EDUCODE
E-Newsletter - Number 4

Increasing the Competency of
Computer Science Teaching Undergraduates
on Coding Education
2017-1-TR01-KA203-046578

Fourth meeting in Varaždin, Croatia (26-27th March 2019)

Multiplier events

The project intellectual outputs were shared with a wider audience during the five multiplier events in Turkey, Ireland, Slovenia and Croatia.

Turkey

Izmir

The multiplier event in Izmir "Increasing the pedagogical competency of ICT / STEM teacher candidates on Coding Education" was held on 31st July 2019 in the conference hall of Buca Faculty of Education in Dokuz Eylul University. The participation certificates were presented to teacher candidates on 21st August 2019 in the same venue.

The multiplier event was designed by Prof. Dr. Ercan Akpınar, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Bahar Baran and Assist. Prof. Dr. Kursat Arslan and was held in two sessions. The first session started with the presentation of the web site and twitter account of this project and then, continued with the introduction of the justifications for doing this project, the purpose, the project partners, duration and outputs of the project. Some pictures and examples from transnational meetings, which were achieved in Turkey, Ireland, Slovenia, and Croatia, were presented to the participants. Finally, the first project output " the need analysis for developing a curriculum" was shared with them. The second session included that the second output of the project "the practitioners' Handbook", was discussed in units and introduced in detail. The participants ' high demands were taken into consideration and the "Coding and STEM" unit was introduced as a sample activity. During the two sessions, questions and answers were received from the participants during the activities and activities were enriched with drama, analogy, problem solving and discovery learning teaching methods. The examples in the teacher's handbook were used during the presentations.

As a result, 115 ICT/STEM students from various 30 universities in Turkey participated to this multiplier event in IZMIR. Furthermore, 57 students and 8 faculty members from the project researchers' own university participated in the activities. The participant evaluations indicated that ICT / STEM prospective teachers had high motivation and desire for learning the pedagogy of how to

teach coding to children. The project outcomes were evaluated as valuable from the participants and they stated that they would like to attend a lecture that covers the pedagogical dimension of coding teaching.

Facebook was used for sharing information about the multiplier event in Izmir. The announcement of the event was seen by 1.362 people on Facebook. The information about the implementation of the event was seen by 372 people on Facebook. Finally, the certificate ceremony was reached to 1.033 people on Facebook.

Ankara

The EDUCODE workshop, which was held in Gazi University on 20th June 2019, aimed to share and disseminate the Intellectual Outputs of the project. In order to maximise the dissemination potential, the event was organized after development of intellectual outputs was completed. With the valuable contribution of Dokuz Eylül University, the workshop is planned, organized and executed by APEC.

There have been three sessions conducted by three different speakers in the workshop. Assoc. Dr. Bahar Baran and Dr. Kürşat Arslan from Department of ICT Teaching, Dokuz Eylül University administered the first two sessions and Mr. Yıldırım Özkaya from APEC managed the final one. The participants mostly consisted of students and academic staff from ITC Teaching, Computer Science and STEM departments of Gazi University in Ankara/Turkey. There has been a minority of students who have come from a university other than Gazi University. The total number of attendants has been 61. A poster containing the logo of the EDUCODE project has been placed on the stage and study materials, handouts, brochures and flyers containing the logos of Erasmus+ programme as well as Turkish National Agency have been provided to participants.

In the beginning of the workshop, Mrs. Bahar Baran has taken the stage and given an introductory speech. After that, the first session has begun. The content of the first half of the first session has been approaches to coding education and coding education methods. In the second half, Mrs. Bahar has introduced the Curriculum, the first Intellectual Output of the project. After a break, the second session has been started. Mr. Kürşat Arslan has taken the stage and provided a brief speech on development process of the teacher's handbook, the second intellectual output of the EDUCODE project. The printed versions of the two class activities which are in the handbook have been handed out to the participants. By using those print outs, Mr. Arslan conducted an interactive session. In the final session, Mr. Yıldırım Özkaya provided a detailed speech about the Erasmus+ programme and the EDUCODE project. He has highlighted the contribution of the European Commission and Turkish National Agency. He has also informed students about how they can participate and offer their value to those projects.

