



D2.3 REPORT ON THE LAUNCH OF THE ONLINE EOC HUB PORTAL

Project acronym: OTTER

Project title: Outdoor Science Education for a Sustainable Future

Call: H2020-SwafS-2018-2020



Project no. 1010010482
Project acronym: OTTER
Project title: Outdoor Science Education for a Sustainable Future
Call: H2020-SwafS-2018-2020
Start date of project: 01.09.2021
Duration: 30 months
Deliverable title: D2.3 – Report on the launch of the online EOC Hub portal
Dissemination level: Public
Due date of deliverable: 28.02.2022
Actual date of submission: 02.03.2022
Deliverable Lead Partner: TBVT
Work Package: 2
Keywords: OTTER online Hub, Education Outside the Classroom, Participation, Collaboration,

Please cite as:

Marimon, O. (2022). Report on the launch of the online EOC Hub portal. Spain. 17 pages.



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Oriol Marimon & Helena González	The Big Van Theory

History			
Version	Date	Reason	Revised by
01	14.02.2022	Collaborative discussion regarding Hub & deliverable content	Oriol Marimon
02	28.02.2022	Revision deliverable	Mariana Mata Lara
03	01.03.2022	Revision deliverable	Alexandros Tampakis
04	01.03.2022	Final version of deliverable	Oriol Marimon
05	02.03.2022	Final review	Jelena Kajganovic

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List of Acronyms

EOC Education Outside the Classroom



OTTER project

Funded under the EU's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme, the **OTTER project** aims to **enhance the understanding of Education Outside the Classroom (EOC) methods and pedagogies** and how they can help **improve the acquisition of scientific knowledge and transferable skills in students, specifically in the field of environmental sustainability and the reduction of plastic waste**. It aims to increase interest in scientific topics among young people, while also contributing to the range of innovative educational projects and the increase of scientific citizenship within the EU.



OTTER aims to strengthen educational outside-the-classroom (EOC) **networks within Europe**, connecting experts from four different regions within the continent (**Finland, Hungary, Ireland and Spain**). The strengthening of these networks will be utilised to carry out a programme of EOC pilot schemes and analysis of the effect they have on the performance of participating students, including their levels of sophisticated consumption and scientific citizenship, to increase understanding of the effects of education outside the classroom on EU citizens. The pilot schemes will share a common theme revolving around issues of plastic waste and recycling in order to build upon recent momentum in tackling related global educational, social, and environmental issues and due to the close relationship between reducing plastic waste and the need for more sophisticated consumers.

Project Consortium



Geonardo Environmental Technologies
(**GEO**)



European Science Foundation (**ESF**)



University of Groningen (**RUG**)



University of Limerick (**UL**)



Bridge Budapest (**BB**)



Learning Scoop - oppimisen osuuskunta (**LS**)



The Big Van Theory (**TBVT**)



Center for the Advancement of Research &
Development in Educational Technology
(**CARDET**)

1. THE OTTER ONLINE HUB



What will stakeholders find in the OTTER online HUB

The EOC* OTTER online Hub is a space to generate discussion, gather experiences, best practices, and the know-how from active EOC practitioners and teachers. It is a network that will further allow the co-designing of new EOC experiences.

In OTTER's EOC Hub, stakeholders will find an online and international EOC forum, with a space to discuss their ideas, co-create innovative methodologies, and share questions and challenges.

There will be two levels of forums:

- For stakeholders interested in an **international discussion** in EOC methods, we have created an International Hub, where discussions will be in English and the participants will be from various countries,
- For stakeholders that also want to know more about EOC at a **national level**, we have four local sites from Spain, Ireland, Hungary, and Finland which are available in the respective native languages.

The Hub will hold national and international events periodically.

Who is this addressed to?

The EOC OTTER Hub is addressed to:

- Primary and secondary school teachers
- EOC practitioners
- Any person interested in Education Outside the Classroom

Why is OTTER Online Hub important?

