eTwinning

eTwinning National
Quality Label

An Roinn Oideachais
agus Scileanna
Department of
Education and Skills

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léargas

Contents

eTwinning is the online community for schools in Europe. eTwinning offers an online platform for teachers to communicate, collaborate, develop projects, share and be part of the most exciting learning community in Europe.

Getting involved in eTwinning is easy. Just register on the online eTwinning portal, eTwinning.net. Registered users can then access eTwinning Live, the entry point to the community of eTwinning. eTwinning Live enables users to find project partners and share resources, practice and ideas through its social networking features. Users can interact collaboratively in projects with their pupils and partners through a special tool called TwinSpace, a private and secure working space for all project members.

eTwinning is funded by the European Union and administered in participating countries by a National Support Service (NSS). Léargas is the National Support Service for eTwinning in Ireland. The NSS is at your disposal to provide technical and pedagogical support, promote eTwinning across the country, organise professional development activities, and much more.

An Introduction to the National Quality Label

The eTwinning National Quality Label (NQL) provides concrete recognition for teachers and students who have achieved excellence through an eTwinning project. NQLs boost motivation, and are public affirmation of a school's commitment to quality and openness in European collaborative work.

This e-book presents a selection of NQL winners in Ireland in 2019 as well as some useful information on creating projects. As you will see, the projects vary widely in theme and content but the commitment to digital collaborative work and pedagogical innovation is common to all. We are very grateful to the teachers who have allowed us to feature their work in this booklet, and we hope its readers are inspired to apply some of these innovative approaches to their own projects in the future.

Let's sing together! European Day of Languages

Cecelia Gavigan, Balbriggan Educate Together

Background

This project was developed in collaboration with a colleague in Poland in preparation for the European Day of Languages 2018 with the purpose of embracing linguistic diversity and developing positive attitudes to bilingualism and multilingualism.

Project Aim

The aim of this project was to make a short presentation about the respective schools and languages spoken, compile examples of some words from the languages spoken and to record a video of the pupils and students singing "Are You Sleeping Brother John?" in their native language. The project was joined by 24 teachers from all across Europe.

Project Work

The majority of the work was conducted in class but pupils also did some independent work at home, as well as some work at home in collaboration with their parents. When in class, we used whole class discussion, think-pair-share-square, small group work and one-to-one teacher-pupil interactions.

The project was a huge success. The pupils learned, recorded and shared a recording of the song in Irish; got to watch (and sing along with) pupils from all around Europe singing in their native languages; learned some useful words in these European languages; recorded and shared some useful phrases from their own mother tongues and participated in a whole-school peer-teaching event for European Day of Languages. This event was a huge success.

Outcomes

As a result of the project, the pupils became more interested in and increased their knowledge about the countries across Europe that had participated in the partnership. They also learned more about the multilingual aspects of their classmates and learned how to say 'hello', 'goodbye' and 'thank you' in the 30 home languages represented. As a result of the Language and eTwinning Showcase part of the project, the pupils became more aware of the rich variety of languages spoken and understood by their peers. Pupils who were multilingual were given an opportunity to feel proud of their languages and for some pupils it marked the first time for them to even mention speaking other languages.

This project also received the European Language Label Award (Category 2: Multilingual schools and classrooms) for 2019.

Using Literature as a Gateway to History

Sharon Ruane, St. Michael's Boys' School

Project Aims

This was a cross-curricular project that encouraged reading for pleasure of a historical fiction novel based on World War 2 and the Holocaust. Pupils developed critical and creative thinking skills as they brought all the pieces of the project together.

Project Work

The children read the book "The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas" by John Boyne. They studied characters, explored personalities through interviewing and hot-seating. At the same time, they began to study World War 2 in History. A Crocus Garden was planted in remembrance of the Holocaust victims. Feelings and emotions were explored through drama and Impasto art.

