



The eTwinner

December 2021

Issue No. 15

Co-funded by the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union



Dear eTwinners,

And here we are at the end of 2021! eTwinning in Malta is booming as a laboratory for pedagogical and digital innovation. Many educators and schools are understanding the potential of this methodology in the classroom such that we have reached a record number of over 600 registered users in 2021 and still counting. We are proud to say that Malta is animating and leading many eTwinning European seminars, conferences, and professional development workshops.

This current edition is packed with shared practice and experiences for other educators to learn from. If you need to read about more ways in which eTwinning is being integrated have a look at our [website](#).

All this success is thanks to the support from staff at the Digital Literacy Centre, the eTwinning ambassadors and many other educators from Child Care Centres, Kindergarten up to Post Secondary

including heads and assistant heads of schools all across Malta and Gozo.



eTwinning has also just hit the 1,000,000 mark of registered users from its conception in 2005 – this number is evidence that eTwinning is a great European success story founded on values that unite us all. Continue to hear what Mariya Gabriel European Commissioner has to say about this: <https://youtu.be/JeDapBtdDJg>

Dr Rose-anne Camilleri
National eTwinning Coordinator



etwinning@ilearn.edu.mt
(356) 2598 1568

www.etwinningmalta.net
digitalliteracy.skola.edu.mt

SPOTLIGHT ON:

Easter Box

AN AWARDED ETWINNING PROJECT IN A CHILD CARE CENTRE SETTING

Smart from the Start - Child Care Center - Ms Doreen Barr

Smart from the Start -Child Care Centre (Ms Doreen Barr) - took part in the eTwinning project entitled 'Easter Box'. This project involved preschool children. The general aim was to teach children about different Easter traditions around Europe.

Preschoolers prepared a box full of Easter traditions and local customs and sent it to their e-Twinning partner-school. The three-year-old children also enjoyed exchanging videos with their counterparts, all with an Easter theme. This was an excellent opportunity to introduce children from an early age to different languages and traditions and served as a platform to showcase Maltese Easter traditions to other countries.

The project was the first to receive both a National Quality Label as well as a European Quality Label from any Child Care Centre. This shows the Maltese

National Support Organisation's commitment to supporting one of the European Commission's priorities: Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC).



Link to presentation of the project: <https://bit.ly/3pS44Ei>
The project was also showcased at the eTwinning Face-to-Face seminar in Hamrun for Early Years: After-school workshops/ sharing of project ideas in eTwinning -Autumn 2021.

GREEN ACT

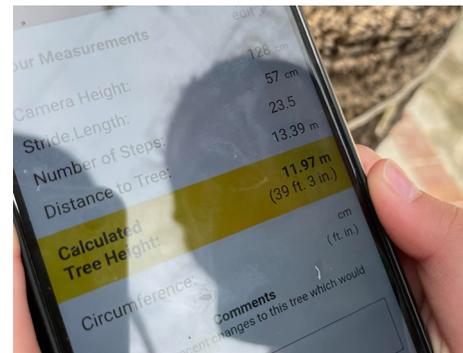


Ms Ramona Mercieca, Gozo College Middle School



Teachers and students from Malta, Italy, Turkey, Greece, France and Poland have teamed up on an eTwinning project which focuses on the importance of trees.

The project aims to: raise awareness about environmental degradation, following the extensive forest fires which occurred across Europe during the summer; and, give students practical skills in web 2 tools and STEM education.



The first activity gave the students the opportunity to spend time outdoors and collect meaningful data, of which biometry data (tree height and circumference) using their own devices.



Although the project is primarily targeting schools, learning will trickle down to household level across the communities. More details about the project are found [here](#).



On the 5th of November, 2020, the eTwinning offices at Hamrun digital literacy Centre, hosted the first face to face seminar after a long time.

The seminar targeted the Early Years community. Attendees ranged from child carers, kindergarten educators, and Year 1 and 2 teachers, to centre managers and members from the senior leadership team.

