eTwinning Schools Group

Online Seminar

eTwinning Schools: Steps & tips for collaborative interdisciplinary projects

April 21st, 2020 at 17:00 CET

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Agenda

A. *eTwinning Teams*
B. *A step-by-step collaborative working process*
C. *Handy tips for successful implementation*
D. *Answers to the polls*
E. *Questions*
F. *Your eTwinning School experience & next school year resolution*

Polls

1. Poll 1: Are you a teacher or a member of the school management?

   Answer here https://linkto.run/p/QMV9P7R5

2. Poll 2: Was your school awarded the eTwinning School Label in 2018, in 2019, or in 2020?

   Answer here https://linkto.run/p/HPLZN8DD

3. Poll 3: Describe your eTwinning School using ONE word (2)

   https://tinyurl.com/1word4eTwinningSchool

What makes a successful eTwinning School

- **collaboration & team work**
- set the example for other schools
- inclusion & innovation
- shared leadership
- students as agents of change

Collaboration & teamwork

Identify your school's strengths & weaknesses

- what your school has e.g. infrastructure
- what you & school staff can do well (human resources)
- who you know: people & institutions (groups, partnerships, networks)

Collaboration & team work

Identify opportunities & threats

Opportunities through

- partnerships (locally, regionally, nationally)
- professional development
- recognition

Threats

- burnout?
- being too personal?

What else?

Focusing on interdisciplinary projects

Some definitions

Cross-disciplinary: relating to or involving two or more disciplines (Meriam-Webster); viewing one discipline from the perspective of another. (X)

Multidisciplinary: people from different disciplines working together, each drawing on their disciplinary knowledge.

Interdisciplinary: involving two or more academic, scientific, or artistic disciplines (Meriam-Webster); integrating knowledge and methods from different disciplines, using a real synthesis of approaches. It involves the combining of two or more academic disciplines into one activity. It is about creating something by thinking across boundaries.

Through cooperation, any subject combination is feasible in eTwinning!

Steps towards effective collaborative interdisciplinary work

1. Get to know our colleagues
2. Build eTwinning team at school
3. Discuss within the project team
4. Collaborate within the team
5. Involve the students
6. Manage the project
7. Evaluate
8. Make our work public and visible

Step 1: Get to know our colleagues

1. Devote time
2. Show genuine interest
3. Brush upon our communication skills
4. Never underestimate the power of chit-chatting

Photo by Patrick Tomasso on Unsplash

Step 2: Build the school's eTwinning team

- Define our aim (e.g. recruit colleagues of different subjects to create interdisciplinary projects)
- Present our vision
- "Power-responsibility equilibrium"
- Start small & be innovative (e.g. form eTwinning Clubs)

13 registered active eTwinners

7 registered eTwinners- activeTeachers (inactive on the TwinSpace)

2 registered inactive eTwinners

1 invisible eTwinner

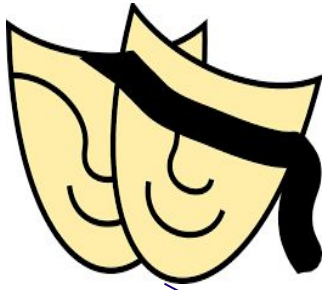
1 non-eTwinner

Problems & how to tackle them

1. lack of FL skills
2. lack of ICT skills
3. lack of time
4. “I have a specific syllabus to teach. I can’t waste class time working on eTwinning projects”

1. Students, FL teachers take the lead
2. Students, ICT teachers take the lead
3. time management
4. teach the syllabus through eTwinning

eTwinning teams built around ...



4th Grade eTwinning Project

Our experience of interdisciplinary project teams

Initially, ...

FL teacher
eTwinner

Later, ...