Our goal is to improve the quality of education in STEAM subjects and environmental issues.

As a fundamental pillar for society and economics, it is necessary for education to achieve the proposed goals in all the EU Member States, and this is emphasized in numerous documents on the EU^{1,2,3,4} as well as national level. National authorities in charge of educational policies are arguing for the right to good quality education for all citizens, helping them to acquire the 8 core competencies through formal, informal, and non-formal educational activities. For centuries, informal and nonformal education has contributed to the transmission of knowledge and the acquisition of skills as a complement to formal education. If educational activities outside the classroom already exist and

¹Avraamidou, L. & Roth, W-M (2016). Intersections of Formal and Informal Science. New York: Routledge

² European Union. (2020). Sustainable Development in the European Union; Monitoring report on progress towards the SDGs in an EU context, 2020 Edition. Luxembourg: Publications Office of the European Union. (Vol. 2001). <https://doi.org/10.2785/089>

³ Council for Learning Outside the Classroom (2006). Learning Outside the Classroom Manifesto. Department for Education and Skills, UK.

⁴ Gerber, B. L., Cavallo, A. M., & Marek, E. A. (2001). *Relationships among informal learning environments, teaching procedures and scientific reasoning ability*. International Journal of Science Education, 23(5), 535-549.

there is incontestable evidence in support of their impact, then these activities need more visibility and credibility at the national and European levels. There is already experience and evidence of effective pedagogical practices that motivate students and bring better learning results in different European countries. By incorporating these experiences and examples from different parts of Europe with scientific research, it is possible to create a state-of-the-art toolkit for European educators to improve the quality of education. Combining scientific analysis with hands-on experiments will create new, motivating, and effective methods for teaching science and environmental issues.

If we achieve that the stakeholders actively participate in the EOC OTTER Hub we will be able to collaboratively design new educational methods for teaching science and addressing urgent environmental-based educational issues. Involving all relevant parties in co-creation and innovation, we will create a more holistic and inclusive approach to environmental and STEAM education.

How to participate in the OTTER Online Hub?

The OTTER Online Hub is organised in 2 main sites:

- a national site for Spain, Hungary, Finland, and Ireland (each site in the local language) and
- an international site for all the stakeholders (in English).

To facilitate stakeholders' participation in the OTTER online Hub we have prepared a tutorial on how to access, navigate and actively participate in the online Hub.

The OTTER online Hub also includes an entire section where stakeholders can interact with the OTTER partners to solve any question or to transmit any suggestion to improve the Hub.

This tutorial is available in the Hub and will also be sent to potential stakeholders as an interactive PDF to invite them to join to the OTTER Hub.

Tutorial is shown below:

TUTORIAL – HOW TO NOT MISS ANYTHING IN THE OTTER ONLINE HUB

The OTTER Hub is a virtual space based on Moodle. Maybe you already have experience with this platform, but if not, here is a short video so you know what Moodle is:

<https://youtu.be/3ORsUGVNxGs>

To participate in the OTTER Hub, you must fill out a short form in the OTTER webpage:

