



The eTwinner

Dear eTwinners,

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eTwinning is evolving and spreading its wings with each year that passes by. Today its importance as a tool for professional development is being recognised more widely as it is a community of practice, providing opportunities for teachers to enhance their skills, competencies and pedagogical approaches not only through projects.

To this end eTwinning Groups, online Learning Events and Seminars are becoming ever more popular led by experts in the field. These are live video-conferencing sessions where teachers have the chance to learn, talk about and discuss specific themes, like *Collaborative Learning: from theory to practice*; *Israel-Palestine for a better understanding*; *the eTwinning School concept*; *New frameworks, narratives and policies of cultural creativity* and *The Importance of Emotional Intelligence in School*.

This year has seen the emergence of the eTwinning School Label Award for which 11 schools locally have been awarded. 1,212 schools in all received the eTwinning School Label. On the 14-16 May 2018 in Rome, a thematic conference: “Empowering eTwinning Schools: Leading, Learning, Sharing” celebrated this label by exchanging best practices with a view to becoming stronger ‘learning organisations’ and agents of change in their educational arenas.

On the 9th of May 2018 we celebrated eTwinning Day which coincides with Europe Day, this year’s focus was cultural heritage. eTwinners recreated their favourite artworks together with their students. During eTwinning Day, eTwinning teachers shared more than 200 contributions together and 700 posts across social media linked to the hashtag #eTwinningDay. The eTwinning Malta facebook page was also overwhelmed with messages and video clips of students and educators celebrating this day.

Rose-anne Camilleri

National eTwinning Coordinator

Celebrating Cultural Diversity through Digital Literacy in eTwinning

*an eTwinning European Seminar in Malta
19-21 April 2018*

For three eventful days, six countries and fifty-five teachers, twenty-eight of which foreign, were hosted here in Malta by the Maltese eTwinning National Support Service of which Rose-anne Camilleri is the Coordinator. With Valletta as the European City of Culture for 2018, Malta being at the forefront in digital innovation, as well as all the multicultural heritage we have inherited, a seminar about Celebrating Cultural Diversity Through Digital Literacy in eTwinning, was a perfect idea.

The scope of the seminar was to celebrate the cultural diversities of the seven countries: Poland, Portugal, Georgia, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Malta and Turkey. It was also intentioned to demonstrate how digital literacy, a fundamental competence in education to nurture global citizens, can be integrated and cultivated through eTwinning.

The seminar kicked off on Friday afternoon, with Ms. Jane Farrugia Buhagiar, from the Migrant Learners' Unit, presenting her keynote speech and sharing her invaluable experience and current successful projects with her team.

Participants then engaged in ice-breaking and partner finding activities organised by Ms Alexia Baldacchino, an eTwinning ambassador, who got everyone up and moving in no time at all. By the end of the session, the group members were already forming partnerships and exchanging ideas for up-coming projects. The day ended with a networking dinner at the hotel.





and Ms Alexia Baldacchino's hands-on workshop about Useful Tools for eTwinning Project. During this workshop project examples of good practice and very useful tips by Ms. Nathalie Scerri, also an eTwinning ambassador and secondary school teacher, were presented.



Mr Mario Xerri and Ms Melanie Cini, PSCD teacher, showed participants how to use Twinspace, and create projects giving practical ideas.

The foreign participants enjoyed a cultural tour to Valletta including The Malta Experience as well as a quick visit to our Silent City, Mdina. At the end of the day the whole group was reunited for a local Maltese dinner in Rabat.



Sunny Saturday morning had participants finalising and registering their new projects on the eTwinning platform for the coming scholastic year. Participants presented their project ideas to all the others.

On Friday Ms Mahira Spiteri from EPALE had the participants engaged on the EPALE platform, followed by useful tips on blog writing.

Two parallel workshops followed: Ms Ramona Mercieca's expertise on Eco-schools and eTwinning and Mr Mario Xerri's, (eTwinning ambassador and Head of Department Digital Literacy)

The seminar came to an end with the presentation of certificates and participants singing traditional hymns from their respective countries. This musical medley was a perfect example of how cultural diversity unites us all.

Seminar links:

<https://vimeo.com/270931589>

<https://vimeo.com/270930954>

Contact Seminar Project Quality in Early Education

Romina Baldachino



Last April I was very happy to experience an eTwinning contact seminar, organised by the Polish NSS, and which focused on the learning process of early years classes.

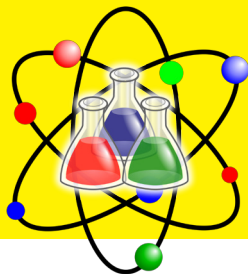
The seminar was held in a fairy tale setting in Warsaw, amidst trees and woodland creatures; the most fantastic experience of all, was meeting so many new eTwinners. Meeting other dedicated early years teachers, makes you realise that there are other educators just like you, eager to learn new ways and improve their practise to give their young students a meaningful and unique experience in their formative years at school. The workshops were very informative and interactive, making them more enjoyable and related to our everyday roles in class. The emphasis was to encourage the children's active participation in our classrooms!