This project encompassed various curricular areas – English, Drama, Art, SESE and ICT. We used Art to describe the feelings of the characters and to explain what they were going through as well as Conscience Alley, Hot Seating and Thought Tracking in Drama. The children worked in groups. Presentations of their work were made using ICT and then shown to their peers. Constructive criticism was given, thus enhancing their presentation skills and developing their self-esteem.

We used the Twinspace and email to communicate with our partner schools as well as Skype. Google forms was used when sharing exercises as part of a shared English lesson with our partner schools. We uploaded photos of our artwork onto the Twinspace. Each school was reading the novel at the same time. We shared ideas for English and samples of Artwork were shared through Skype and the Twinspace with the students explaining what their work was about. A questionnaire based on racism was distributed for the students to give their opinion. Traditional songs and dances were shared through Skype.

iPads and laptops were used to research the chosen topic, create presentations, share images and completed work. Apps such as PhotoStory were used to create a slideshow of their work which they used during their presentations. All of the completed work was shared on the Twinspace.

Outcomes

The students fully embraced all aspects of the project. They became confident in both giving and receiving constructive criticism. They looked forward to sharing their thoughts and ideas with our partner schools as well as their completed works. It made the whole process more interesting being able to work with children from other countries on a subject that is so meaningful to all.

Discovering Science and Maths Through Cooking

Marieke O'Connor, Killorglin Community College

Background
STEMCooking was a project developed to promote and enhance students' knowledge of Science and Maths through using project-based learning, integrating kitchen situations in the real world, so that students learn to think in a scientific way about their environment.

Project Aims
The aims of the project were to improve the knowledge and research skills of students in STEM subjects through project- based learning; to develop critical and creative thinking skills; and capabilities to become active agents in the construction of their learning.

Project Work
During this project, we used various pedagogical methods while working with students. As this project lasted for two years, the students had to do a lot of work – both at home and in school, as well as individually and in small groups, so they developed their organisational, communication, presentation and team-work skills. They had to do research at home and come prepared to class where they did the work as we integrated it into our TY class curriculum. As the students participating in this project were from different classes, we also held a weekly meeting in our schools. The students were very interested in the project and they liked the whole eTwinning experience.

Using the Twinspace we shared our activities, enhanced digital skills, collected materials and results and made them visible and usable by all partners. The teachers and the students used the Twinspace forum, Email, Google tools, WhatsApp and Skype to communicate with each other and exchange ideas. The students used computers to do their research online. All of the participants used Microsoft Office tools like Word documents. They used Padlet and videos to present themselves and their schools. They used digital cameras and their mobile phones to make photographs and videos. They used advanced tools like Photoshop for editing photographs or adding text. They worked in international teams on a chosen activity. All jobs and their descriptions were in the end published in an eBook. Resulting products which could be used by all partners and teachers were: the eBook; videos; workshops; presentations; photo and poster exhibitions; and quizzes.

Outcomes
The school has benefited a lot from participating in eTwinning projects as it opened our school to new experiences and Europe.

Ag iniúchadh Impriseanachais ar fud na hEorpa sa 19ú hAois le fócas ar an bhFrainc, ar Éirinn agus ar an Iodáil

Maria O'Donovan, Meánscoil San Nioclás

Tionscadal

Dearadh an tionscadal seo chun daltaí a mhealladh chun cur lena n-eolas ar an teanga a úsáidtear san Ealaín agus chun freagairt don saothar Ealaíne agus do Stair na hEalaíne mar atá riachtanach don scrúdú Ardteistiméireachta sa ghné Tuiscint don Ealaín, Cheardaíocht agus Dearadh. D'fhiosraíomar gnéithe uile na gluaiseachta agus d'éiríomar feasach ar a cuid ealaíontóirí, a tréithe agus an tréimhse de réir mar atá leagtha amach i gcuraclam Ealaíne na hÉireann. Ba mheán é an tionscadal seo chun smaointe agus tuairimí a chur in iúl ach ina theannta sin d'éirigh leis cairdis, naisc chultúrtha agus caidrimh eacnamaíochta a chothú lenár gcomhpháirtithe comh maith le naisc a chur chun cinn le hábhair eile.