It is very important to note that participants have been very interested and actively involved in the workshop. They have answered the directed questions and they also asked their own questions. We can wholeheartedly conclude that this has been a fruitful dissemination event, thanks to the driven and enthusiastic participant group.
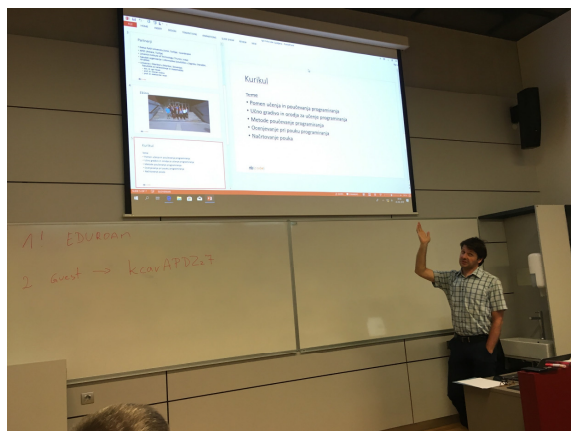
Ireland

The multiplier event in Thurles was held on 11th May 2019. There were 38 attendees.

Slovenia

Multiplier event in Slovenia was held in Ljubljana on August 20th, 2019. There were 51 attendees, mostly high school teachers in the fields of computer science and informatics. The presentation was delivered by Assistant Professor Igor Pesek, Ph.D. from the Faculty of Natural Sciences and Mathematics, University of Maribor.
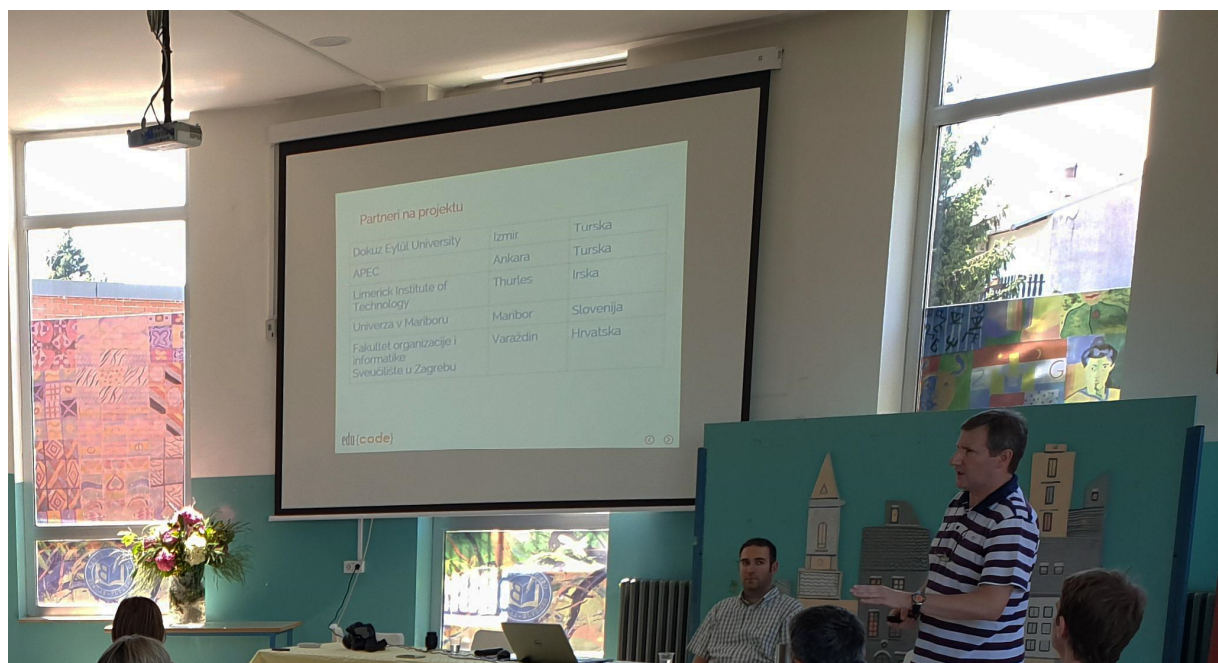
Croatia

The Croatian multiplier event took place in the Croatian capital city of Zagreb.

The presentation was held on 28th June 2019 at the meeting of County Teachers Council in Informatics of the City of Zagreb - East at Brestje Elementary School in Sesvete (City of Zagreb). Along with the members of the teachers council, the presentation was attended by the university teachers and students from the University of Zagreb. Altogether there were 59 attendees.

The presentation was delivered by Full Professor Dragutin Kermek, Ph.D. and Assistant Professor Goran Hajdin, Ph.D. from the Faculty of Organization and Informatics and Assistant Professor Predrag Oreški, Ph.D. from the Faculty of Teacher Education.

The members of the Croatian part of the EDUCODE Project presented the project results and intellectual outcomes: the analysis of coding training needs, curricula and teacher manual. Web site educodeproject.org was also presented to the audience as well as the project's social media: Twitter, Facebook, LinkedIn, and Instagram.