Open Science Hub
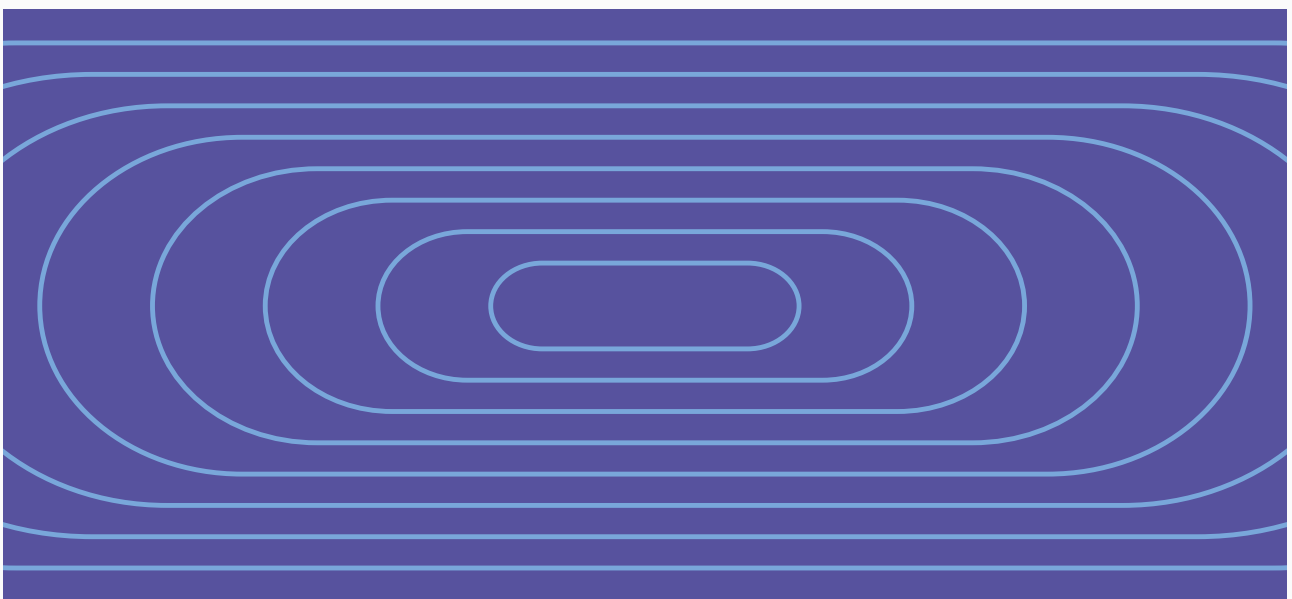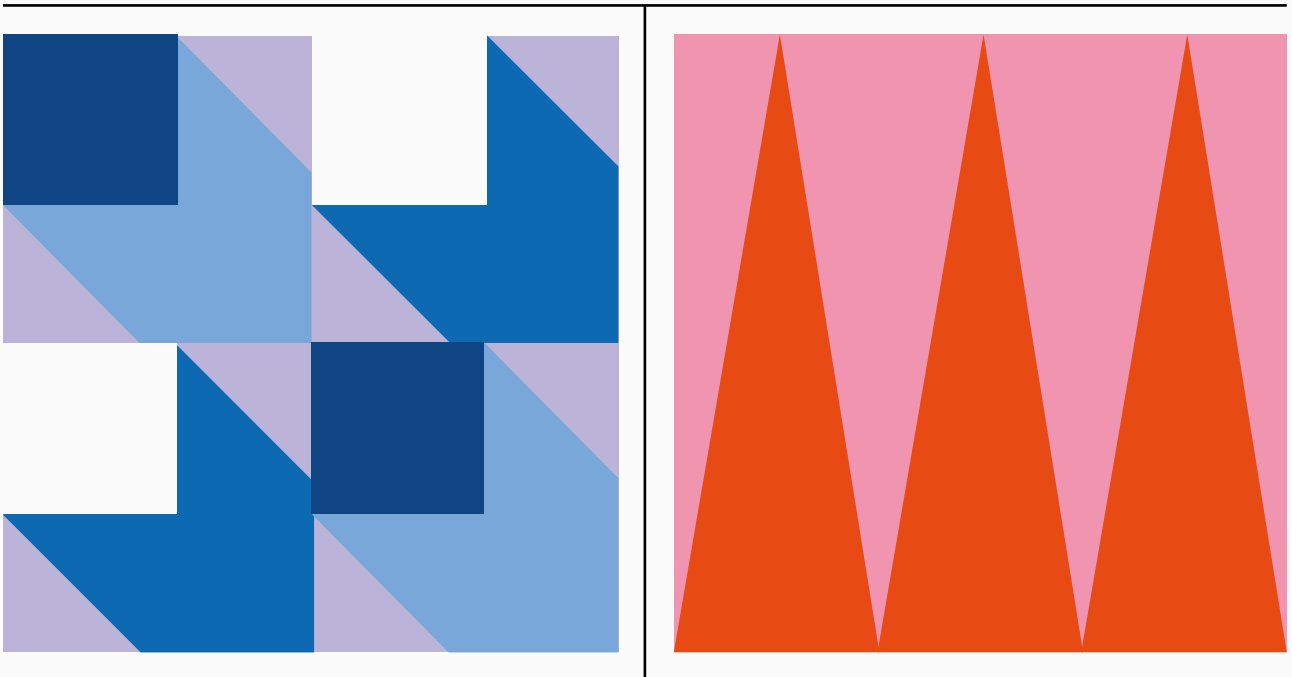
The Open Science Hub Network is an EU project which works towards promoting school-led community development through research and innovation. It has been operational since October 2019 and was funded by the European Union's Horizon 2020 Framework Programme for Research and Innovation.
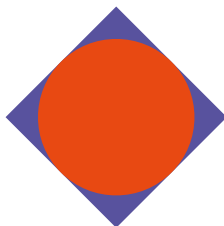
Open Science Hubs (OSHubs) have been created in eight countries as part of the project, mainly in communities that traditionally do not engage with research and innovation, whether due to geographical location, socio-economic status or ethnic minority group background.