Native Language Teacher
ICT teacher
FL teachers

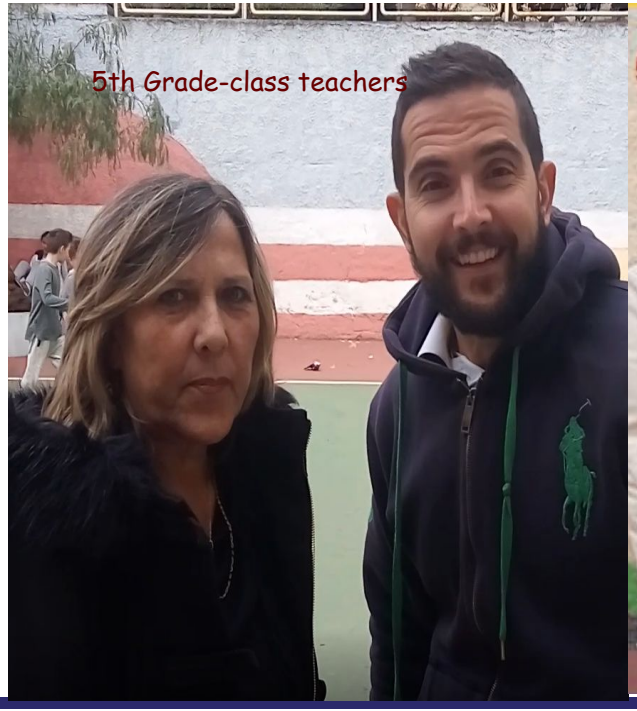
1st interdisciplinary project

Science Teacher
ICT teacher
FL teachers

Examples of eTwinning Teams

Examples of eTwinning Teams

Examples of eTwinning Teams



Step 3: Discuss with the project team

Be prepared

Give the floor to all team members

Encourage new ideas

Show excitement

Avoid long meetings

Photo by Jon Tyson on Unsplash

Step 4: Collaborate within the project team

work as a team and share experiences, practices and resources

- to plan pedagogical activities, eTwinning projects & actions
- to work out the school's Action Plan, any project plan

work as a team and organise hand-on workshops and events

- to inspire each other and/or share knowledge and expertise

work as a team & organise eTwinning actions and Festivals

- for peer-teaching
- for dissemination

Collaborate for eTwinning Actions & Festivals

Step 5. Involve the students

- in decision-making for projects and actions
- in organising onsite events to present their projects
- in organising events to share their new knowledge acquired while working on a project
- in training teachers in digital technology

Step 6: Manage the project

1. Manage human resources
2. Schedule regular intervals to check on the project.
3. Be flexible.
4. Address any problems before they occur.
5. Manage time (timeline, deadlines)

Photo by You X Ventures on Unsplash

Planning activities: Mode 1

eTwinning Project Team's Messenger Group

eTwinning Project's Messenger Group

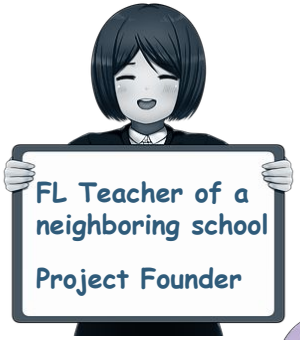
7-year-old pupils

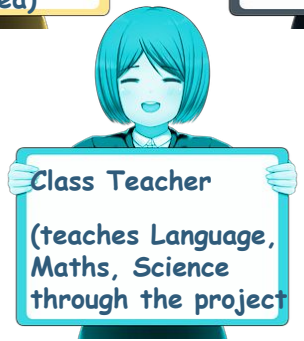
Planning activities: Mode 2

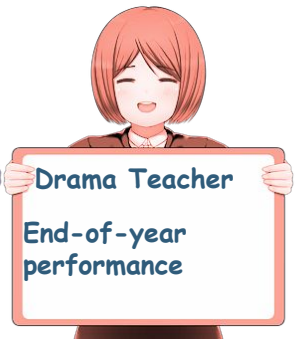
eTwinning Project Team's Messenger Group

eTwinning Project's Messenger Group

8-year-old pupils







Successful interdisciplinary projects

Click on the images to visit the TwinSpaces

Teams & modes of work in successful interdisciplinary projects (a)

school meetings
Messenger Group

- Class Teacher 1: eTwinning Team Coordinator, teaches Language & Citizenship through the project
- Class Teacher 2: involved in all activities, no participation in the TwinSpace, PR (expert)
- FL teacher: Contact Person, FL coursebook (project idea)
- Art Teacher: 1 activity (3D designing), school building decoration, involved in direct communication with partners
- ICT Teacher, Drama Teacher

Click on the image to visit the TwinSpace

Teams & modes of work in successful interdisciplinary projects (b)

Private messaging system

- FL teacher from a school in the same region (project founder)
- FL teacher: eTwinning Team Coordinator, Contact Person, (project idea)
- Class Teachers, FL & NDC turn Biology coursebook chapter on the adaptation of species into CLIL lessons.
- Class Teachers: involved in all activities, no participation in the TwinSpace
- French teacher (1 activity)

Click on the image to visit the TwinSpace

Teams & modes of work in successful interdisciplinary projects (c)

