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# The eTwinning

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*Dear educators,*

Welcome to the 7<sup>th</sup> edition of The eTwinning wherein as usual you will have a taste of the various facets of eTwinning in the classroom.

Top on the agenda is definitely Ms. Romina Baldacchino who was awarded the eTwinning Prize for the project Story Telling leads to Robotics. This award was acknowledged by the Central Support Service of eTwinning in Brussels and also locally both on social media and national television. This news also gave a boost to eTwinning in Malta.



The eTwinning National Support Service has invested in the training of educators within the Future Classroom Lab in Brussels to promote the concept of active learning within varied spaces in the classroom. Here you can read about the experiences of these educators.

eTwinning and Erasmus+ have a lot in common and most often eTwinning projects set the stage for future projects which go a step further and develop into Erasmus+ projects which involve the physical mobility of both teachers and students.

Another important event was the seminar for local and foreign eTwinners at the Paradise Bay Hotel in Cirkewwa with the theme: Digital Learning Re-Shaping Education. The whole seminar was a great success.

The annual theme – Democratic participation is featured in the Spring Campaign which was launched just a few weeks ago.

Finally we are proud to announce our new director for Digital Literacy & Transversal Skills who is also the director for eTwinning - Mr. Grazio Grixti. Mr. Grixti will be fully supporting eTwinning and embedding the concept within the Directorate for Digital Literacy.

**Rose-anne Camilleri**

*National eTwinning Coordinator*



[etwinning@ilearn.edu.mt](mailto:etwinning@ilearn.edu.mt)

[etwinning.skola.edu.mt](http://etwinning.skola.edu.mt)  
(356) 2598 1568

# Future Classroom Lab course: *Collaborative projects for the future classroom*

*Daniela Scicluna & Nadette Camilleri Pavia*

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Between the 11th and 12th March 2019, we took part in a Future Classroom Lab Course entitled 'Collaborative projects for the future classroom'. The main aim of this course was to explore a range of tools and ideas that help teachers promote collaboration among students and integrate ICT into their teaching.

Our trainer, Mr Bart Verswijvel, introduced us to the main philosophy behind the idea of the Future Classroom where, spaces are for active learning and incorporate Space, Pedagogy and Technology. The Future Classroom comprises 6 zones: Investigate, Create, Present, Interact, Exchange and Develop. Participants learnt about collaborative practices to help students become good problem solvers. Good group work entails shared responsibility and decision-making and making sure that roles are interdependent. One of the workshops ended with the Marshmallow Challenge. In groups, we had to build the tallest free-standing tower of spaghetti and use Padlet at intervals to report on the collaborative process.

In another workshop, we worked on Collaboration in and beyond



the classroom and Developing Partnerships and networks, where we had time to discuss and share our own collaboration activities. Another fruitful workshop was that in which various apps and sites were discussed. Although there were a few we had heard of, there were others which were new to us and we will surely use in class. One of these is called Wooclap, which is an online polling tool for real-time audience engagement, that helps you create interactive presentations.

In the final workshop, we worked in a small group to design a collaboration project. Each group then presented their work. Here we had time to discuss different tools we have in schools and find a way of integrating these in our plan. This workshop also helped us connect with other foreign teachers and make new friends.

# Best European eTwinning Project

Romina Baldacchino

## Story Telling leads to Robotics



Photo: DOI - Anthony Sultani

Last February, I was delighted when my project 'Story telling leads to robotics/La robotique au service de la littérature enfantine' was announced as the Best eTwinning project in the Under 6 years category. This made me look back and reflect. What was so great about the project? The objective was simple enough. We were to tell and exchange a lot of iterative stories with a repetitive theme such as the Ginger bread man. Our intention was for the students to create their own story and that was when things got interesting! Every eTwinning partner worked on a body part to collaboratively create an odd looking but interesting character. We also worked on making a virtual world for him to live in. My students' contribution to this colourful world

was the Triton fountain which had just been restored. Each class then came up with a part of the story which ended up in a collaborative tale of acceptance and friendship.

After the story was created, our second objective was to teach the children



some robotics skills. We used the Beebot and Scratch to retell our story until the children's programming skills were quite advanced, considering their young age.

But for me, the greatest winning factor in the project was working with such talented teachers from around Europe. That is what, to me, makes eTwinning projects all winners!



# Working Together Towards A COMMON VISION



*Maria A. Magro*

*“Digital Learning Re-Shaping Education,”* was the goal of each eTwinner attending the eTwinning seminar held in Malta between the 4th and the 6th of April 2019. Participating countries included Austria, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Portugal, Latvia, Slovakia and obviously Malta.