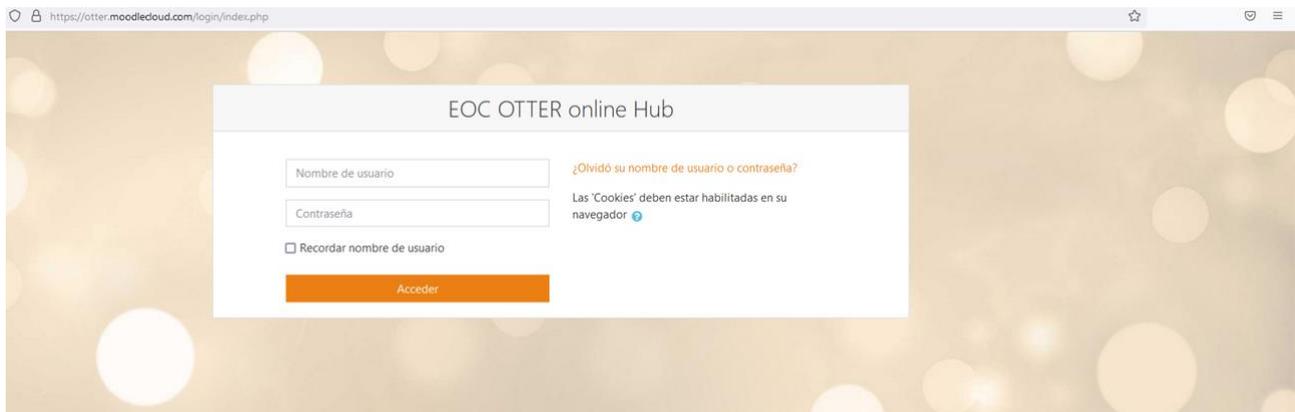
- <https://europamedia.typeform.com/to/moqFcbxA?typeform-source=otter-project.eu>

Once you fill out the form, you will receive an email from our platform "noreply@otter.moodlecloud.com" in which your username and password will be indicated.

With that information, click on the following link:

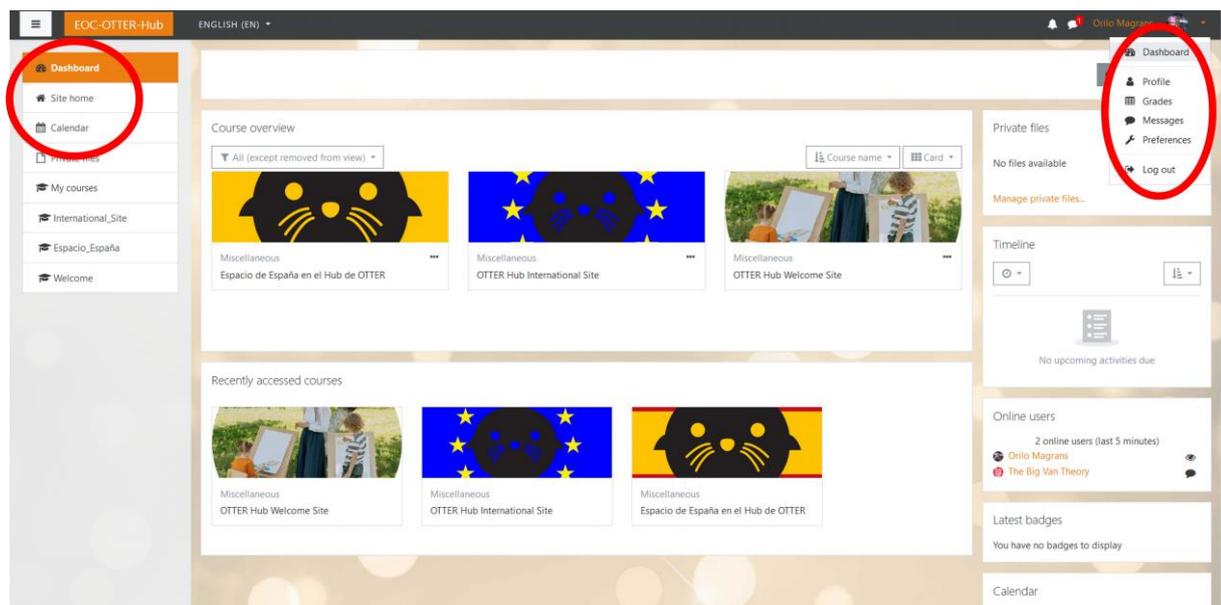
<https://otter.moodlecloud.com/login/index.php>

We advise you to save this link in your Bookmarks (or wherever you want), which will take you to a screen like the one shown below:



By entering your username and password you will access our Moodle platform, that is, the OTTER Hub.

