



D.5.3 – UniSchoolabS web portal

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Change Log

Version #	Date	Sections	Change	Author/ Editor
1.0	03.2011	All		Evita Tasiopoulou
2.0	04.2011	All	Change template, add conclusions	Evita Tasiopoulou
3.0	09.2012	All	Update of all sections in order to reflect changes and structural updates to the website	Evita Tasiopoulou

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1. Introduction

The UniSchoolLabS web portal aims to promote the main principles of the project, collect all related to it information, present its outcomes and act as a central exchange and eventually communication point for all its actors.

The web portal was developed by European Schoolnet using Liferay technologies, a software platform for building web sites and web applications of high quality and standards.

The present document corresponds to deliverable “D.5.3 UniSchoolLabS web portal” which is also available on the following website: <http://unischoolabs.eun.org/> (Library).

While the first version of the deliverable was made available and submitted right after the first launch of the portal, March 2011, a second version of the deliverable has been prepared during summer 2012. The reason for this was the need to record the design and structural changes that took place on the portal based on users’ feedback and continuous use of the website.

2. UniSchoolLabS web portal

2.1. Home

The Home page of the UniSchoolLabS web portal was initially made available in English only.

The screenshot shows the UniSchoolLabS home page. At the top left is the UniSchoolLabS logo. To the right is a language dropdown menu set to 'English' and a 'Welcome!' button. Below the logo is a navigation menu with 'Home', 'About', 'Library', 'Toolkit', 'News & Events', and 'Community'. The main content area is divided into several sections:

- Sign In:** A section with a 'Sign In' button and links for 'Create account' and 'Forgot your password?'. It prompts users to enter their Username/OpenID.
- Welcome:** A section with a 'Welcome' message: 'Welcome to the UniSchoolLabS website!'. It states that the UniSchoolLabS project finished on 30 September 2012 and that the website will remain live for reference. It also mentions that the website is aimed at teachers and anyone who wishes to use Universities' laboratories in their classrooms or for their personal interest.
- Latest News:** A section with three news items:
 - 'The UniSchoolLabS project has ended'
 - 'UniSchoolLabS workshop in Brussels'
 - 'UniSchoolLabS - Final international workshop'
- What teachers say about UniSchoolLabS ...?:** A section with two quotes:
 - "Middle school students generally enjoy and are motivated by online activities. High school students can use them for independent learning with individual time management."
 - "It certainly would bring in many more concepts to the classroom that are at present not possible and so enable the students to "experiment" much more."

Image 1 UniSchoolLabS home page

The layout was chosen for its clarity and eases the presentation of information. Its main parts are the following:

- **Sign In:** Users are required to register in order to get a unique username and password.
- **Welcome:** A welcome message addressing portal's visitors including a short explanation of project's aims and target audience.
- **Latest news:** More recent news, including workshops, brochures, meetings etc. is displayed in this part of the page.
- **What teachers say about UniSchoolLabS ...?** A collection of teachers and students quotes collected throughout the project are displayed here.
- **Explore the Toolkit:** A search functionality which supports the teacher in selecting a remote or virtual lab and developing a lab activity based on an inquiry model template.
- **Download materials:** Allow users to download different types of materials such as UniSchoolLabS brochure or logo.

2.2. About

This section is composed by three (3) parts:

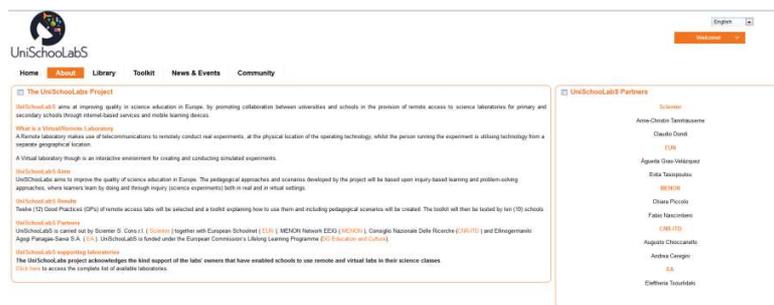


Image 2 UniSchoolLabS About page

- **Pilot teachers and schools:** Presents the teachers and schools that participated to the UniSchoolLabS Pilot.

- **About UniSchoolLabS:**

An extensive description of project's content, aims, results and main actors.

- **UniSchoolLabS partners:** Lists the partners working on the project as long as the UniSchoolLabS correspondents within those organisations.

