

EDULEARN 2023 CONFERENCE

15TH ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON EDUCATION AND NEW LEARNING
TECHNOLOGIES

VOICE - A DIGITAL OPEN EDUCATIONAL PLATFORM FOR SUPPORTING TEACHERS' PROFESSIONAL LEARNING: DESIGN AND EVALUATION*

S. Avgitidou¹, S. Theodosiou², S. Lykomitrou³, C. Sidiropoulou³, K. Karadimitriou⁴

¹Aristotle University of Thessaloniki (GREECE)

²University of Thessaly (GREECE)

³University of Western Macedonia (GREECE)

⁴Democritus University of Thrace (GREECE)

Abstract

This study aims at presenting both the processes of constructing the content, structure and pedagogical aspects of the open educational resources designed for the VOICE digital educational platform as well as the student teachers' and in-service teachers' evaluations of the platform and its educational material. The VOICE program aims at the dissemination of scientific knowledge to the educational community to enhance children's opportunities to participate in decision making processes in early childhood education (ECE). Therefore, the open educational resources have been constructed as an educational material for teachers' professional learning. The materials consist of three educational tools, thus presentations and practical examples, research tools and reflective tools to support teachers' rethinking and re-design of educational practice. The decision to provide these three tools is supported by current theory and practice regarding teachers' professional learning based on research and reflection. Further, the content of the educational material derives from prior research on ECE teachers' beliefs and practices regarding children's participation. Therefore, the content and educational process of the materials are purposively designed to promote reflection and transformation of practice based on theory, research, practical examples and reflection. 128 student teachers from different Universities and 59 kindergarten teachers from different districts participated in the evaluation of the open educational platform through questionnaires consisting of several close-ended and one open-ended questions. Close-ended questions referred to participants' satisfaction regarding the platform's use, content and utility for their professional learning. The open-ended question requested participants' proposals for improving the content and efficiency of the platform. Results show an overall high percentage of users' satisfaction as well as specific proposals for improvement.

*Virtual presentation

Acknowledgement: This work has been funded by the Hellenic Foundation for Research and Innovation (HFRI) under the scope of the program "Opportunities for the promotion of children's voice, interaction and participatory decision-making in education" with the acronym VOICE (Voicing children Opportunities Interaction Collective decision making Education) (code 1953).