SMART
Science and Mathematics Advanced Research for good Teaching

Erasmus+

Co-funded by the European Union

SMART PROJECT: kick off Meeting

The kick off Meeting of the SMART project was held from 2nd to 4th February in Rome, at the Ministry of Education, viale Trastevere 74/A. The project is proposed by the "Carlo Anti" School Institution in cooperation with an International partnership composed of other vocational schools, some universities and representatives of the world of work.

On the 3rd February a Conference was held to present the project to the Italian stakeholders. All the partners gave a contribution: the General Director of the Ministry DGO (General Directorate for School Regulations), a representative of the Erasmus+ National Agency and the headteacher of the applicant school illustrated the context and the background of the SMART Project. The Italian partners and the Swedish, Dutch, German and Hungarian partners explained what their specific role in the project is, according to the organism they belong to and to their specific competences.

THE PROJECT

SMART (SCIENCE AND MATHEMATICS ADVANCED RESEARCH FOR GOOD TEACHING), is an Erasmus+ project enclosed in KEY Action 2 - Cooperation for innovation and the Exchange of Good Practices as Strategic Partnership.

The partners involved are: TU Delft University (Netherlands), Chalmers University of Technology (Sweden), the University of Turin (Italy) ,the University of Roma Tre (Italy) , the Accademia delle Scienze (Italy), the Radnoti School (Hungary) , the St. Thomas Gymnasium (Germany) and Confindustria (Italy).

The aims of the project are:

- to improve the professional competences and to support innovation in the teachers' system of training through pedagogical solutions and innovative practices based on the new computer and multimedia technologies;

- to provide tools and methodologies to facilitate the acquisition of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) skills - mathematical competence and basic competences in science and technology - through discussion and sharing with European partners and by introducing advanced technological tools in the teaching of mathematics and science to support learning;

- to develop skills which can be used in order to contribute to a cohesive society, in particular to increase opportunities for learning mobility and through strengthened cooperation between the world of education and training and the world of work, formulating and solving complex problems autonomously, consciously and constructively.

This project is innovative because it inserts the ICT skills in the discipline of Mathematics and Science and promotes the use of the Living Lab methodology.

The applicant school institution has been taking part in the PP&S Project since 2012 and is also carrying out the LS OSA Project, providing their know-how and the experiences.

The universities involved in the SMART Project will contribute to its implementation as follows: TU Delft University (Netherlands), Chalmers University of Technology (Sweden) and the University of Turin (Italy) will work in particular on Mathematics and ACE with the implementation of e-learning platforms with the Suite Maple software, social learning environments, web conference systems; the University of Roma Tre (Italy) and the Accademia delle Scienze (Italy) will operate on Science and try to create new teaching resources by working on a common format for the teaching of science with the promotion of laboratory education.

Confindustria will contribute to the project indicating the needs of the world of work to get human resources prepared to face the job market with a "problem solving" approach, supported by skills and abilities in the use of information technology to improve the entrepreneurial competences. On its completion, they will validate the project results.

The other schools (the Hungarian Radnoti School and the German St. Thomas Gymnasium), who have already been partners of the applicant in previous European projects, will be a first reference sample for the testing of the new practices and the outcomes of the SMART project in view of the targets set by the Europe 2020 Program for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth.

The results expected are:

- exchange of good practices

- increase of the professional competences of teachers and consequently an improvement of the students' competences

- production of innovative teaching modules for secondary school students in Mathematics, Science and ICT.

- a web international portal for the access to a collaborative platform in order to share tools, best practices and results.