Direct contacts between people are crucial in developing mutual respect and intercultural understanding, so eTwinners met together for the above mentioned seminar to meet other eTwinners and plan projects together. Finding a group of people who challenge and inspire us with ideas and initiatives, help to change not only our lives but also those of the children entrusted in our hands. Such an experience is a step forward towards team





building, self-esteem and motivation for the participant both as learner and educator. eTwinners present for the seminar attended interesting workshops intended for both intermediate and new eTwinners. The latter were given the opportunity to explore the eTwinning portal. Seminar participants have come along from around Europe, all with a common goal and vision...that of giving each student a chance to excel no matter what his learning difficulties might be. eTwinning welcomes everyone and from experience I can truly say that eTwinning has motivated less-able students to showcase their work with confidence just like high-flyers do.

eTwinning, the biggest teachers' network available online, enables eTwinners to run joint projects and link pupils from different cultures and backgrounds together because "alone we can do so little; together we can do so much." (Helen Keller)

Collaboration is the key to success and because great things are never done by one person but always by a team of people. eTwinners met and discussed new projects between them and at the end of the seminar, eTwinners presented

eight newly planned projects assigned for the next scholastic year.

This seminar was a very fruitful and this could be seen from the positive comments posted by foreign participants. It was a great opportunity to meet new colleagues, take part in group discussions and to share ideas, practices and experiences. Collaborative ideas were also shared with educators in multicultural scenarios.

May each and every educator across the globe become inspired to register on the eTwinning portal and be exposed to its benefits leading to success since "individually we are a drop; together we are an ocean." (Ryunosuke Satoro)



# EVOLVING PATTERNS OF DIVERSITY

Evolving Patterns of Diversity is an Erasmus+ School Exchange Partnership project. St Theresa Secondary School is co-ordinating the project in partnership with Modellschule of Graz, Austria.

The first week of March gave start to a wonderful experience for seventeen Year 10 students. These students, from different classes and tracks, had the opportunity to visit Graz and build new friendship ties. Throughout this week they experienced an Austrian scholastic week at Modellschule. They had the opportunity to get to know each other through drama games and activities and through several workshops organised by the teachers. They spent quality time at the school, enabling them to get involved in their system; they got to learn about their music traditions, culinary culture and language, to practice egg painting and to visit a traditional food market and an Eco Farm. More-over, they had the opportunity to visit Graz's two UNESCO World Heritage sites:



the old town in the city centre and the castle of Eggenberg. The climax of the visit was the trip to Dachstein, the highest mountain of the region. For most of these students, the visit to the Dachstein mountain and its picturesque views, was a first-time experience; they had the unique opportunity to play and sledge in the snow.

The Maltese school will be hosting the Austrian students and teachers during the week starting 7th April. A program full of activities that highlight Malta's cultural heritage and traditions is being planned.

The following are remarks by two of our students:

*It was a wonderful experience for all of us. I made new friends, discovered a new culture, learnt new skills like egg painting and new traditional dances, and built a snowman (I named it Snowy, because you know, it's made of snow)*

*Thank you for all the teachers, LSEs and assistant heads who worked very hard to s a wonderful experience for all of us. I made new friends, discovered a new culture, learnt new skills like egg painting and new traditional dances, and built a snowman (I named it Snowy, because you know, it's made of snow)*

*Thank you for all the teachers, LSEs and assistant heads who have worked very hard to bring us here, so we can meet new friends, bond with each other, laugh and form new memories. Me, along with my friends are all very excited to meet our new Austrian friends again.*

**Martina Armeni**

*It was an amazing experience and I wouldn't change anything about it!!*

*We got to bond in a way that we'll never forget and we're so thankful to all the teachers and everyone that made this happen!*

*We did so many activities that made us understand the Austrian traditions and culture.*

*We made a lot of new friends and we can't wait till we see the Austrian people again. Thank you so much for this!*

**Sofia Bombardiere**

# Spring Campaign



A fictional eTwinning Galaxy with all the eTwinners has emerged. The community keeps growing, so eTwinners need to come up with their ideal scenario how they can best live and work together.

During the Spring Campaign eTwinners will have a chance to discover the different aspects of Democratic Participation that will help them to shape their ideas for their ideal eTwinning Galaxy. The Galaxy has been divided into five different planets, each of them focusing on a different theme.

Each planet contains short activities for teachers and their classrooms. Below you will find the outline of the campaign, and which themes will be covered the following weeks on the planets:

- *18 March – 27 March: Human Rights*
- *28 March – 8 April: Law and Decision-Making*
- *9 April – 21 April: Sustainability and Environment*
- *22 April – 30 April: Media Literacy*
- *1 May – 9 May: History and Culture*

At the end of the campaign you will be able to create your ideal eTwinning Galaxy with your students and share it with the other eTwinners.

A dedicated Group for this Spring Campaign has been opened <https://groups.etwinning.net/83998/home> where etwinners can:

- *Share your work for the activities*
- *Collaborate and engage with other eTwinners*
- *Find supporting pedagogical materials*
- *Find the recordings of the online seminars*
- *Discuss in the forums*