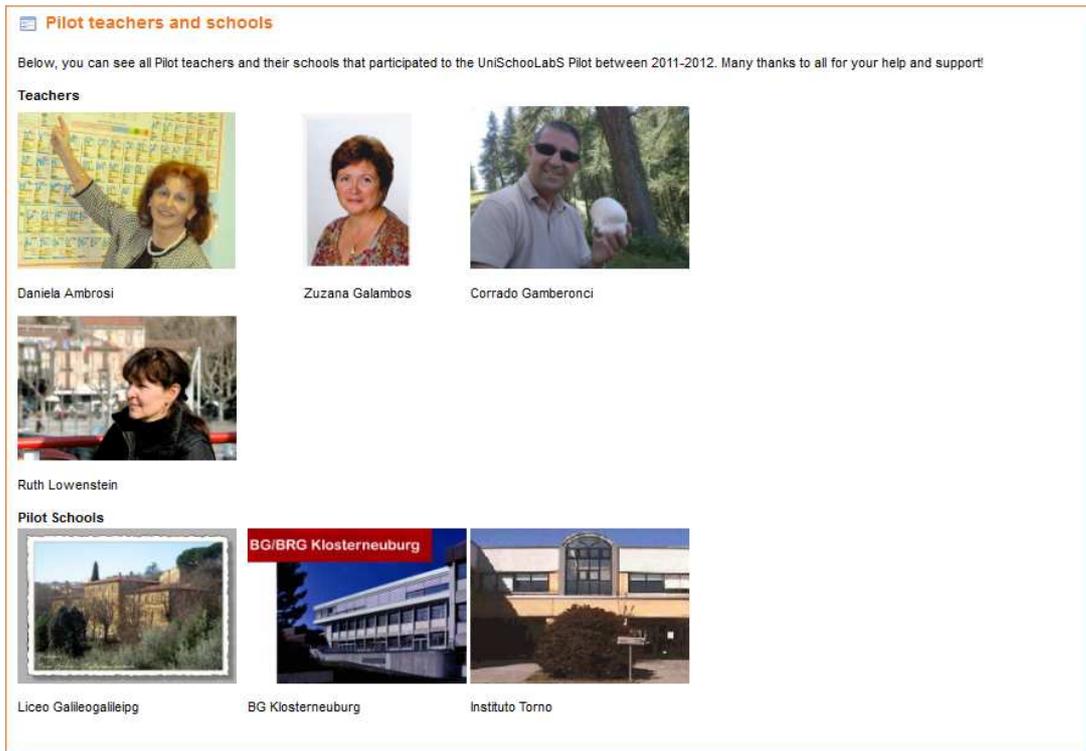


Image 3 UniSchoolLabS Pilot teachers and schools

2.3. Library

This section allows users to access four (4) categories as follows:

- **Project outputs:** All projects public deliverables and reports are collected and available to download through this section.
- **Project Documents:** Various materials can be viewed or download at users' convenience.
- **UniSchoolLabS brochure:** General brochure is available in four (4) different languages: EN, EL, IT, DE. The Policy makers' brochure is also available in the same languages.
- **Project logos:** The official project logo is available in various formats allowing users to download and use it freely.
- **Partner logos:** The logos of the consortium partners working on the project are listed here.



Image 4 UniSchoolLabS library

2.4. Toolkit

The Toolkit is a sub site and represents the main outcome of the UniSchoolLabS project. The main land page is the entry point to the tool and provides users with an overview of the sections and information they can expect to have access to through the Toolkit:

- **Catalog of Science laboratories:** Provides teachers with an organised way of finding available remote and virtual laboratories. Teachers will be able to quickly browse the available labs and select the ones that match their course.
- **Remote Labs in your classroom:** Access to the list of activities related to the available laboratories that teacher can apply in their classrooms with their students
- **What is the online Toolkit:** Explanation on the online Toolkit, its abilities, structure and how teachers can benefit from its use
- **Inquiry based Science education:** The pedagogical approach behind the Toolkit is based upon inquiry learning, where students learn by doing and through inquiry (science experiments) both in real and in virtual settings.
- **Our Community:** Quick access to the UniSchoolLabS Community which is open to any teacher with an interest in finding out more or using Remote Laboratories, UniSchoolLabS Pilot teachers, project partners and Universities.

