What is Spatial Citizenship?

Spatial Citizenship is an innovative geo-media based learning approach focusing on secondary education. It supports the use of spatial representations, such as digital maps and globes, geo-apps etc., to foster interaction and communication in educational contexts.

A spatial citizen should be able to interpret and critically reflect on spatial information, communicate with the assistance of maps and other spatial representations, and express location-specific opinions using geo-media.

What are Geo-media?

They are sets of tools, such as spatially-enabled mobile devices (i.e. smartphones), web-based maps and digital globes which help spatial citizens become proactive by using them, and play a key role in taking decisions through communication, spatial planning processes, social power relations, competition and negotiation.
The Project

The SPACIT Project is co-financed by the European Commission’s Lifelong Learning Programme - Comenius - Priority 2: the development of approaches to teaching and learning - and aims to provide further education for Spatial Citizens by developing teacher-training standards, curricula, and learning modules for Spatial Citizenship education.

SPACIT offers a wide potential for citizenship education and contributes to its extensive acceptance as an essential dimension through which young people become informed and active citizens within society.

Who is SPACIT for?

SPACIT addresses in-service and pre-service teachers by providing:

- An interdisciplinary approach connecting social sciences, civics education, geoinformatics, didactics and teacher training and deals with mainstream technology, relevant and essential for teacher education;
- Guidance for teachers through virtual geo media tools by using the new developed curricula;
- The acquisition of skills, knowledge and attitudes to support students in using geomedia to actively contribute to their society.
Activities:

- SPACIT training provides teachers with an up-to-date online reader on the geoinformation society, the technological basics, its social implications and economical effects for the individuals;
- A sustainable curriculum for teachers helps them to successfully train the students to participate in the geo-information society;
- The development of a blended-learning online course on Spatial Citizenship and of the materials for four course modules: Concepts of Space; Geo-media Technology and Methodology; Concepts of Citizenship Education; Geo-media Communication and Reflection;
- A pilot course implemented in Romania to test the materials, and to feed the course evaluation and the final online version.

Why SPACIT?

SPACIT encourages learning to be active, interdisciplinary and authentic through spatial referencing. This opens up a wide range of opportunities for citizenship education and teaching combining both classroom and fieldwork education based on modern ICT.
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