Once inside the platform you will see that on your left sidebar there is a menu that will allow you to access "Dashboard", but also "Site home" and "Calendar". You can also access it from the dropdown menu to your right:



From "Dashboard" you will be able to edit your profile, and from both "Dashboard" and "Site home" you will access the OTTER Hub sites, while in "Calendar" you will see the events in which you can take part.

The OTTER Hub is organized in three different sites:

1. OTTER Hub International Site
2. OTTER Hub National Site
3. OTTER Hub Welcome Site

In each of these sites you can have different activities and participate in events to improve Education Outside the Classroom. If you click on any of these sites you can access the contents that are inside. Let's see them one by one!

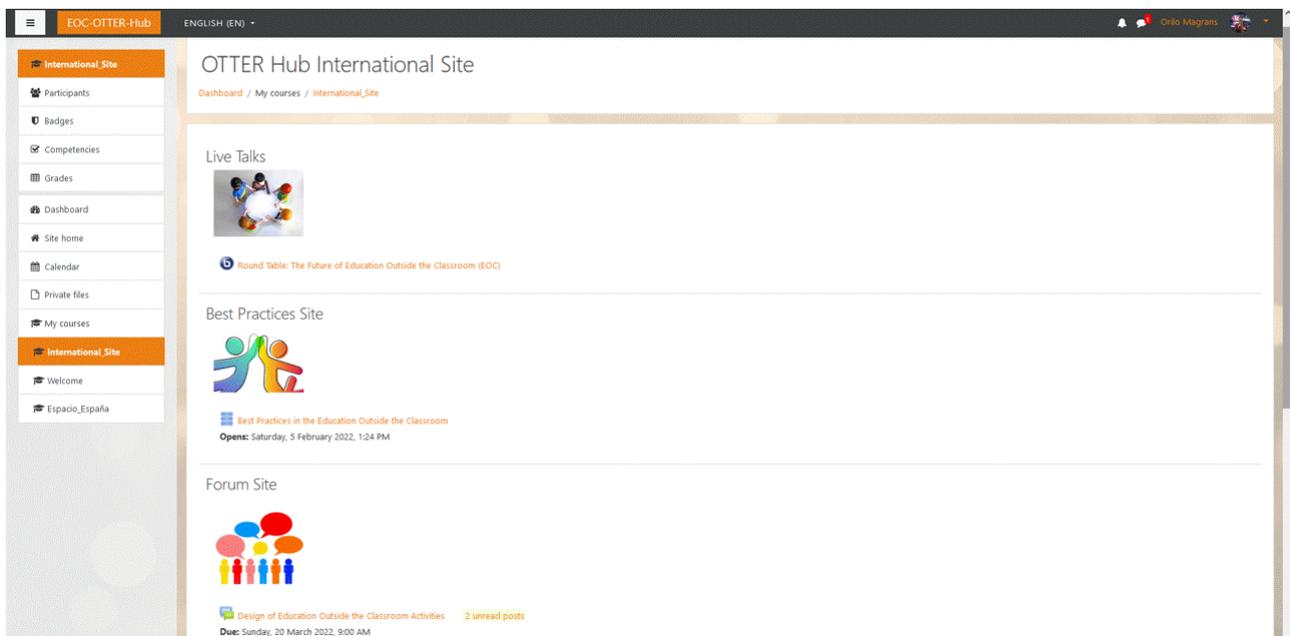
OTTER Hub Welcome Site

Here we present the OTTER project and give you some instructions on how to move throughout the Hub.

OTTER Hub National & International Sites

Both national and international sites are structured in the same way. We aim that you use these sites to learn about good practices in the field of Education Outside the Classroom, as well as share your own experiences. To achieve that, we created three main tools:

- **Live Talks:** a virtual space in which we will hold virtual round tables and talks around education outside the classroom focused on the environment and environmental sustainability.
- **Best Practices Site:** this is a database where good practices can be shared. Here you will find examples of activities of teaching outside the classroom and you can upload your own activities, or even activities that you know of that have been useful for you, so that the whole community can benefit from them.
- **Forum site:** here you can share opinions, discuss how to improve existing educational activities outside the classroom, design new approaches or propose educational challenges to overcome.