OSHubs operate as mediators in each local community, where they support schools to become active agents for collaboration between families, universities, industry, local governments and civil society. The activities position schools as drivers for societal innovation and community well-being, by engaging in real-life projects where school and community needs are at the core of the collaborative projects undertaken.

As such, a local OSHub is composed by their local team, a local management board – which consists of different stakeholder groups that are involved in all key processes and decisions of the local OSHubs – and their partner schools, with whom they work closely and in a manner that is aligned with their needs and context. Moreover, each OSHub is rooted on their local challenges, which can be of different nature, depending on the local reality.
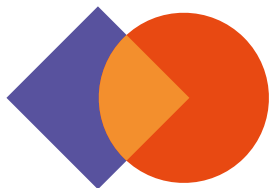
With the objective of ensuring common principles and processes, the OSHub.Network defined a common methodological approach, based on a social innovation model, that guides the OSHub teams to identify and define their value proposition, results, actors and stakeholders involved, as well as human and economic resources, towards impact and sustainability.

From this common road, different and tailored solutions emerged in each of the different OSHub locations and contexts. However, despite this diversity, we were able to identify several commonalities across the OSHubs, which allowed us to group them in three main categories:
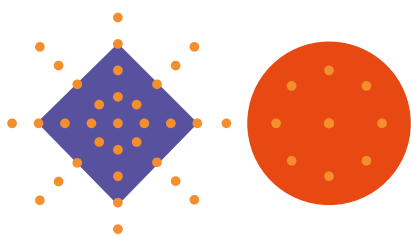

School – based OSHubs

OSHub teams work together with schools with the objective of facilitating the integration of Open Schooling in the school institutional structure and culture, namely by working together with teachers and school heads, so that in the future schools become fully autonomous.

School – supporting OSHubs

These OSHubs are normally based in a physical space with equipment and resources that schools, generally, don't have access to, and develop projects where schools create tangible solutions to community challenges through science, technology and fabrication techniques.

School – connecting OSHubs

These OSHubs facilitate the establishment of new relationships and processes between schools and stakeholders that normally are not part of school's daily-life, opening-up student's horizons while contributing to the development of meaningful societal meaningful experiences.

This document will allow the reader to delve into the different realities, approaches and activities of each OSHub, by providing real and practical examples, while at the same time guiding OSHub aspirants through the different building blocks for establishing their own OSHub.