The image shows the UniSchoolLabS Toolkit landing page. At the top left is the UniSchoolLabS logo. To its right is the word 'Toolkit' and a language dropdown menu set to 'English'. Below this is a navigation bar with 'Toolkit' highlighted. The main content area is titled 'Toolkit' and contains five featured tiles: 'Remote labs in your classes' (with a photo of students), 'Catalogue of Science Laboratories' (with a world map), 'What is the online toolkit?' (with a toolbox), 'Inquiry Based Science Education' (with a circular diagram), and 'Our Community' (with a group of people). The footer displays logos for the European Union, Education and Culture DG, Lifelong Learning Programme, SCIENTER, European Schoolnet, MENON Network, and Education and Training.

Image 5 UniSchoolLabS toolkit landing page

2.5. News & Events

News & Events provides users with a chronological overview of the main news, events and activities related to UniSchoolLabS. This page serves as an entry point since all stories are linked to individual articles providing more in depth information related to each story. Moreover, many other news and events of the partners are listed in this section.

English

Welcome!

Home About Library Toolkit **News & Events** Community

The UniSchoolLabS project has ended - a huge thank you to all those who participated

The UniSchoolLabS project is now closed. The project coordinators would like to thank all those who contributed in making this an amazing, stimulating experience for all involved.

"During the past 2 years I had the pleasure of working with engaged science teachers who used remote laboratories and virtual simulations with their students for the first time. They created nice inquiry-based online lesson activities for others to adapt and pick-up!" says UniSchoolLabS Project Manager Anne-Christin Tannhäuser from *Scienter*. "Our project team got in touch with researchers at universities and science centers offering those great resources, all of them being happy to get feedback from and provide support to schools."

Dynamic workshops were held all over Europe (Athens, Prague, Crete, Brussels and Bologna) and participants helped fuel a lively and thought provoking online community. Opinions and ideas were exchanged to help build a vision towards university-school collaboration which will help improve science education across Europe. Anne-Christin adds "Through continuing efforts by our project partnership, I very much hope that more even more teachers in Europe will start taken advantage of the UniSchoolLabS online toolkit and bring some new tools into their science classrooms."

Your participation will help to improve science education for thousands of European students in the future, congratulations!

The UniSchoolLabS Toolkit and Teachers community will still be available and all project outcomes and interesting documents can be accessed through the Library.

UniSchoolLabS workshop in Brussels 14-16 September

Science teachers from all over Europe attended a recent UniSchoolLabS workshop during a series of *Scientix* workshops in mid September 2012 at European Schoolnet in Brussels.

The workshop brought together science teachers to discuss and experiment on making STEM teaching more motivating and engaging in the classroom of the future. It was run by Augusto Chioccariello, ITD-CHIR, UniSchoolLabS Toolkit development. "I spent a sunny week-end in Brussels inside European Schoolnet's Future Classroom Lab working with a great group of teachers I met there for the *Scientix* workshop. We worked hard with remote, virtual and real labs trying to assess how they can be used and improve science education. However, we also had good fun and could put the sunny day to good use while using a solar cell to power-up a motor during the UniSchoolLabS workshop," reflects Augusto.

The training used the content and best practices of different EC projects, which can be accessed through the *Scientix* portal and the setting and facilities of *European Schoolnet's Future Classroom Lab (FCL)*.

During the workshop, participants came together to network and share experiences. The teachers had a chance to take part in hands-on training sessions within the Future Classroom Lab. "The Future Classroom Lab was an ideal location with plenty of technology, great equipment and provided us with plenty of ideas on how to put our Labs in good use," says Augusto. All participants got the opportunity to learn about different science projects like *Xplore Health*, *Global Excursion*, *Pathway*, *inGenious* and UniSchoolLabS in the framework of *Scientix* and the Future Classroom Lab.

Image 6 UniSchoolLabS News & Events

2.6. Community

The UniSchoolLabS Community has been launched in October 2011. A full description of its functionalities, role and related activities can be found in deliverable "D.5.4 Web based teachers' community".

English

Welcome!

Home About Library Toolkit **News & Events** **Community**

UniSchoolLabS community

Welcome to the UniSchoolLabS community page!

This Community is open to any teacher with an interest in finding out more or using Remote Laboratories, UniSchoolLabS Pilot teachers, project partners and Universities.

Here you can find interesting information related to the project, receive support and exchange with other members of the community.

Activities

July 2

Pathway Group 05 wrote a new message board post, *Workshop 2 - Comments*, 19:09 [Go to Category](#)

Pathway Group 13 wrote a new message board post, *Comments about workshop*, 18:56 [Go to Category](#)

Pathway Group 04 wrote a new message board post, *Comments from group 4*, 18:56 [Go to Category](#)

Pathway Group 10 wrote a new message board post, *Models*, 18:53 [Go to Category](#)

Pathway Group 02 wrote a new message board post, *our opinion*.

