Wikipedia Education Program in Greece

We are organizing WEP projects in Greece since 2010 in various schools, mostly in universities but also in secondary schools.

We have trained and mentored more than 1300 students in all educational levels, with hundreds of articles and photos uploaded in Wikipedia and Commons.
Wikipedia Education Program in Greece

We have implemented or aided school projects in:
- Wikipedia
- Commons
- Wiktionary
- Translation tool

We have given orientation programs on:
- How to write an article
- How to upload photos
- How to use Visual Editor
- On Wikipedia principles
- etc.
The problem we are trying to solve

We started researching if there were school projects using Wikipedia.

Some teachers use Wikipedia in their classroom independently, with or without being experienced themselves.
The problem we are trying to solve

“Can we use Wikipedia as a reference?”
“Is Wikipedia reliable?”
“Can anyone edit?”
“Why was the article I wrote / photo I uploaded deleted?”
“Why someone changed the article I wrote?”
“How do I create an account?”
“Can you please come to our school and show us how things are done?”
The problem we are trying to solve
Use of a platform

We came with the idea to build a platform with a concrete syllabus for teachers of all grades.

“Platform”? 

- Interactive content
- Videos
- Online workshops
- Progress reports
Use of a platform

Wikipedia Education Program

Wikipedia Education Program

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0 student
Usefulness of a platform

- Low cost
- Mass education
- It solves the transport problem
- Everyone chooses their own pace
- Multiplier effect
Educators demography

- 81% working in public education
- 24% unemployed in current year
- 56.3% female
- 43.7% male
- 10.2% tertiary education
- 14.2% adult education
- Season 1: 279 interested, 151 enrolled, 51 finished the course
Example of curriculum

• Lesson 4
  ○ Brochures and guides (video)
  ○ The key for a successful educational program (video)
  ○ Read… (Wikipedia policies and guidelines)
  ○ Using Wikipedia in education (video)
  ○ Using Wiktionary in the course of Informatics in Junior High School (video)
  ○ Study… (research papers)
  ○ Do in Wikipedia (tasks to do)
  ○ Participate in online workshop
The main points

- What is wikipedia - Principles of wiki
- 5 Pillars of wiki
- My first article
- Using wiki in education - Experience of others
  - References to school projects in Greece
  - Online meeting with educators
  - School project ideas by the participants. Evaluation
    - Mid-point evaluation
- Make your own project
- Connecting with the community
- Advanced tools (translation, etc)
- Sister Projects (Wikidata - Commons)
  - Final evaluation
MOOC: Wordpress + Learnpress addon
Most participants found the WEP videos extremely valuable.
Almost all participants found the tutorial videos extremely valuable.
How useful were the help texts we have given?
Blue: extremely useful,
Red: very useful
Orange: just useful
Webminars

Views greater than realtime participation.
Synchronous Learning

We held meetings in *YouTube Live* platform through which participants could participate in a discussion with a trainer. The duration of the discussion was about 30-45 minutes.

*YouTube Live* enables you to automatically record your session and post it to a selected YouTube channel. It also offers the possibility of written comments during the broadcast and has no restrictions on the duration of it.

Some meetings had the form of an experiential seminar. Teachers who have implemented minor school projects using Wikipedia and its sister projects in their schools have been invited and given their experience of these project plans giving ideas for similar projects to the participants.
Asynchronous Learning

Activities included:

- reading manuals
- videos specifically tailored for the seminar
- subtitled videos offered by the Wikipedia Education Program
- Wikipedia activities, questionnaires (multi-choice and free answer)

We offered alternatives in reading material based on the educational level
Educators about the course

“I like that the materials are there to study according to my own schedule.”

How easy was to use this platform
Educators about the course

The vast majority spent 1-3 hours per week on material study while many devoted 4-5 hours.
Educators about Wikipedia after the course

"Extremely interesting and with many possible applications in the classroom. Relatively simple to edit and therefore easy to learn by students. Its operating framework is strictly defined and this helps to adopt correct digital behavior."

"Interesting experience, mainly due to the many scientific fields that can be involved, but also the plethora of ways it provides for its integration into the educational process."

"It helps you to learn actively rather than passively. This is the most important element."

"I learned a lot of things [...] to apply with my students the practices I learned."
Overview

Activities within Wikipedia included a wide range of objects and skills such as edits, image postings, page layouts, page creation, search and retrieval of information, combinations of information from different platforms (Wikidata, Commons, Wikipedia) and communication with other users.

They were free and able to choose not only the time but also the material that they were interested in studying, something that they made very clear by watching the videos and reading the texts they were interested in.
How to integrate Wikipedia at schools?

- The dilemma is: A sole series of Wikipedia lessons or use of Wikipedia tools in other subjects?
- Should we make projects that mainly aim in adding content in Wikipedia and its sister projects?
- The Greek analytic school program changes quite often. Some schools have free time for school projects while others don’t.
Teachings and drawbacks

- Online tutorials make the audience wider but lose in specialised mentoring
- We plan to organise a form that mixes online and real life meetings to enhance efficiency
Future work

- Create a concrete syllabus per country
- A platform where teachers can exchange school projects ideas
- A global database of school projects using Wikipedia and its sister projects
- A todo list that can be implemented by students
- Integrate Wikipedia in the school program mainly as a tool
Future work
Thank you!
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