



The eTwinner

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Dear eTwinners,

As many schools in Europe are closed, it is important for teachers and other school staff in our community to stay connected online. Here are some ideas how eTwinning can support colleagues in the online community:

Ideas to stay connected through eTwinning:

- **Join online events** with your colleagues to share best practices and tools with each other
- **Create online events/video conferencing** sessions to meet colleagues
- Discover the **Featured Groups**
- Explore lesson ideas from the **Project kits**
- Join the community during **Professional Development** (short online courses)
- Find other educators in the **Partner Forums**
- From our YouTube channel you can find online seminars, interviews and more!
- Learn more about eTwinning with the **self-teaching materials** – Go to the main portal click: *Get Started – Improve – Self Teaching Materials*
- Visit **School Education Gateway** for webinars, online courses, toolkits and more
- Are you new to eTwinning? Come and say hello in the **Virgilio Group**.

Do you Need Support?
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CLIMATE CHANGE

and environmental challenges

2020 eTwinning Annual Theme

“Our goal is to reconcile the economy with our planet, to reconcile the way we produce, the way we consume, with our planet and to make it work for our people” - Ursula von der Leyen, President of the European Commission

Supporting the European Green Deal, eTwinning acknowledges that students of today are the adults of tomorrow most likely to experience the effects of climate change. That is why it is imperative to learn to live sustainably in order to counteract climate change and other environmental challenges.

Schools participating in eTwinning can equip teachers with the necessary information and knowledge to help them reflect on climate change and make their students understand its implications as early as possible. Additionally, we believe teachers and their students play an important role in raising awareness about the imminent changes that are expected to challenge humanity in the coming years in consequence to climate change.

Therefore, all throughout this year, the focus of eTwinning will be on assisting this process by making students more conscious consumers. This way, students will be guided towards devel-

oping new attitudes, learning about appropriate choices, and making more environmentally conscious choices.

Through dedicated projects tackling the topic, students will develop their competencies in science, technology, and engineering. These will help them to understand the changes caused by human activity and teach them about the responsibility they have as individual citizens. Learning about citizenship competencies and the ability to act as responsible citizens and fully participate in civic and social life will also be one of the objectives this year.

Finally, using their creativity, critical thinking and problem solving to work collaboratively and transform ideas on the planet’s protection into action, students and teachers will also build their entrepreneurship competence.

Learn more about the annual theme of 2020, read the project kits “Let Us Green Again” and “Take Action for the Future”.

Outing @ESPLORA

EMMA BRINCAT & ELISE MUSCAT – YEAR 4.2 STUDENTS



We come from St Nicholas College, Mgarr Primary School. Today we are going to tell you our experience we had at Esplora Science Centre. So first, the bus got to our school and it took us to Esplora. The best part of the outing was when we called a school in Turkey. This is part of our eTwinning Project on The Solar System. This project is called Our Solar System! Our Home! It will help us understand our solar system and see if any of the planets can become our home in the future. If we do not care for our planet, we really will have to look for another planet to become our home.

The students from Turkey showed us their science project and we showed them an interactive game about planets. We talked about our schools. We could not believe that we could see each other even though we are in different countries. eTwinning is very good because it helps us meet new children and we can learn from them and they can learn from us. Even our teachers and our LSES were happy with this Skype session.

Then our new friends from Tur-



key sang a song for us and even though we could not understand the words, we loved hearing it. Then it was time for us to end the call. It was a new and very exciting experience for us. We wish to meet our new friends from Turkey. Then we watched a clip about space and after we ate. We used space related objects to make a comic strip on our school tablets. It was sooooo hard! We will share these comics with our new friends and we hope they will like them. Then the bus came and we almost took the wrong bus. But then, someone told that it was the wrong bus and then we got onto the right bus! We had a lot of fun there and we wish to go back again!

DIGITAL COMPETENCES AND I.T. DIDACTICS FOR TEACHERS

eTwinning Professional Development Workshop

Mr Andrew Mallia Somerville (Digital Literacy Support Teacher) and **Ms Sarah Camilleri Dimech**, (HoD Mathematics) attended this PDW in Vienna last December. They shared with us their experiences!

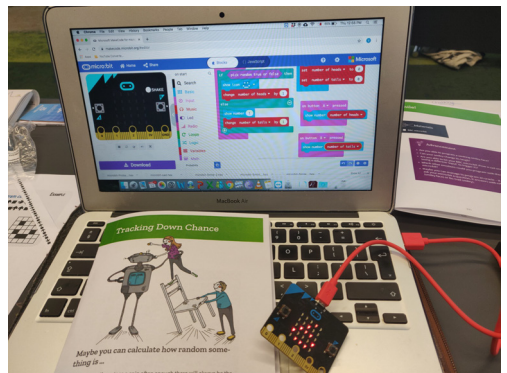
Through this experience I feel that I have broadened my knowledge on digital competences, learnt new and exciting tools I can use in class and with colleagues in different schools, and made new acquaintances from different countries who are as interested and motivated to learn more about this subject as myself.

Whilst we explored a lot of different tools and competences, a recurring thought that most of us participants had throughout the workshops was the realisation of how important platforms like eTwinning are. The ability for teachers to connect, share ideas, communicate easily and collaborate together and with their classes, across different countries,

is a tool to treasure.

Other topics which really attracted my attention and made me explore further were computational thinking and artificial intelligence. One of the speakers, Mr Kurt Soser also provided an eye opener into how fast things are changing and the need for teachers to adapt to and embrace change, in order to better understand and help their students.

The workshop on BBC Micro:bit and unplugged activities was also very interesting and having access to micro bits at the DDLTS gives me the opportunity to further experiment with these devices and help other make good use of them too.