Refreshments and eTwinning tokens were distributed individually to kick start as an ice-breaker between the participants. In the lobby, participants got to meet and greet while share experiences, knowledge and understanding in their field of Early Years Education and Care.

First hand experiences of successful projects were presented with the group thanks to Ms. Charmaine Attard KGE and eTwinning ambassador from San Ġorġ Preca College Hamrun Primary School, Ms. Yentl Xuereb KGE from St. Benedict College Hal Ġhaxaq Primary School and Ms. Doreen Barr Managing Director from Smart from the Start Child Care Centre. All 3 presenters carried forward good practices of various projects they created with their students. The presenters shared the benefits they gained from eTwinning and how they managed to turn challenges into positive opportunities.

Following the presentations,

the seminar carried on by completing hands on tasks to get the participants familiar with the platform. The seminar also provided time for members to network and discuss a project idea which could eventually turn into another Early Years successful experience. During the hands on tasks, eTwinning personnel supported the group by attending to their needs, struggles or any other concerns by listening in, sharing experience and disseminating relevant information.

The seminar concluded with a re-grouping exercise in which all members were encouraged to share their ideas of prospective projects and discuss how these ideas can continue to grow from the classroom settings.

Disclaimer: This seminar was in-line with Covid-19 regulations to safeguard participants, speakers and presenters.



Con la mirada en los medios: acción e information an eTwinning Seminar in Madrid



Us three Spanish Language teachers: Ms. Charmaine Attard (Pembroke Secondary), Ms. Jessica Muscat (Rabat Secondary), Ms. Marie Claire Tabone (St. Albert the Great - Secondary) attended a 3 day multicultural seminar seminar in Madrid that helps teachers to find foreign partners and create an eTwinning project. We would like to share own personal experiences of this seminar:

Ms Charmaine Attard

This is my second experience to attend to an eTwinning Seminar in Madrid. As last time, everything was well organized from the pre-trip preparations to the programme which was well-defined.

The seminar was really interesting as it helped me to see what is media from the students' perspective. I am really happy that I am going to participate in more than one project and that at last I found someone with whom I can do projects in Religion. My students are really keen to start and I hope that we finish the project and apply for the Quality Label. I hope that my students see this as an enjoyable

learning experience and maybe lead to a future Erasmus+ project.

I think that attending a seminar is the best way to find project partners which can turn in friendships and other future projects. In fact, one of my projects is with my last Seminar project partner with whom I still have contact and we also have an Erasmus+ project where they are going to come to Malta for job shadowing. We also applied but we did not obtain it, this time round.

Being in Madrid and engulfed in the Spanish language is a bliss. I find it really amazing how people from different countries meet up in a foreign country to share ideas and digital resources by using the lingua franca throughout the seminar to communicate.

Ms Jessica Muscat

This was my first experience abroad attending an eTwinning seminar, therefore I had so many expectations and enthusiasm to get the best out of these 3 days. I can sincerely and honestly say that the days where perfectly planned and the spokespersons where really

into the subjects and the talks they gave us.

As I already commented to my Head of School, I can even dare say that, I managed to learn more in these 3 days rather than 10 years of personal development sessions organised for us at school. I feel blessed that I got this opportunity, as first and foremost I have learned a little more about eTwinning and how it works, I am sure it will help my students enjoy better their learning experience. Also, on another note, I was looking forward to get more contacts with other teachers, mostly in Spain to work on future projects, and, why not, maybe in the new future to get into Erasmus+ programmes as well.

I am glad to say that I managed to get in contact with several teachers and the thing I appreciated the most is that they shared lots of teaching resources with me. This will surely help me in the teaching process of Spanish as a foreign language and gives me the right motivation for my teaching profession.

Ms Marie Claire Tabone

This was my first experience at an eTwinning event abroad. Before this opportunity, I had a vague idea of what eTwinning was, I knew that it was associated with Erasmus, but not much else.

