



European Civic Attitude Through Social Entrepreneurship 2019-1-RO01-KA229-063748

eTwinning: the importance of the platform in increasing the degree of internationalization of projects



Internationalization and mobility in education have always been topics of growing relevance in Europe. In particular today there is a great emphasis in gaining communicative and intercultural competence in foreign languages, exemplified from the curriculum of foreign languages in LK06, The Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR) and in other documents relevant for foreign language learning.

The EU defines objectives for internationalization and mobility in education and in particular promotes mobility through the ERASMUS+ programme, the European programme for Education, Training, Youth and Sport.

The eTwinning platform was launched in 2005 as a part of the European Commission's eLearning Programme and since the launch of the Erasmus+ programme in January 2014, eTwinning is part of Erasmus+ and usually operates in synergy in Key Action 2 cooperation for innovation and exchange of good practices projects.

eTwinning is the best virtual platform for school partnerships because:

- ❖ It facilitates and enables the search for potential project partners. The eTwinning Desktop offers the "Partner Search Engine" and forums, one of them specifically to search for partners for Erasmus+.
- ❖ It offers a virtual space for each project with communication and cooperation tools.
- ❖ An eTwinning project and an Erasmus+ school partnership complement one another. eTwinning offers communication tools and collaborative space that are excellent tools to plan and discuss all aspects of a school partnership, to carry out activities that use technological support, share documents and information concerning each country and show the results, and even to continue the contact between partners once the partnership has ended.

BENEFITS

The benefits to schools participating in eTwinning are significant for schools, students and teachers:

SCHOOLS

- enrich learning and motivation of pupils (aged between 3 and 19) and staff
- access high quality professional development and ready-made resources
- raise standards across the whole school community
- gain recognition commitment through eTwinning awards and the International School Award.

STUDENTS GET

- greater motivation to work with pupils in partner schools in other countries
- a better understanding of the lives and cultures of other people, including class mates from different countries
- development of lifelong skills, such as teamwork, cooperation and independent learning..
- improvement of language and digital skills

TEACHERS HAVE

- more motivated and more productive students
- professional development
- improved ICT and technical expertise and language skills.
- greater enthusiasm for teaching and their job.

eTwinning home page

eTWINNING LIVE

eTWINNING SPACE

eTwinning Live

It's the space where teachers:

- can search for other registered eTwinners and schools, connect with them and follow their activities
- access all the online and on-site events created by eTwinners and also create their own.
- create their own projects
- can find online professional development opportunities that eTwinning offers at European level such as Learning Events, Online Seminars
- can join **eTwinning Groups** - virtual places where eTwinners meet and discuss specific subjects, topics or other areas of interest.

TwinSpace

TwinSpace is a safe platform visible only to the teachers participating in a project. Students can also be invited in the TwinSpace to meet and collaborate with peers from their partner schools. From this page users can:

- customise the TwinSpace changing the image, the name, the description and the colours.
- view, comment on and like posts from project's members
- post materials and updates related to your project
- access the Teacher Bulletin
- join the chat room
- organise an online meeting
- create a thread

The internationalization of a project: hints for discussion

- ❖ Intercultural multicultural contest (knowledge of business/social entrepreneurship in Italy and abroad)
- ❖ Pedagogical innovation: use of learning methods based on the discovery, the exploration and the problem solving (Sturburst)
- ❖ Learning and improvement of a second language in an engaging and direct way
- ❖ Development of digital skills using the Etwinning platform
- ❖ Cooperation and collaboration with our European partners , developing activities, exchanging experiences and information through the use of Twinspace tools

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