

Report on the 1st LTT Workshop

Erasmus+ Project “InTruSt – Increasing Trust in Science”

Location: BG/BRG Schwechat and GTVS Svetelskystrasse, Austria

Dates: 12-16 May 2025



The first Learning, Teaching, Training (LTT) workshop of the Erasmus+ project “InTruSt – Increasing Trust in Science” was successfully held in Austria from May 12 to 16, 2025. It brought together educators and researchers from five schools – three Austrian (BG/BRG Gmünd, BG/BRG Schwechat and GTVS Svetelskystrasse) and two Spanish (Escola Sant Josep and Institut de Sales) – along with representatives from KPH Wien and NTUA (National Technical University of

Athens). The week was marked by rich pedagogical exchange, inspiring class observations, collaborative workshops, and vibrant cultural experiences.

Day 1 – Monday, 12 May

The week began with a warm welcome at BG/BRG Schwechat by hosts Nicole Riegler and Manfred Lohr, along with Headmaster Heinz Lettner. Students offered guided tours of the school, fostering an immediate sense of community. Participants then observed parallel physics lessons, providing practical insights into Austrian science education.

In the late morning, Manfred Lohr gave an overview of the InTruSt project for teachers, followed by Loukas Katikas from NTUA, who introduced a questionnaire concerning the implementation of inquiry-based learning. Ronald Binder (BG/BRG GMÜND) presented on key elements for designing such units.

The afternoon featured a series of short presentations of Units of Learning from all participating schools. The session concluded with group discussions and feedback on the presented learning units.

The day culminated in a cultural highlight: a concert at the prestigious Musikverein in Vienna, featuring the Wiener Mozart Orchestra – a memorable introduction to Vienna’s cultural heritage.



Day 2 – Tuesday, 13 May



The day began with further presentations of three learning units, followed by a reflective group discussion. Participants then observed biology lessons in parallel sessions, where students engaged in hands-on exploratory activities. In one class, pupils investigated mealworms under the microscope and explored their sensory organs; in the other, they worked with snails to study similar biological features. These sessions offered valuable insights into practical, student-centered science teaching at the lower secondary level.

After a short break, participants attended technical and design lessons, followed by two hands-on workshops in the same field conducted by Matthias and Jessica from BG/BRG SCHWECHAT. During these sessions, participants received an introduction to working with 3D printers and had the opportunity to design and print our own objects. Additionally, they gained insights into working with micro:bit controllers and were able to experiment with programming them themselves, making the workshops both highly practical and engaging.

Day 3 – Wednesday, 14 May



A major focus of the third day was curriculum analysis. Hannah Loidl and Thomas Plotz from KPH Wien led a two-part workshop, introducing participants to the qualitative data analysis tool MAXQDA in education research. In this session, participants examined the science curricula of the participating countries to identify similarities and differences, with a particular focus on how they reflect the “Eight Practices of Science and Engineering” as defined in the Next Generation Science Standards.

In the afternoon, the group visited GTVS in Vienna, where they observed a science lesson led by Marija Orsulic. A presentation held by Harald Lenz (BG/BRG GMÜND) followed on how to make science engaging for students transitioning from primary to secondary school and which differences he has noticed between these age groups. Loukas Katikas (NTUA) concluded the day with a session on designing research instruments and surveys for the research part of the project.

Day 4 – Thursday, 15 May

Participants spent the day at GTVS. After a welcome from the headmistress Claudia Hexel, a class observation of a maths lesson by Katrin and a comprehensive feedback session facilitated by NTUA, the group traveled to the Zoom



Museum in Vienna, which is especially designed for children. There, they took part in an interactive science workshop that showcased informal learning environments.



The afternoon featured a guided cultural tour around St. Stephen's Cathedral in the heart of Vienna, led by Nicole Rieger and Katrin Lumper, followed by a group dinner – an excellent opportunity to enjoy typical Austrian dishes and strengthen cross-institutional bonds.

Day 5 – Friday, 16 May

The final day returned to BG/BRG Schwechat. Julia Jillecek from BG/BRG GMÜND opened the morning with a presentation titled “Balancing Act: Integrating Mathematics into Science Teaching for Lower Secondary”. Nicole Riegler then presented findings from a survey she conducted with pupils transitioning from primary school to BG/BRG Schwechat, examining how well they adapted to their new school environment. The workshop concluded with a wrap-up session led by Manfred, outlining next steps for the project.

Conclusion

This first LTT workshop of the InTruSt project proved to be a dynamic and enriching experience. It facilitated meaningful exchanges on pedagogy, inquiry-based learning, curriculum design, and student engagement strategies. Furthermore, the combination of professional development and cultural immersion helped build strong connections among participants and set a positive tone for future collaboration.