



CorfuPedia

Local history articles by Greek students Activities and learnings

CorfuPedia was a student project with main purpose to introduce students to Wikipedia, via creating new articles on their local history, in Corfu, Greece. The students of the cooperating schools, proposed the project to their teachers, after realizing that there are not many articles referring to the local history of Corfu in Wikipedia. We organized CorfuPedia as a series of onsite and online training, creation of new articles from teams of students, and research for PD images to upload to Commons.

Wikipedia
Education
Program

Greece



The project had goals to educate and inform the students about the cultural heritage of their island, and to introduce students to Wikipedia and to train them in contributing to Wikipedia and Commons. It was a large scale project with stakeholders from the User Group, many educational institutions and a large number of students. For most of the goals the project was succesful, with minor problems that taught us what to do

Through the feedback from the students and teachers we feel that most of them learned the basics about Wikipedia and loved the fact that their work is available online to everybody in the web. Participants were 106 students and 13 teachers in deifferent disciplines.

Students worked in teams with their teachers to create the content, using their school computer labs. There was a team of informatics course helping them, and wikipedians trained them on wiki editing through onsite workshops and online meetings through Skype.

Accomplishments

The coordination of a large number of students, teachers and volunteers - members of the Wikipedia organization was the most astonishing accomplishment of this project.

The Greek educational system generally does not give the necessary tools to teachers in order to cooperate on large projects. Also teachers from different fields cannot find easily a common subject to work on a project. Corfupedia managed to join these two parameters.

The project was presented in Digifest Corfu Greece, participated in the 1st Competition of Student Innovation in Corfu Greece, and got a Silver Award in Educational Business Awards 2017. Papers about the project were presented in four different conferences about education.

Lessons learned

Do not rely to newbies even teachers: Teachers were very interested and enthusiastic in participating, but also newbies themselves, so that did not help them explain things and pass their enthusiasm to all of their students. Some of the students formed little teams to work their articles offwiki, and then submitted their work with one account. This seems to have happened because they were used in this way from their usual joined assignments at school.

Clear goals with stakeholders: Some of the teachers felt that they were going well with the project if their students were learning, covering their educational goals, and not paying enough attention to our own goals about creating articles and get Wikipedia training.

Wikipedian volunteer resources: The expansion to more schools divided the time for workshops and webinars. With the final number of schools we made 10 workshops and 10 webinars, one for each school while the initial plan would allow us to do two for each.



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Watch: Teaser video in YouTube



<https://youtu.be/4qa3Yfk8w2g>



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