One workshop however, summed up the eTwinning experience perfectly. As participants we were separated in groups and each group had to make a car using craft material. When our time was up, the car was passed over to the other groups and these made a modification to it. At the end of the session, after rotating around the groups, our car came back to us: still our original design but so much more improved. If you do venture into an eTwinning adventure, this is precisely what happens: your ideas are shared and improved upon and the finished product is just fantastic. Perhaps not everyone can experience a contact seminar abroad but logging on and becoming involved in the eTwinning experience is highly recommended from my part!



Science Fair **Naxxar Middle School**

Audrey Anne Vella Bondin



The Science Department at Maria Regina Naxxar Middle School organises Science Week annually; students, under the supervision of their respective teachers, come up with various kinds of experiments which generate curiosity and enthusiasm among their peers.

This year as part of Science Week, a Science Fair was organised on the 10th and 11th April 2018 which included a number of science exhibits. For this activity all Year 7 students were invited to attend.

During the Science Fair, an eTwinning stand was set up where students were asked questions about the concepts behind each experiment and successful students received gift tokens. The presence of the eTwinning stand also served another purpose; that of showcasing an eTwinning Project which a group of 6 science teachers from the school are participating in. The eTwinning Project which is entitled 'Young Scientists at Work' aims to show the various mid-day break science clubs activities organised for our students which culminate in the setting up of the Science Fair in April. All teachers who visited the Science Fair were encouraged to see how some activities and events at school can be easily incorporated into an eTwinning project.



eTwinning Schools

Eleven Maltese Schools have recently been awarded the eTwinning Label Award. This prestigious award, which is granted by the eTwinning Central Support Service, was awarded for the first time in April 2018 to 1212 schools in Europe.



The eTwinning community used to show its appreciation for the work carried out by teachers by awarding quality labels to individual teachers. Now it has gone a step further and extended its acknowledgment to teams of teachers and school leaders working within the same school.

The schools receiving this award will be given better recognition on a European level and they will have the possibility to use the Etwinning label on their website and in official publications. Furthermore they will be recognised as leaders in areas such as digital practice, eSafety practice, innovative and creative approaches to pedagogy and promotion of continuous professional development of staff.

The first Maltese schools which achieved this award are:

- *Gozo College Middle School*
- *San Gorg Preca College Marsa Primary*
- *San Gorg Preca College, Hamrun Primary*
- *San Gorg Preca Paola B*
- *San Ġorg Preca, Valletta Primary*
- *St Catherine's High School, Pembroke*
- *St Ignatius College Siggiewi Primary*
- *St Margaret College Xgħajra Primary*
- *St Theresa College, Lija/Balzan/Ikin Primary*
- *St. Nicholas College, Rabat Primary*
- *St.Thomas More College Marsaskala Primary*





Young photographers exploring their city!

*Ms. Crystal Vassallo and Ms. Whitney Mintoff - Year 6 Teachers
Valletta Primary School - St. George Preca College*

In December 2017, we started an e-Twinning project with Romania, Poland and Italy named 'Young photographers exploring their city'. The students started by introducing themselves through photos and writing by using Padlet. In January, the pupils presented information about their school and the city where they were going to take photos. The students then took photos around the city they live in i.e. Valletta.

Through a STEM approach, our students through photography, explored the beauty of the city of Valletta. They learnt about the art of photography, focusing mainly on landscapes. The students learnt about all the important parts of a camera, the importance of depth of field, exposure and the effect that proper lighting will have on a good picture. The importance of perspective, composition and finally post photo editing was also explored as part of this project.

After several sessions to explore the above-mentioned areas, the students took pictures of different landmarks around Valletta. Students were also able to see and try their hands-on photo editing until the picture they took was finally printed. A picture of the student who took the picture was included in the picture along with a caption of what the picture shows. These pictures were displayed permanently in a designated area at school.

The children's photos will be shared in their common Twinspace and they will vote for their favourite photo. Pupils are also invited as members in this project to view the uploaded material and write their comments. In the end, they will also have the opportunity to meet their E-twinning friends through video conference and write their reflections about the project.

An open day was organised on Friday 27th April. First a video with photos of the children's experience was presented. Then, the children explained in detail the journey they went through. Finally, another video was shown in which the students were being interviewed about their experience in this project. During this presentation the students also showed the work that they were uploading on Twinspace to the parents and other people invited for this open day. The students and teachers were also given eTwinning tokens.



eTwinning Upcoming Events

Upcoming online Seminars

- **15th June at 16.00 CET - Language Aware School Programme - Practical Tools for Teachers.**

Do you have a diverse student population in your classroom? Are there students whose mother tongue is different than the language of instruction? Join the on-line seminar and hear some of the practices that are used in Finland.

- **20th June at 18.00 CET - 'Take care of me - take care of you' an eTwinning project focussing on positive online behaviour.**

The webinar is organised as a live event within Bringing eSafety into eTwinning projects group. It will focus on presenting the eTwinning project titled 'Take care of me - take care of you', which was announced as one of the winners in the 2018 eTwinning Prizes competition.

Upcoming Learning Events

- **eTwinning in English language teaching**

10.09.2018 - 20.09.2018

The aim of the LE is to present and share teaching methods and materials that can be used in eTwinning and Erasmus+ projects. We will focus on practical activities in our English language classroom to develop future-ready students.

Visit the Professional Development section within the Twinspace Live section of the eTwinning portal for more opportunities and for details how to apply.