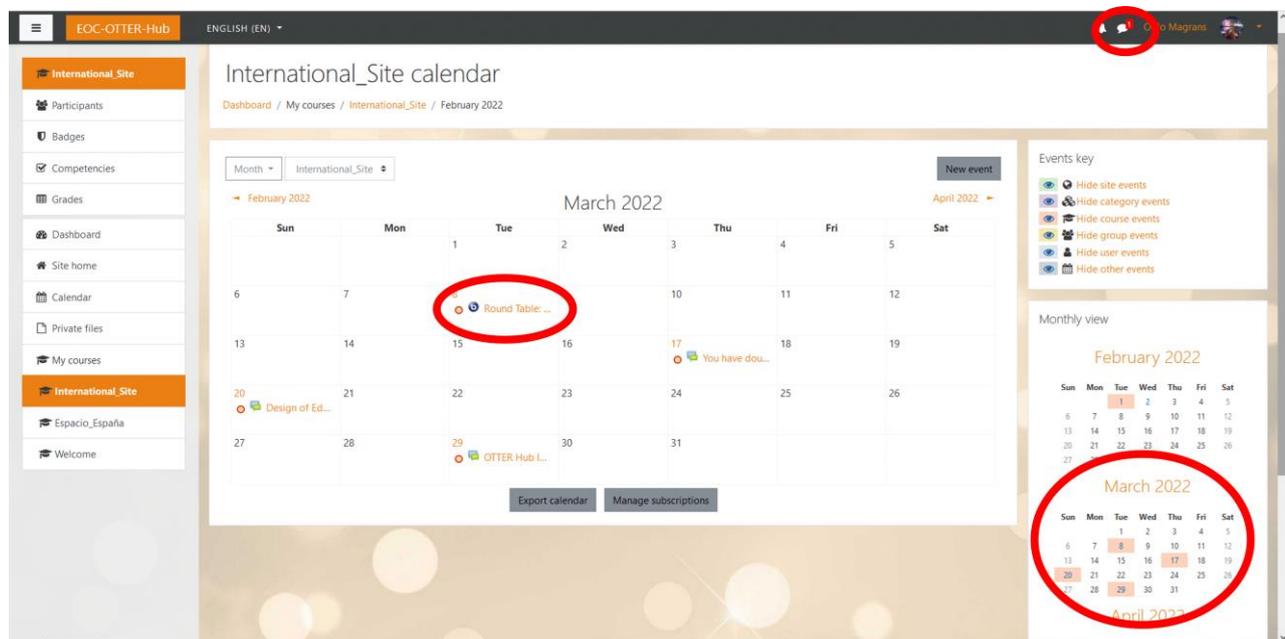


In the OTTER Hub, we will organize events on a regular basis. In the National Sites (we created one per each of the 4 participant countries in OTTER: Spain, Finland, Ireland and Hungary) the events will be in the local language and the participants will all be from the same country. We will organize activities focusing on local concerns, objectives and goals.