Aidhm

Ba í sprioc an tionscadail ná iniúchadh agus machnamh a dhéanamh ar ghluaiseacht Fhrancach na healaíne sa 19ú haois 'an t-impriseanachas' agus mar a bhí sé le sonrú agus mar a tháinig sé chun cinn trasna na hEorpa. Aidhm eile a bhí ag tionscadail ab ea deis a thabhairt do dhaltaí cur lena bhfeasacht agus lena gcuid eolais ar theanga agus ar théarmaí na healaíne a bhaineann le gluaiseachtaí nua-aimseartha ealaíne.

Torthaí

Ba í an sprioc a bhí againn ná cleachtas praicticiúil, taighde pearsanta, plé grúpa agus cuairteanna ar dhánlanna a chomhshnaidhmiú chun slí níos doimhne a chur ar fáil chun an t-ábhar a léirmhíniú agus dul i ngleic leis. D'oibrigh na daltaí ar bhonn aonair, i mbeirteanna agus i ngrúpaí chun taighde a dhéanamh ar smaointe, chun taifead a dhéanamh ar shaothar agus chun saothar ealaíne a chruthú mar fhreagairt ar shaothar ealaíne na nImpriseanaithe. Bhaineamar úsáid as ríomhchláir éagsúla chun an taighde a dhéanamh, a thaifeadadh agus ár smaointe a roinnt agus a chur in iúl dár gcomhpháirtithe. Ina dhiaidh sin bhaineamar úsáid as Padlet chun turais fhíorúla a chruthú mórthimpeall ar dhánlanna agus chun ár ranganna roinnte a thaifeadadh (bhaineamar úsáid as eTwinning Live agus Skype) chun ranganna ealaíne ar líne a eagrú idir na comhpháirtithe. Chruthaíomar Ríomhleabhar comhoibríoch agus Irisleabhar agus d'oibrigh na daltaí i mbeirteanna nó i ngrúpaí beaga chun an t-ábhar chuige seo a chur i dtoll a chéile.

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Meánscoil San Nioclás

Our World of Well-Being: Eat, Sleep, Play, Dance and Sing

Glenda McKeown, Our Lady of Fatima Special School

Background

The project was created together with our European partners (Italy, Turkey and Romania) in order to promote well-being in our school communities. We adopted a whole school approach. Each school looked at activities that were already happening in their schools that enhance the well-being of their students.

Project Aims

The project was planned to encompass nine months of activities. Each month all partners participated in an activity that promoted well-being. At the end of the project all activities and experiences were collated and presented in an eBook (Canva). We also created a common blog in which all partners could participate.

Project Work

The project was both innovative and collaborative. There was great collaboration among the partners and good use was made of ICT (Blog, Padlet, Canva, Word docs, Word Forms, Vimeo etc.) Students were consistently involved in team/group work throughout this project. In particular the subject matter was linked to areas within the curriculum. In Ireland for example the topic of well-being is part of the SPHE programme (Social, Personal and Health Education). We also linked it to our Junior Certificate Level 2 Programme (Personal Care). All students learned to embrace their strengths and to contribute to a group activity. Communication between the schools and associated teachers was carried out through Twinspace, emails, a WhatsApp group and blog created specifically for the project. The different schools collaborated together to produce a final product: an eBook. Good use was made of the journal on Twinspace as a communication tool. The final product – our eBook on well-being – was collated and presented as a result of all activities and exercises produced and created throughout the project.

