



The eTwinner

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Hello eTwinners!

Notwithstanding the several challenges faced this year due to the transition to the new European School Education Platform, educators still have found ways to make teaching and learning in eTwinning all worth the while. This special edition which is jam-packed with such evidence shows in practice how educators from all levels collaborate with local and European colleagues to give the youngsters in our care the best possible learning experience. At the same time as many educators state it is also a learning journey for themselves – wherein their digital competencies are strengthened whilst discovering innovative and effective pedagogies to implement in their classrooms and engage their students.

Congratulations to the many eTwinners who have just received their European Quality Label. We also congratulate the 20 Maltese schools/organisations who have achieved the eTwinning School



Label, these are role models for other schools in: Shared leadership, Collaboration and teamwork, Students' agency and Inclusion and innovation. Such schools are examples of effective collaboration, not only between individual eTwinners, but of the whole school, where teams of teachers and school leaders work together.

On another note, currently eTwinners in European projects can apply for the National Quality Label. For more information visit www.etwinningmalta.net or Facebook - @eTwinningMalta.

Dr Rose-anne Camilleri



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Maltese Schools awarded the eTwinning School Labels



We would like to congratulate twenty Maltese Schools who were awarded the eTwinning School Label 2023/14. Malta once again is one of the countries with a high number of awarded schools in Europe per capita, with 20 awarded schools.

The eTwinning School Label is a prestigious award as it is given to schools that exemplify the benefits of eTwinning. These schools actively implement and promote eTwinning values and teaching methods, serving as a reference point for their local community and as a model for other schools. eTwinning Schools integrate eTwinning values into their policies, practices, and professional development with the support of school management.

The Maltese Schools that have been awarded the eTwinning School Label are:

- Directorate for Digital Literacy & Transversal Skills

Primary Schools:

- Gozo College, Sannat Primary School and Special Unit
- St. Clare College, San Gwann Primary School
- St. Clare College, Sliema Primary School
- St. Ingatius College, Siggiewi Primary School
- San Gorg Preca, Floriana Primary School
- San Gorg Preca, Hamrun GP Primary School

- San Gorg Preca, Hamrun SS Primary School
- San Gorg Preca, Marsa Primary School
- San Gorg Preca, Paola Primary School
- San Gorg Preca, Valletta Primary School
- St. Joan Antide, Primary School
- St. Nicholas College, Dingli Primary School
- St. Nicholas College, Rabat Primary School
- St. Theresa College, Lija/ Balzan /Iklin/ Primary School
- St. Thomas More College, Marsaxlokk Primary School

Middle Schools:

- Gozo College Middle School, Rabat
- Maria Regina College, Middle School, Naxxar

Secondary Schools:

- St. Benedict College, Secondary School, Kirkop
- St. Clare College Secondary School, Pembroke





Since this scholastic year, I am teaching the youngest students in the school, I preferred to take part in short eTwinning projects, rather than lengthy ones, due to the students' short attention span. I decided to join two Easter related projects that suited our class needs perfectly.

The first project consisted of sharing our Easter traditions and culture. We learned about Easter celebrations in Spain, Poland, Greece, Croatia, and Latvia, while we sent videos of our Easter traditions in Malta.

The second project consisted of exchanging Easter cards. The students made cards for their project partners in Spain, Romania, Lithuania, and Slovenia. My students were over the moon with joy when they received the cards from these students!

I highly recommend these short projects for new eTwinners and for kindergarten educators who teach very young students.

The Malta NSO were invited to visit the Future Classroom Lab in Campus Rammen in Norway in April 2023. This visit was an unforgettable one, filled with enriching experiences and insightful encounters with the local educators, figures in the education system, and the warm and welcoming FCL team at Østfold University College.

During our visit we had the opportunity to engage with passionate educators and students who are dedicated to innovation and learning. The interactive and hands-on approach to education in these institutions was truly inspiring, especially the practical application of new technologies. Furthermore, the collaborative and supportive learning environment was a testimonial to the value of community-driven education.

We were also given the opportunity to participate in the Teach-Meet event where educators share good ideas with each other in so-called micro-presentations (2 or 5 minutes). The purpose of such an event is to share ideas, tools, resources, methods or experiences and inspire each other, in a playful and social way. Dr Roseanne Camilleri gave her presentation on how the FCL pedagogy is integrated in eTwinning especially when activities are held at our Digital Literacy Centre in Hamrun.



Dr Rose-anne Camilleri giving her presentation

eTwinning Malta-European Seminar 2023

eTwinning is part of the European School Education Platform (<https://school-education.ec.europa.eu>) wherein educators collaborate on projects with other schools from different European countries. The platform is part of the European Union's Lifelong Learning Programme, and it allows teachers and students to communicate, collaborate, and share information with their peers in other countries. The aim of eTwinning is to promote cross-cultural communication and understanding, as well as to enhance teaching and learning through the use of digital technologies.

