



A global multidisciplinary network on
housing research and learning

Project summary

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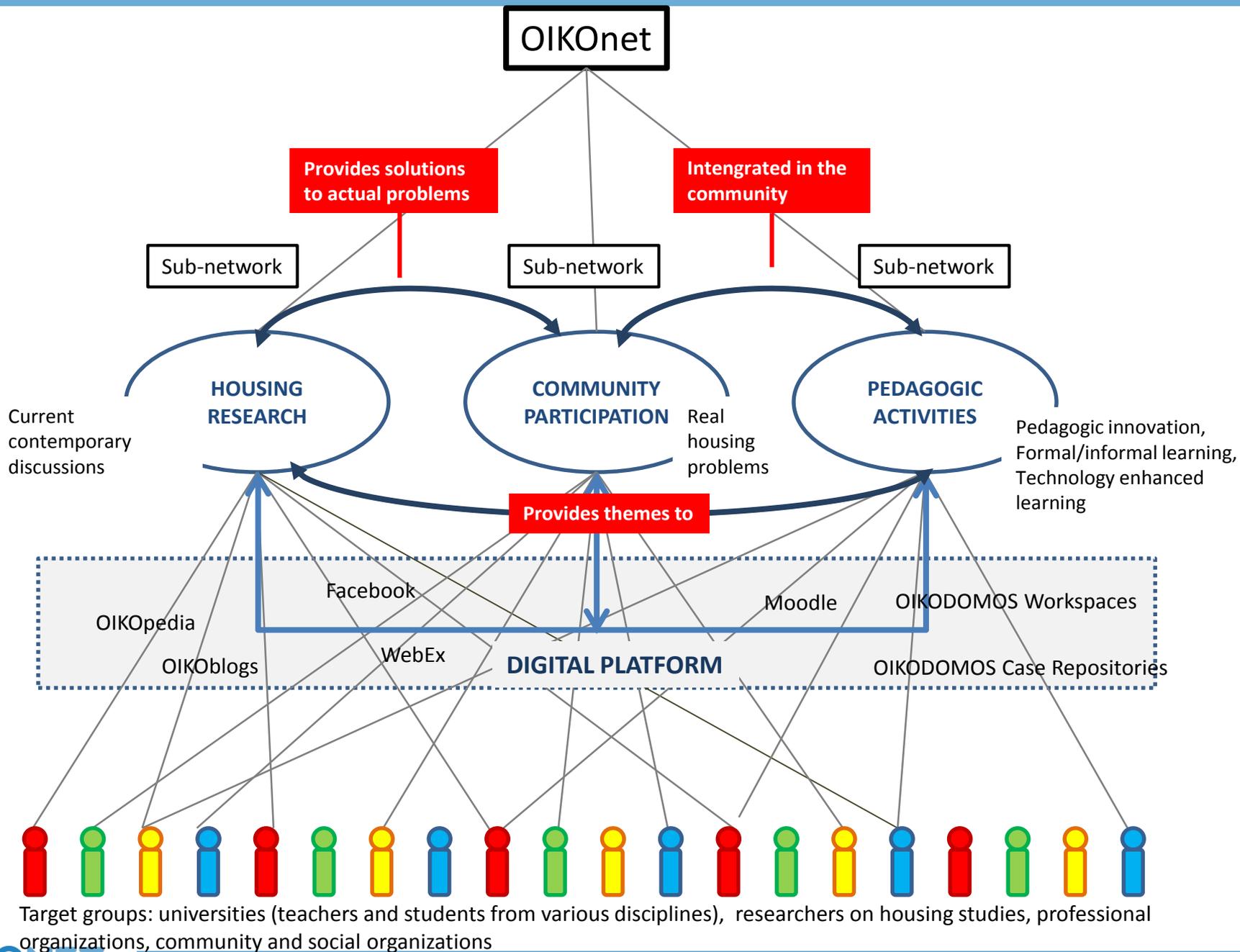
Barcelona, Spain

- Project
- Participants
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- Network structure
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- Erasmus Network Project, co-financed by the Lifelong Learning Programme, Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency, European Union
- According to the program: “Erasmus academic networks are designed to promote European co-operation and innovation in specific subject areas. They contribute to enhancing quality of teaching in higher education, defining and developing a European dimension within a given academic discipline, furthering innovation and exchanging methodologies and good practices. This is achieved by means of cooperation within the network between higher education institutions, university faculties and departments and may also involve professional associations and enterprises as well as other associations.”
- The project started on October 1st 2013 and it will end September 30th 2016
- The total costs of the project amount to 833.207 Euros, 75% covered by the grant (624.906 Euros).