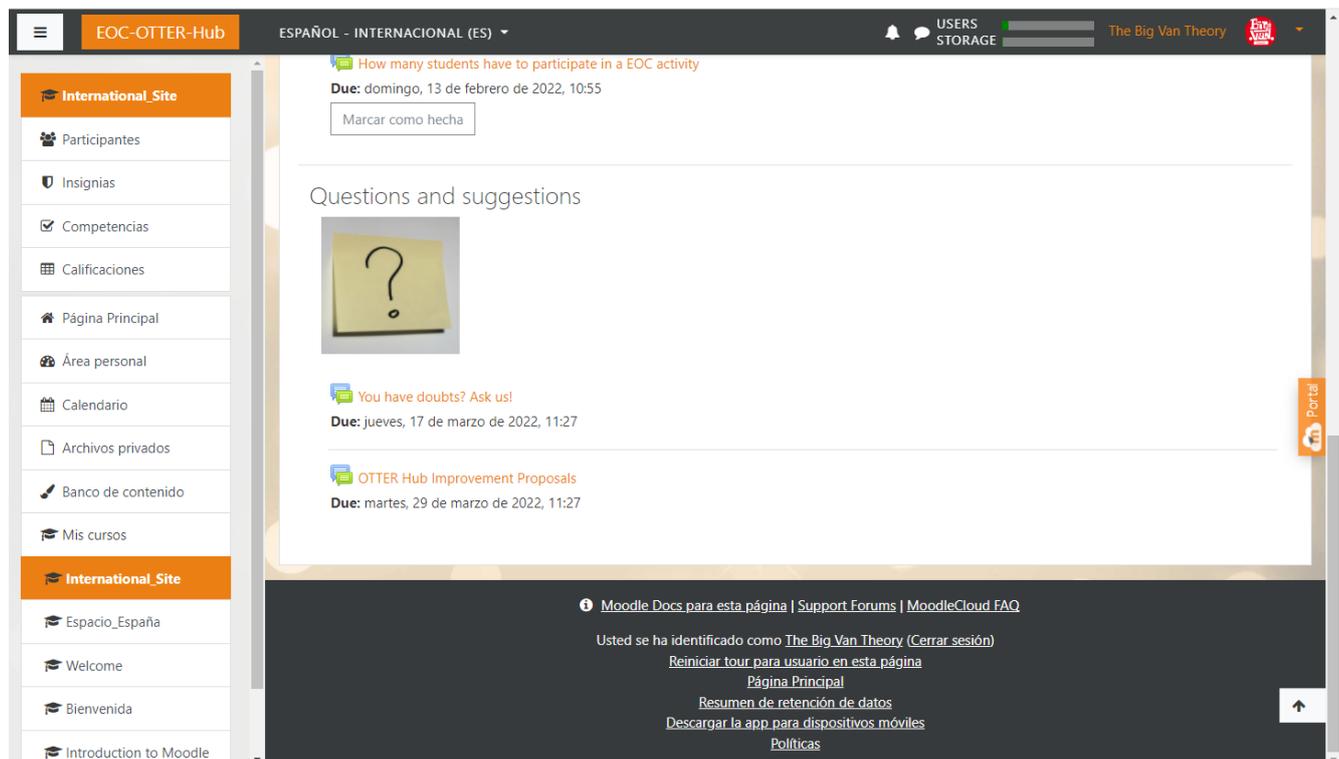
On the other hand, the International Site will allow all the stakeholders of the Hub, not only the ones from Spain, Finland, Ireland and Hungary, but from all the countries of Europe, to actively participate in activities for discussing and generating good practices in EOC from a global and international perspective.

All the events that will be organized in the OTTER Hub will appear on your “Calendar”. The center of the screen will show the description of each event, while the side calendar will mark the days on which there is a scheduled activity. In addition, we will send you notices (always through the platform) of

everything we are doing so that you do not miss anything. They will appear in the speech bubble at the top-right of your screen.



If you have any questions on how to participate in the Hub, or you have any suggestion on how to improve it, you have an entire section to interact with us. Help us to improve our Hub:



So, to get the most out of the OTTER Hub you just should:

- Regularly enter the National or International Site;
- Participate in scheduled events;
- Share your own good practices;
- Give us your opinion, we are here to listen and talk.

Let's improve Education Outside the Classroom!