Each year eTwinning Malta organises a European seminar focusing on eTwinning as a pedagogy. The eTwinning annual theme for 2023 - Innovation and Education: Being Creative with eTwinning (Technology, Innovation, AI, Pedagogy) - as well as digital literacy and the integration of eTwinning projects in the classroom were highly promoted and explored during the seminar. This year the seminar was another great success with educators from 12 European countries including Malta & Gozo, networking, collaborating and sharing ideas at the Paradise Bay Resort in Cirkewwa 20-22

April 2023. The Hon. Dr. Clifton Grima - Minister for Education, Sport, Youth, Research and Innovation - launched the seminar with a video speech. We were so honoured to have with us several local and foreign experts leading our workshops: Arjana Blazic was our keynote speaker and workshop leader - she is a teacher trainer, education technology consultant and course designer, based in Zagreb, Croatia. Rute Baptistaw was also invited as a workshop leader - she is a Pedagogue and currently acts as Professional Development Manager, in Brussels, in the European School Education Platform, from the European Commission, Brussels. Several workshops were conducted and included: Innovative Teaching Strategies, Pedagogical Innovation: myths and reality, The use of Augmented Reality in Pedagogy, Digital Tools for eTwinning Collaborative

Projects and Using Flip in the Classroom. The event came to a conclusion with the sharing of practice and presentations of newly created project ideas, which were all initiated during networking activities resulting in the registration of new eTwinning Collaborative Projects - the main objective of this seminar. The seminar provided the opportunity for networking and high quality professional development of European educators. As a result maximising the learning journey of all our students for the years to come. More details on our local eTwinning website: www.etwinningmalta.net



Schoolovision 2023

P.E.A.C.E.

Ms Maria Antoinette Magro

A Schoolovision 2023 took place on Friday 12th May at the Digital Literacy Centre in Hamrun. San Gorg Preca College Hamrun GP Primary school take part in this event every year since the inception of eTwinning back in 2005.

But what exactly is Schoolovision?

It is an eTwinning project between European schools who present a song accompanied by a video. This project was inspired by a Scottish eTwinner after watching the real Eurovision song contest. On the eve of the actual Eurovision, participating schools meet up in a video conference to give out votes. We watch videos in class. Children have the chance to vote for their favourite entries. This gives them the opportunity to learn to identify between good and better entries and learn how to vote effectively.

“Let’s stop the war and help the poor,” were the words which inspired our song for 2023 because humanity is

experiencing war in many parts of the world.

P.E.A.C.E. - humanity is thirsty for it but is peace possible?

Children concluded that peace is possible if all men contribute and do their part to ensure peace in their little environments, as peace dwells within our souls.

I observed each participant throughout the whole process during rehearsals and in class during lessons. Children acted positively throughout without hesitation. They really owned Schoolovision. Their smiles and happy faces say it all.

Children always benefit from this experience. Less able students are instantly motivated and they improve academically because they start believing in themselves like never before.

As part of the evaluation process, children were given the question.... “What does Schoolovision mean to you?”

Here are some of their responses:

- ...”where a lot of kids get



together to show their talents in singing and dancing...” (B.B.)

- “...an event organized to teach and deliver a message to the entire world. We had lots of fun.” (K.P.S.)
- “...a once in a lifetime opportunity ...an amazing experience.” (R.B.)
- “...a wonderful thing; ...a fun competition.” (J.D.)
- “..the best thing ever...” (Z.B.)
- “...helped me not to be shy but always believe in myself.” (E.C.)

This year’s song was written by me, the children’s class teacher, while the music was composed by Mro. Norbert Camilleri. The song was recorded by Mr. Philip Vella. Video was taken and

edited by Mr. Sebjo Aquilina. Ms. Leanne Vella took care of the song’s choreography.

Rehearsals for song and dance were held on a daily basis before school assembly for three whole months. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the head of school, Ms. Elizabeth Jones and assistant head Ms. Valerie Caruana for their support throughout. Nothing would have been possible without the help of the people mentioned above including other educators.

If you would like to watch our entry, do not hesitate to hit the link below.

<https://schoolovision2023.blogspot.com/search/label/Malta>



11th May marked the beginning of a sequence of four events to celebrate the culmination of an etwinning project “**Integration of Outdoor Learning with Digital Literacy**”.

Over the course of this project, three schools, namely Dingli, Mtarfa and Zabbar A, all primary schools collaborated and co-created an ebook containing an array of lesson concepts for outdoor learning accompanied by a digital activity. The ebook, brimming with diverse activities, targets students from kindergarten to year three.