Message Boards

Categories Recent Posts Statistics

Search Search Categories

Category	Categories	Threads	Posts
General Questions & Ideas	1	9	9
Subcategories: Ideas, comments and suggestions			
Laboratories & Activities	12	2	3
Subcategories: Chem Collective, iSpace, Hypatia, NetLab, Observing With Iress (OWI), More >			
Pedagogical reports	0	2	5
Showcase your lab activity Request Translation	0	2	5
Technical support	0	6	16

Showing 4 results.

Document Library Display

Folder	# of Folders	# of Documents
Public Project documents	0	1
UniSchoolLabS brochure	1	8
Subfolders: Beta brochures		
UniSchoolLabS logo	0	2
UniSchoolLabS workshop - Spice Summer Academy	0	1
UniSchoolLabS workshop in Bologna	0	4
Commettere le scuole ai laboratori scientifici delle Università	0	4

Showing 5 results.

Access from my desktop

Image 7 UniSchoolLabS community

3. Multilingualism

At the time of its first launch the UniSchoolLabS portal was made available only in English. By the end of the project, all the public content i.e. news items, about section, description etc. have all been translated and made available in all project languages i.e. English, German, Italian and Greek.

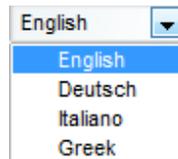


Image 8 UniSchoolLabS language menu

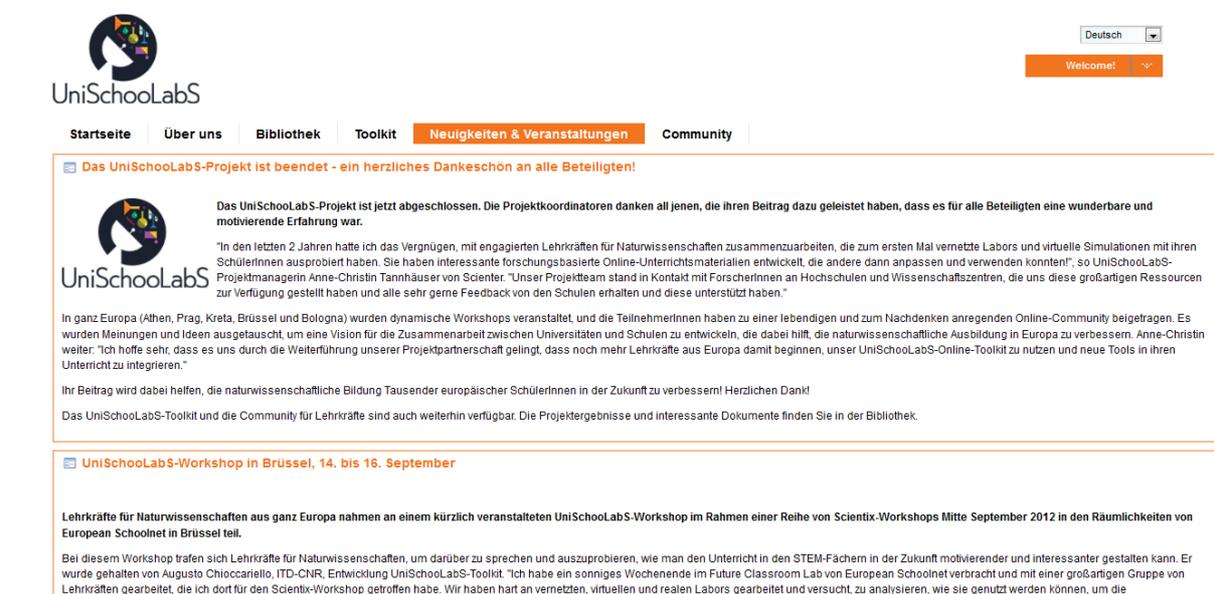


Image 9 UniSchoolLabS News and Events section in German

4. Conclusions

The UniSchoolLabS web portal aimed to become the center of all action and exchange related to the project. Its clean, simple design as long as its user friendly interface succeeded into inviting and engaging users to its content and activities.

The addition of the extra language versions facilitated users understanding of the project and contributed to the further dissemination of workshops and activities.

The consortium is convinced that the final restructuring of the website in combination with its multilingual content will ensure the sustainability of the portal even after the end of its duration.