Transforming Education (TrEdu) – a Co-creating European Network of Upper Secondary Schools in Transformation

Who are we?

TrEdu is a co-creating network of upper secondary schools in transformation. It is a European community of innovative upper secondaries that prioritize teamwork, empathetic coaching, personality-development, problem-solving and changemaking.

We are leading a transformation in education that supports students as individuals with profound knowledge and innovative skills, who effectively create a peaceful society and positive change.

We see an emerging pattern of students and teachers building together a powerful team while empowering us as changemakers.

We are in very different ways pioneers of a new form of education.

What are we concerned about?

- We feel that existing educational structures in upper secondary are not appropriate for the students of the society we live in.
- We experience that our students are still learning just facts.
- We acknowledge the need for students to experience different ways of democratic participation in democratic European societies.
- We suffer from restrictive curricula and bureaucracy.
- We have too many dysfunctional forms of exams and grades.
- We face the challenge of responsibility and self-guidance in flexible learning environments.

What is our aim?

- to empower young people to develop ideas for the strengthening of Europe and for democratic participation in society.
- Empowering young people to identify problems and make changes to build a peacefull, intercultural and well-being society.
- Education needs to be diverse, we cannot use one mould. Students need to have the choice and different possibilities. We aim to profit from the spirit which lies in the diversity of our schools.
- We want schools to prepare for the challenges in society, democracy, environment, migration, digitalization e.g.
- We think of upper secondary level schools
  . where students and teachers are equal partners and so students can take over responsibility for themselves and others
  . and thus have an impact on their education
  . where self-organisation and self-development of students become possible because of a flexible and individual organisation of the school

. where society and school interact
. which build a community of life and learning
. which improve their learning methods (project work, themes, method learning)
. questioning dysfunctional grades and exams
. while continuing teaching the necessary knowledge

How do we intend to achieve our aim?

In the network

- We want to connect upper secondaries that are in transformation processes to inspire each other, to empower the voice that different education is necessary and possible
- We intend to learn from each other by getting to know best practice, approaches to different settings of teaching and learning and exchange best practice.
- We intend to work as a co-creating group to develop new ideas and formats for learning and education.
- We meet once a year in a 3-day-conference. Every year another school of the network is hosting the conference
- In between we keep on working together setting up school-visits, student exchanges, common online projects with students and teachers, video talks and a communication platform.

In our school communities

- We want our schools to commit to these three main aspects of learning:
    1. learning to handle and reflect upon information
    2. learning to take responsibility and be active in society
    3. learning to live together in intercultural and multicultural communities
- We want to be a community which learns how to think and act democratically by practising democracy through school projects and service learning.