I feel that opportunities like this one are very important for teachers to continue improving their skills, be able to enhance teaching and get new insights and ideas into learning. Being a digital literacy support teacher allows me to share these new ideas and insights with my colleagues, and other teachers in different schools.

SARAH'S VIEWS:

Soon after we were invited to go to the main hall to start the sessions. I was surprised with the number of participants present for this PDW. The keynote speakers were extraordinary, one better than the other. Each speaker was promoting the importance of digital technology, but not only. They were emphasizing the significance of connecting the human side with the digital side.

The ice-braking activity gave us the opportunity to get to know more teachers. One of the teachers was a deputy head of primary school in UK and we started talking about our views and inspirations regards primary education. We also discussed future projects and ideas, which we might work on together.

The second day I had experienced one of the most interesting workshops in my life, the micro-bit workshop. Being a Maths teacher, I was concerned that I might find the workshops hard to follow. But this particular one was just



perfect as the speakers started with the basics of computational thinking, moving to unplugged activities and then introducing the micro-bit.

In the evening we had the off-site workshop and since we were split in 4 groups, this gave us ample time to connect with the participants that chose the same workshop as I did. I made friends with an Italian language teacher, a local secondary biology teacher and another Finnish. We stayed together for the whole workshop. After the workshop we also went to the Christmas market. The teacher from Tyrol invited us to savor the mulled wine. As we arrived in the Christmas market, snow started falling down and I could experience a purely, magical Christmas evening. It was like living in a postcard .

Whilst writing this report, I am thinking of how I wish I would relive such experiences. I hope that many more and more teachers can experience such an enriching PDW were one can connect with other like-minded people and grow both professionally and personally.

eTwinning en tiempos de cambio: EN EL CLIMA, EN EL AULA

Racine Cassar



I am a full-time teacher of Spanish at San Gorg Preca College Hamrun Secondary school. Upon receiving letter circular DDLTS 29/2019 I decided that it was time to put in an application to be able to attend to the seminar *eTwinning en tiempos de cambio: en el clima, en el aula*.

Amazing opportunity, right?

Together with another enthusiastic colleague, Charmaine Attard, we flew to Madrid full of anticipation; this was my first experience with eTwinning. Almost 140 European academics gathered at the eTwinning event for three inspiring days. All invited speakers delivered motivating and empowering speeches, and throughout the project development, one could feel the importance of collaboration, responsibility and communication skills.

The seminar was not just talks

and workshops: we were given the opportunity to interact with people outside of our own country during interactive games, coffee breaks and meals. Personally I enjoyed participating in the Escape Room activity: 8 participants from different countries were “locked in” and their objective was to find the codes to “escape” within 5 minutes by solving puzzles in riddles. Being part of a new group of people in which you learn new things and re-educate yourself is an amazing experience.

My general comment for interested educators is that you should take advantage of the opportunity that offers eTwinning and gain international experience whenever you can! ...as it facilitates the opening to enhance your way of teaching through online collaboration with European teachers.

ETWINNING LOGO

Competition

Teachers and students were invited to re-create the eTwinning Logo using recycled material in their school. These were then proudly displayed in a prominent area in the school or in a classroom. We are happy to share all the wonderful creations!

Scan the QR code to view all entries:



The winners:

- **Early Years Category:**
Yentl Xuereb - Ghaxaq Primary School
- **Primary Category:**
Janice Cini - Kercem Primary
- **Middle School Category:**
Lino Xerri - Gozo College Middle School
- **Secondary School Category:**
Beverly Micallef, Amanda Gafa and *Elaya Bondin* (student) Cospicua Girls, Learning support Centre.

**Twinspace....
the safest platform
for students to
continue active
learning during
the COVID-19
lockdowns.**

Ms. Charmaine Attard (Kindergarten Educator) o.b.o our S.T.E.A.M-tastic project partners from Italy, Greece, Malta, Portugal and Turkey

Due to the unforeseen circumstances of the spread of COVID-19, several schools have been asked to go into lockdowns or close off. Due to this virus and to keep it from spreading there has been much students absenteeism (and in some cases also educators) absenteeism from schools. As a project team, we have decided to keep our project by the name S.T.E.A.M-tastic open for learning and allow this negative scenario turn into a positive one.

With the help of teachers, our students who have been on lock-downs and not attending schools, have been keeping busy at their own homes.

Monthly tasks of our project have been growing in interests and the students are doing their collaborative activities at homes with their guardians, therefore the project is still going strong even though schools are closed off.

This 21st century learning platform is giving students, guardians and educators opportunities to collaborate together and keep each other entertained while being at home, making the outcome of this project an even more spectacular one than it was initially anticipated.

The eTwinning platform shows that schools like Scuola dell'infanzia San Michele IC Giovanni XXIII in Terni Italy (Ms.Barbara Trivelli) and San Ġorg Preca Hamrun S.S Primary school in Malta (Ms.Charmaine Attard) have an online environment to safely share their work while motivating communication and collaboration between educators who are on lock-downs. All other partners in this project have been super supportive. Turkish, Greek and Portuguese educators are also sharing their work on Twinspace and are preparing themselves for such cases should the occasion arise.

Greek schools have been also closed off



and partners have been trying to find a way how to collaborate with parents and guardians in making our project stand tall in such a global situation.

With heartfelt gratitude this continuation would not have been made possible unless guardians were on board, however with the help of eTwinning partners, the safe Twinspace and the hard working team we can surely conclude that the inclusive opportunities provided in this project is beyond what any of us would have ever anticipated in the beginning, therefore making us educators proud to be in such a safe online community.

Here is more work Italian and Maltese students have been doing at home.