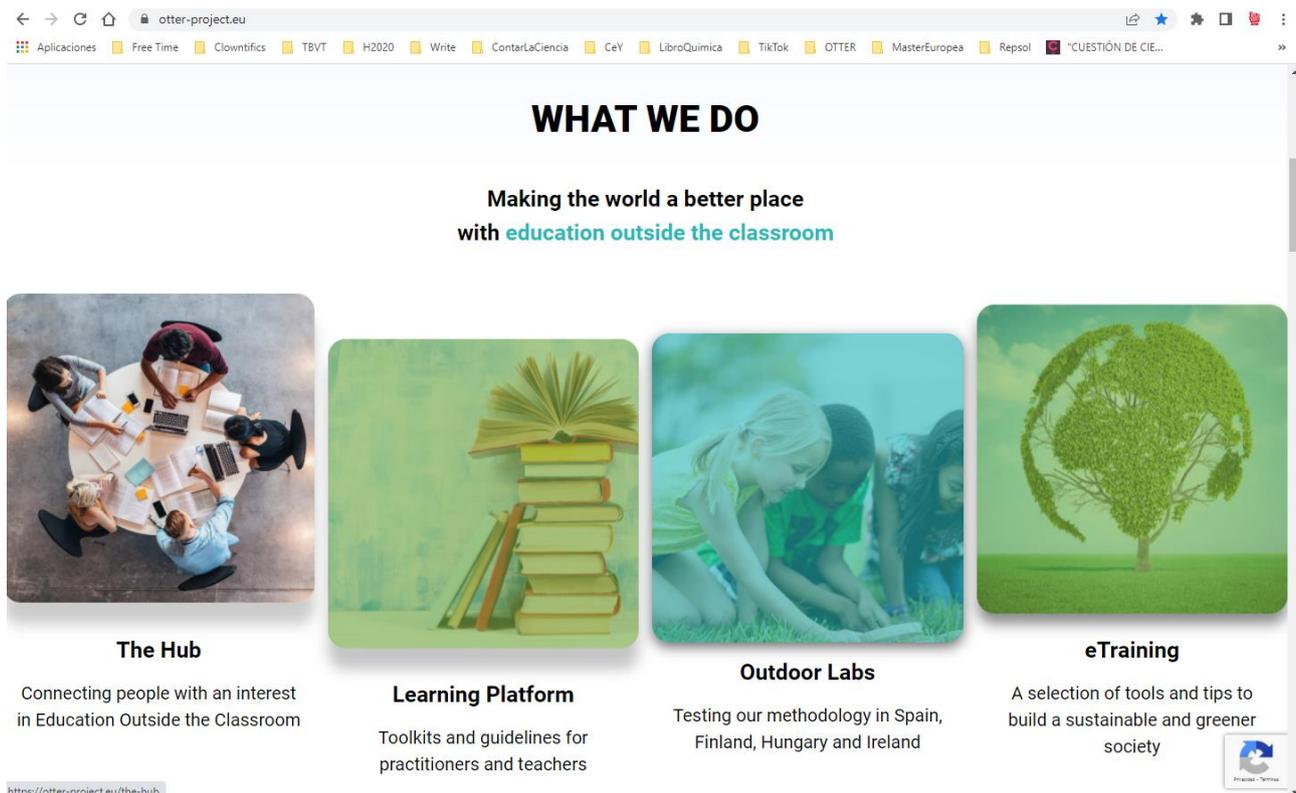
2. OTTER online Hub launch strategy



OTTER Hub Launch Strategy

In Task 2.2, OTTER partners have gathered relevant stakeholders to be part of the OTTER network. The generated database contains more than 100 potential stakeholders all around Europe.

Also, in the OTTER webpage (<https://otter-project.eu/>), there is a site to join the Hub, facilitating stakeholders to participate in the OTTER online Hub:



We will launch the OTTER Online Hub in a coordinated campaign implemented by all OTTER partners. We will invite potential stakeholders from our Task 2.2 database to join the hub by e-mail, and a campaign through the OTTER social networks and the social networks of the OTTER partners will be launched to attract new stakeholders.

The OTTER Online Hub Campaign will be organised and coordinated during the OTTER 6-month meeting that will be held on March 2022, with the objective to launch the Hub during March 2022.

OTTER partners will maintain the campaign to attract new stakeholders to the Otter Online Hub during the entire project, as OTTER partners will organise and implement online activities inside the Hub monthly during the duration of OTTER project.



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Contact



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