Outcomes

As this was a whole school project, it had a very positive effect on the school community of each partner school. All students had a great learning experience. All felt that the experience was a positive one, as they felt part of a greater community - Europe. This project allowed for extending students' digital skills. Not only did it strengthen their academic skills but it also deepened their socio-cultural knowledge of other countries. Moreover students took responsibility for their health and well-being. We are positive that students will practice what they learned in their daily lives.

eTwinning Ambassadors are there to support you with their experience, enthusiasm and exceptional eTwinning skills and knowledge. This engaged group of teachers are fundamental to the success of eTwinning in each and every country. eTwinning Ambassadors are an active community that works closely together to make eTwinning stronger. In collaboration with the National Support Services, they share good practices, learn from each other and develop their skills so that they are always ready to provide support and guidance to all eTwinners both online and in person. To contact an ambassador in your area visit www.etwinning.ie.

Celebrations

In 2019 a record number of Irish teachers were awarded National and European Quality Labels. A total of 27 teachers received National Quality Labels for their projects, with 10 receiving European Quality Labels. The winners were acknowledged at a special prize giving ceremony in Croke Park. Other schools received extra prizes of a celebratory eTwinning cake for the class. Well done to all the teachers, students and schools for their hard work and creativity in creating their projects!

8 Easy Steps to Set up a Project!

1 Register

Register on eTwinning.
www.etwinning.net

REGISTER

2 Check the Forums

Go to eTwinning Live, especially the **PARTNER FORUMS** where you can check the ideas proposed by other teachers and answer their posts. Or be proactive and post your own ideas on the suitable forum.

PARTNER FORUMS

3 Check Availability

Contact teachers first to check their availability and interest in working with you. Make sure you are available for an eTwinning Plus project.

CONTACT REQUEST

4 Contact Request

Once you find a colleague, look for them in **PEOPLE** and send them a **CONTACT REQUEST**.

5 Create a Project

When they accept your request, you are ready to set up the project. Decide which one of you is going to register the project – only one can do it! Go to **PROJECTS** and click on **CREATE A PROJECT:**

STEP 1	STEP 2	STEP 3	STEP 4
Carefully select the name of the school.	Invite your colleague to the project.	Complete the form with all the details.	In the description, use language that your colleague can easily understand.

*Don't forget to enable access to your project for eTwinning Plus countries

CREATE A PROJECT

6 Approval

After you submit your project, your colleague will receive a notification in their eTwinning Live to accept it. Once they accept the project invitation, the project will have to be approved by the National Support Services of both countries.

7 Your Workspace

Once the project is approved you can find it in the **PROJECTS** section and you automatically have your own private **TWINSPACE** workspace.

8 Collaborate More

You can now go to **PROJECTS** > **YOUR PROJECT** > **ADD NEW PARTNER(S):** other colleagues who want to work in your project or colleagues from your school that you will collaborate with.

Contact the National Support Service for eTwinning in Ireland

Léargas

Léargas manage national and international programmes in education, youth and community work, and vocational education and training. Established in 1986, we are a not-for-profit organisation owned by the Department of Education and Skills. Our programmes focus on co-operation between communities and between countries, and bring an international dimension to the work of education, training, and youth and community organisations.

As well as eTwinning, we manage intercultural programmes such as the European Solidarity Corps, EPALE and are the National Agency for the European Union programme Erasmus+.

Cur Síos Gairid ar Léargas

Eagraíocht neamhbhrabúis is ea Léargas a dhéanann bainistíocht ar chláir náisiúnta agus idirnáisiúnta san oideachas, obair óige agus pobail agus in oideachas agus oiliúint ghairme. Bunaíodh sa bhliain 1986 é agus is leis an Roinn Oideachais agus Scileanna é ina iomláine. Tá ár gcuid clár dírithe ar chomhar idir pobail agus idir tíortha, agus déanann siad iarracht ar ghné idirnáisiúnta a thabhairt d'obair eagraíochtaí oideachais, oiliúna agus agus eagraíochtaí óige agus pobail.

Lasmuigh d'eTwinning déanaimid bainistíocht ar chláir idirchultúrtha ar European Solidarity Corps agus EPALE agus is sinne an ghníomhaireacht Náisiúnta don gClár Erasmus+ de chuid an Aontais Eorpaigh.

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