Facebook closed group
for Teachers and Tutors

- Class Teacher: Project Team Coordinator, teaches Language/Literature
- FL teacher 1: Project Idea, Contact person, teaches syllabus through the eTwinning project
- FL teacher 2: teaches syllabus through the eTwinning project
- ICT teacher: teaches part of the syllabus

+

- eTwinning Team of Teachers from neighboring Senior High School

Click on the image to visit the TwinSpaces

Teams & modes of work in successful interdisciplinary projects (d)

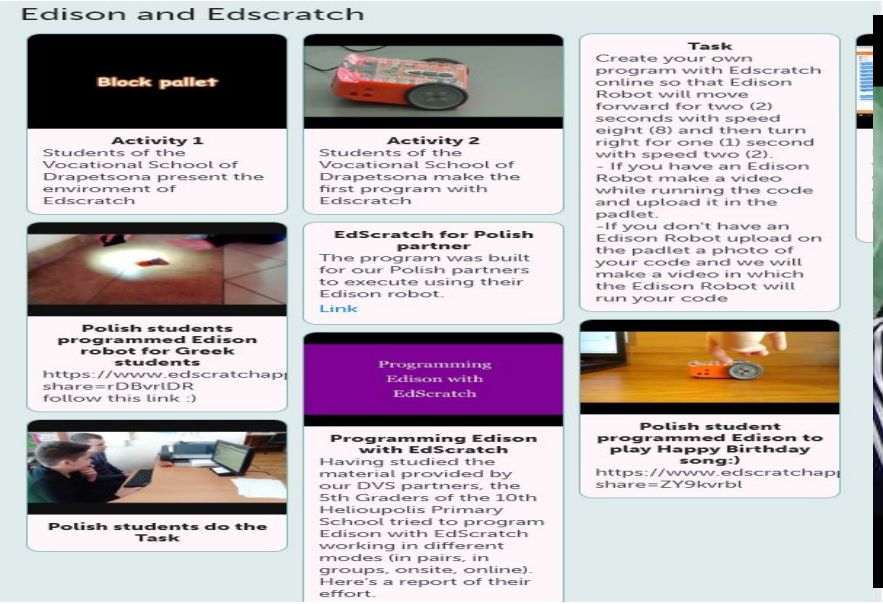
- VET teachers from the same province, (project idea)
- FL teacher: eTwinning Team Coordinator, Contact Person
- Class Teachers: facilitated activities, no participation in the TwinSpace
- FL teacher (German), 1 activity

Messenger Group
Private Messaging system
School visits

Click on the image to visit the TwinSpaces

“Robo-code” - eTwinning Prizes 2020 (16-19)

Flipped classroom 2: Edison with scratch=Edscratch



Step 7: Evaluate

Ongoing and Final Evaluation and Feedback ensures improvement & eventually better results

- invite colleagues, partners, students, parents, to participate in the evaluation
- recognise key strengths
- recognise points of improvement

Step 8: Make project work public and visible

- Organise online events on eTwinning Live
- Organise onsite events with the kids starring (performances, festivals, exhibitions)
- Promote the events through social media
- Disseminate the project results at conferences, workshops, the school, local and/or national websites (Abide with the General Data Protection Regulation)
- Feed the results into new projects

e.g. on Facebook

e.g. on the school website

Handy Tips for successful implementation

Collaborate ... relentlessly

Communicate effectively

Avoid perfection or carelessness

Inspire

Support

Mentor

Encourage

Manage time effectively

Adapt & Adjust

Polls - Let's share the results

1. Poll 1: Are you a teacher or a member of the school management?

   Answer here https://linkto.run/p/QMV9P7R5

   Let's share the results https://www.poll-maker.com/results2828596xa4ab416a-83

2. Poll 2: Was your school awarded the eTwinning School Label in 2018, in 2019, oe in 2020?

   Answer here https://linkto.run/p/HPLZN8DD

   Let's share the results https://www.poll-maker.com/results2828620xb764eC6b-83

3. What is one word you would use to describe your eTwinning School?
   https://tinyurl.com/1word4eTwinningSchool
   Let's share the results
   https://beta.polleverywhere.com/free_text_polls/MeRZFs6MhEEQDnpLFml3L

Share your experience & next school year resolution

1. Have you already put these tips to practice? Which one/s? Has it/Have they been effective?

2. Was there a tip you found useful and you think you may follow it in the future? Which?

Share your views on the padlet wall "eTwinning Schools Online Seminar"

https://padlet.com/ntzitzi_edu/eTwinning_Schools_Online_Seminar

QUESTIONS?

Thank you for your attention