- **16 Higher education institutions** from different disciplines which have housing studies in their curriculum (FUNITEC, Spain; ETSAV Spain; FASTU, Slovakia; LUCA, Belgium; BTU, Germany; AAU, Denmark; UCY, Cyprus; UPMF, France; GYTE, Turkey; ISCTE, Portugal; AF-Belgrade; PB- Poland; ITU, Turkey; UPPR, Puerto Rico; FAU, Chile; FAVSUACE, Russia).
- **10 Research institutes** on housing studies, involving researchers and social organizations (CHALMERS, Sweden; IHS, Netherlands; UKIM, Macedonia; UL, Slovenia; RTU, Latvia; UCLan, UK; ISP, Croatia; NOVA, Norway; ELTE, Hungary; DIT, Ireland).
- **2 Research groups** concerned with pedagogic innovation and with ICT in education (USI, Switzerland; LECAD, Greece). Besides, a educational technologist from Viveka Consulting, UK, is subcontracted.
- **4 Social organizations** dedicated to facilitate access to home (CAC, Romania; Sostre Cívic, Spain; CAC, Bulgaria; Heriscape and OAPPCR, Italy)
- **1 Local administration** representing a city planning office (City of Bratislava, Slovakia).
- **1 International agency**, dedicated to analyze housing at the global scale (UN-HABITAT, Kenya).

- **Housing Studies.** Energy efficiency in new and existing homes; social integration in neighbourhoods; reconversion of existing building fabric to provide better homes; flexibility and adaptation in domestic spaces; policies to facilitate access to home; alternative dwelling forms arising from the contemporary living conditions, among others.
- **Community Participation.** Promoting user participation throughout the housing building lifecycle, from design to occupation; fostering links between citizens and their living environment; raising awareness of the cultural value of housing heritage among citizens and communities; preventing poverty in neighbourhoods, among others.
- **Pedagogy.** Creation of innovative learning spaces cutting across existing institutions and disciplinary boundaries; situating learning processes in the social and economic milieus; integrating dwellers in the design processes; intertwining disciplines and programs through collaborative learning activities.
- **Technology enhanced learning.** Providing digital tools for collaborative learning design; supporting transdisciplinary and participative learning spaces; using digital tools to visualize the design processes and to support collaborative thinking; facilitating access to repositories of learning activities and learning resources, using semantic web technologies, among others



- OIKOnet will provide a **structure** to foster the exchange among research groups and higher education institutions, to interlink research activities with the collaborative design of learning activities, and to embed learning processes in the social, cultural and economic environments.
- To achieve these goals, **the network is divided into three areas or subnetworks**, strongly intertwined through the project activities: **housing research, community participation and pedagogical activities**.
- The network will **overcome boundaries between physical and digital learning spaces** by promoting a blended learning approach which was successfully developed in the OIKODOMOS virtual campus.
- A **digital environment will support the exchange of knowledge** across the different domains represented in the network and the **communication** among the participants.

- To facilitate **the exchange of experience and knowledge across the partnership** (on housing studies, pedagogic innovation and integration of ICT in education) through meetings, conferences and debates taking place in blended environments (physical and digital).
- To **collaboratively design learning activities** around problems encompassing different dimensions of housing. Through these activities, courses (seminars, workshops, design studios), disciplines (architecture, urban planning, sociology) and stakeholders (academics, professionals, local representatives, citizens) will become closely interlinked.
- To overcome the boundaries between on-site and on-line learning spaces by **jointly designing and implementing sequences of learning activities** carried out in seminars and courses as well as in the digital platform.
- To create a cross-institutional, cross-disciplinary network of learning activities focused on contemporary housing.
- To establish procedures to facilitate the **long-term collaboration** of higher education institutions dealing with contemporary housing problems.

- To **consolidate and expand the OIKODOMOS digital platform** to support the collaborative learning design, facilitate access to learning resources, to facilitate collaborative design processes in the field of housing studies.
- To **contribute to the solution of contemporary housing problems**, collaborating with local institutions, social organizations and citizens' organizations.
- To **engage citizens** in the processes of defining and solving problems concerning dwelling and the living environment.
- To **engage countries outside Europe** in the discussions about contemporary housing problems, in partnership with EU countries.

OIKOnet will create:

- **a network of institutions**, European and non-European, representing different disciplines concerned with housing studies.
- **a network of themes of study** about contemporary housing proposed and debated by the project partners.
- **a network of learning activities**, designed in collaboration and carried out following a blended learning approach.
- **a network of learners**, from different institutions, inside and outside academia, constructing knowledge in collaboration through participatory processes in the various learning activities.

- **3 International Conferences**, one per year, dedicated to housing studies, with the participation of representatives from different disciplines
- **3 International Workshops** dedicated to study housing from an interdisciplinary perspective, with the participation of multiple stakeholders
- **15 seminars** bringing together researchers, teachers and community representatives
- **Joint learning activities** carried out by academic institutions collaboratively, following a blended-learning approach.
- **Guidelines to integrate learning activities** across different disciplines which will lead to curriculum innovation in the participating higher education institutions.
- **Case study projects** in selected locations in Europe and outside Europe, dedicated to analyze specific housing problems and to provide solutions to them.

- **3 exhibitions** in academic and non-academic environments displaying the process and outcomes of housing projects developed at specific the case studies.
- **A new digital platform** which facilitates access to learning resources to institutions
- **Continuous communication** of network activities through different media: newsletters, blogs, social web.
- **OIKOnet reader**, a book which compiles the work done in the three-year programme in the three different subnetworks, presenting the conclusions in a reasoned manner.

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