Architectuur Sint-Lucas, in Ghent, Belgium, from September 29th to October 3rd 2008. The theme of this workshop was "Life-long living dwelling- one side of sustainability" and its aim was to study the conditions necessary to attain sustainable living structures at domestic, communal and urban levels. The topic "life-long living dwelling" refers to forms of living and building that are supportive and not restrictive, being able to respond to the inhabitants' needs through different ages and circumstances.

The workshop was integrated in a sequence of learning activities which started with the preparatory work done at each participating institution and finished with the teacher and peer's evaluation using the Oikodomos learning platform. A pedagogic evaluation was done at the end of the sequence to assess the methods and results.

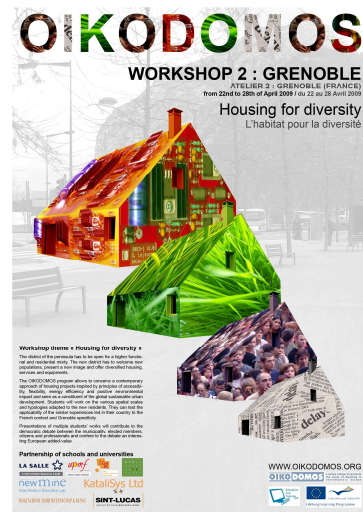
Bringing together the varied cultural and academic backgrounds of participating students and teachers was one of the challenges of this workshop. Different perspectives and viewpoints regarding housing studies came into play. The interaction between students of architecture (from La Salle, Sint-Lucas and FA STU) and urban planning (from IUG) was enriching for all. The topics debated during the workshop dealt with urban, social and architectural issues altogether. Lectures were combined with design studio work. To enhance international collaboration during the design studio, students were organized in mixed groups (from different universities and countries). Final works were posted in the project's learning platform.

While promoting a complex model of educational collaboration, the workshop succeeded in acting as an incubator for ideas and up-to-date concepts regarding contemporary architecture and urban planning.

Following the completion of the workshop, the case study and design work was pursued further at each home institutions' design studios which run in parallel throughout the semester. A specific website platform (www.oikodomos.org/workspaces) supports learning activities developed by each partner school, exchanges of information between students and teachers, uploading of students' works, evaluation by teachers or groupwork peer-reviews (access to the work stored in this workspace is possible with login: guest; password: guest) . The interweaving of mixed forms of learning and teaching (on-line and off-line, design studios and theory courses) allows the development of a unique curriculum supported by a learning environment adapted to it. The second common workshop will be organised in Grenoble from April 22nd thru 29th, 2009. This workshop will be followed by a third one to be held in Bratislava in October 2009.



Forty five students and 14 teachers took part in the Ghent workshop



➤ Forthcoming :

Grenoble Workshop April 22nd-29th 2009

General topic:
HOUSING FOR DIVERSITY
(The role of housing in sustainable urban development)

- Sub-themes:**
- Housing and urban sustainability
 - Diversity in housing (flexibility, mixed-use, adaptability, housing for specific needs)
 - Urban dimension of housing (diversity of urban functions, morphology, organization)
 - Relations with urban site (landscape, water, public spaces, structure axis)
 - climate and energy

Case study : Grenoble "presqu'île scientifique" – GIANT.

For more information about this event, please contact:

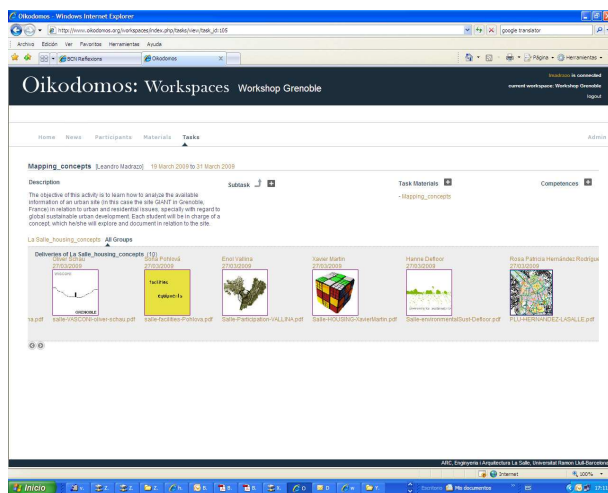
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Oikodomos Workspaces: a pedagogic environment to support participative and constructive learning

One of the main aims of the Oikodomos project consists in creating innovative pedagogic methods, which interweave online resources with traditional classroom activities to study housing from a multidisciplinary perspective: seminars and studio projects, digital repositories and cases of study, along with joint design workshops, carried out physically.

To reach this goal, a new internet based learning environment has been created and is constantly being modified and improved throughout the project duration. This platform is composed of two ad-hoc environments: a case repository (currently under development) and a learning platform to support the learning interactions between partner schools (www.oikodomos.org/workspaces)



"Oikodomos workspaces: view of a task with student outputs"

The pedagogic purpose of these environments is to support a constructivist model of education. Rather than simply providing access to information resources, these environments promote a collaborative learning process with the participation of students and teachers from different institutions. Unlike existing learning management systems (LMS), the focus of these environments is on the knowledge construction processes, rather than in the management of the information related to courses. Simple interfaces allow users to have access to the tasks and outputs, to understand the interrelationships between learning itineraries and to participate in the evaluation processes.

With the Oikodomos Workspaces, whose first version is already operative, participating institutions configure the learning spaces they share during a period of time, the learning activities to be carried out in each of them and the participants (students and teachers). Learning tasks can be developed synchronously and asynchronously by learners. Students working individually or in groups made up of components from one or different institutions carry out the tasks whose outputs are uploaded in the environment. Works submitted by students are accessible to students and teachers from other institutions, so that they can be used as input for new learning processes. Evaluation of submitted works can be done by teachers or by students (self-evaluation and peer-evaluation).

Learning structure

One of the specificities of the OIKODOMOS project stems from its focus on the learning activities in a specific area of study, in order to design a joint curriculum which integrates on-line activities and off-line courses, involving physical and virtual mobility.

Three models of pedagogical cooperation have been identified as part of the project and are being implemented in the design of the joint curriculum:

1. Integrating asynchronous and synchronous activities
2. Intertwining courses taking place different schools
3. Developing design studios collaboratively, on-line and off-line. In order to have a maximal impact, the consortium is currently investigating local constraints and contexts at each school, before deciding on a joint curriculum.

Such learning environments aim at contributing to the objectives of the European Higher Education Area (EHEA), namely to promote a student-centred model of education.



Students presenting their projects at the Ghent Workshop

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