At Buskett Woodlands, all three schools gathered and participated in four different activities, three of which were outdoor activities whilst the fourth was digital. The students actively participated in rotating through the activity stations and gained a lot of knowledge through hands-on experience. The fact that the teachers could meet up was also a significant opportunity.



BUILDING AN INNOVATIVE COMMUNITY

eTwinning Course for Ambassadors

Lisbon, Portugal

Our eTwinning Ambassadors Ms Melanie Cini & Ms Michelle Saliba, participated in the Onsite eTwinning Course for Ambassadors – Building an Innovative Community, in Lisbon, Portugal, designed to teach innovative practices and methodologies for eTwinning projects.

The course aimed to help ambassadors support educators during their project work and when organizing professional development sessions for educators. The eTwinning community promotes innovation in various areas, including technology, and this face-to-face course aimed to help ambassadors identify new pedagogical methods that can help introduce innovation into schools.

The course began with a keynote speech by Joana Cunha, who discussed the top skills for 2025 and how ambassadors could develop these skills within their communities. Creative Problem

Solving (CPS) was identified as an effective way to address the problem of developing



problem-solving and creativity skills in European educational ecosystems.

Marta Giuliani's keynote speech explored the critical role of ambassadors in building and maintaining online communities. Participants engaged in an interactive discussion, reflecting on their experiences, and working collaboratively to identify the challenges they face.

In workshops, ambassadors focused on various topics related to their role, including empowering interpersonal communication, collaborative creative solutions with Design Thinking, and being ready for the AI era in education. These workshops provided participants with practical tools to help them develop their skills and support their communities.

eTwinning Ambassadors worked in groups to identify challenges regarding the area they were presented. Along with other eTwinners from other groups they came up with solutions, which they later presented in creative ways to the whole group.

Ms Melanie Cini presented the Friendship Cards tool,

along with creative ideas of how to use them in eTwinning projects. This was part of the Ambassadors' Voices session towards the end of the course.

The eTwinning community is focused on building an enriching and inclusive space for everyone, and this course helped ambassadors to become better equipped to support this goal.

Overall, the course provided eTwinning Ambassadors with an opportunity to exchange experiences, learn new skills, and strengthen their sense of belonging to a compelling community. The eTwinning community is focused on building an enriching and inclusive space for everyone, and this course helped ambassadors to become better equipped to support this goal. More importantly, the eTwinning Ambassadors made new connections and friendships that will lead to collaborations in years to come.

Heartfelt thanks go to the eTwinning National Support Office in Malta who sponsored this trip, the eTwinning Central Support Service and Portuguese Support Service who were perfect hosts and organisers.

FIVE WANDERING PENGUINS

Jeannette Cardona, STMC Marsaxlokk Primary

Five countries, six schools and twenty-two teachers are currently working together in an eTwinning project called Maths-Tails based on the book called 365 Penguins by Jean-Luc Fromental. As part of this project, each country got a penguin mascot which will travel to all the countries and visit all the schools and students involved in the project.

Each penguin carries with it a physical passport which needs to be stamped or signed by the students receiving it. It also has a digital journal created with Storyjumper for everyone to document each penguin's stay. Before leaving on this exciting adventure, we held a videoconference where



each country presented their penguin.

Our Maltese Penguin, called Peppinu, will visit France first, then Portugal, Italy, Greece and return back to us. At the same time, Banquice, the French penguin went to Portugal first, then will rotate until it gets back to its owners. Tuguinha, the Portuguese penguin went to Italy first and Fiocco, the Italian penguin went to Greece.

All the students are enjoying their time with the visiting penguins and are including them in all the activities, taking pictures to document their stay.



Transform-ED Games and AI in Education



The European Commission Representation in Malta organised a three-day training symposium as part of the European Year of Skills. This event brought together local and international educators and experts in their field of bettering education in Europe through networking, dissemination, and collaborations.

Mr. Klaus Conrad approached me to lead a workshop on how technology is integrated within the Emergent Curriculum. During the 90-minute workshop titled “Learning through Play: The Way Forward”, I was able to also share how technology is integrated through eTwinning projects and how this has

helped me as a professional enhance digital competencies in my learners.

Learners are already coming in class well equipped with digital competences hence why the way forward for teaching through play is constantly evolving. From S. T. E. A. M, simple coding, QR codes, robotics and 3D printing, the opportunities are never short when you are ready to take the next step in critical thinking. Integrating the curriculum with an evolving mindset through a cross curricular approach and ample of hands-on opportunities make learning

more meaningful. In this workshop, participants got the chance to have a sneak peak of what goes inside a local kindergarten classroom which is paving way for learners to think outside the box by being put in the centre of their own learning journey including eTwinning projects such as

- S.T.E.A.M-tastic
- Beat the Boredom
- L-istejjer tat-tfal etc.



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