This experience gave me a lot, on a professional level. Seeing professionals from different country, cultures, and backgrounds coming

together with one common goal and embarking on new projects was very motivating. It made me appreciate and love our profession even more, I came back to work with a different energy.

Apart from professionally, this experience was of course very enriching on a personal level as well. As a Spanish teacher being surrounded for 3 days by Spanish speaking people and by Spanish culture was a treat.

As I stated in the beginning, this was my first experience participating in such an event, but I definitely hope that it won't be the last.



COLLABORATIVE INTERDISCIPLINARY PROJECTS BETWEEN eTWINNING SCHOOLS

Webinar for all European eTwinning Schools

Ms Dorita Maniscalco (Head of School) & Ms Stephanie Azzopardi (Teacher) - St Nicholas College, Mgarr Primary School

During this webinar, we went through all the steps showing how eTwinning helps schools to collaborate between themselves. Common goals, communication, trust, respect, mutual empowerment, and sharing are the keys to a good project. This was done through examples of successful projects done during these last years.

Collaboration through eTwinning is when students and educators collaborate with other students and teachers who are geographically distant. Collaboration means working towards a common goal from start to finish.

Support from the school SMT, the Digital Literacy team, and the Maltese National Support Service for eTwinning was vital during the whole journey.

Ms Stephanie shared her experience in the project called Plants Will Save Us. The project aimed to instil in children, the love for plants and to learn about the benefits of nature. The project demonstrates that some easy actions make it possible to convert a school building

into a green school. Very young kids from European schools collaborated to learn more about indigenous plants. Students in the early years of their education learned how to live with plants and to draw all possible benefits from their company. Nature contributes to the physical and mental well-being of our students. The project included STEM activities, such as conducting science experiments with plants and combining Maths and Science during the different lessons when measuring the growth of plants with non-standard measures. This project incorporated both hands-on experiences and cross-curricular links. Collaboration with eTwinning partners should lead to tangible results.

We both enjoyed delivering this webinar together and sharing our experience with other educators. Over 200 participants from all across Europe attended this session of shared practice:

Feel free to watch the recording of our webinar, [here](#)

The project included STEM activities, such as conducting science experiments with plants and combining Maths and Science during the different lessons when measuring the growth of plants with non-standard measures. This project incorporated both

hands-on experiences and cross-curricular links. Collaboration with eTwinning partners should lead to tangible results.

True collaboration happens in the classroom when children of different abilities work together to complete a task. Parents are to be included and must be informed about the eTwinning Project. Children feel empowered when they express their creativity. Students feel empowered when voting on the eTwinning Twinspace for the Project logo. Besides, learning becomes much more fun when collaboration, teamwork, trust, and communication are at the center of the eTwinning projects.

Another project which took place was with our Turkish partners from a Primary school in Izmir. Children had a quiz about recycling. Children later had a practical activity about sorting different materials into different bins in class for recycling. During the lockdown, children uploaded videos on the Padlet to show different ways to save water. The pedagogy for early years and the cross-curricular approach allows educators to participate in eTwinning projects to enhance teaching and learning in a classroom context.





Ms Ylenti Xuereb

KGE SBC GHAXAQ PRIMARY SCHOOL

I started my journey by attending my first eTwinning seminar in 2018. I took part in eTwinning competitions and continued to attend more webinars and seminars.

Never give up! I created my very first project called 'Carnival Float'. I posted the project name on the Partner Forum tab, but I had no response. I then, decided to join other local projects. Finally, I created a project called 'Easter Traditions', for which I found partners to work with.

How do you merge eTwinning with the Emergent Curriculum?

Connect your ideas together, be creative, plan well and be determined.

The benefits got from the eTwinning projects I created were many:

learning words from different countries; learning about other traditions; acquiring communication and digital skills; learning about how to be safe online ; being actively involved in decision making (eg.vote for a logo). eTwinning helps students to grow and helps to strengthen them in many areas of their holistic development.

The feedback that I got from my students is that: they enjoy taking part in eTwinning projects and online conferences; they love meeting other students; they appreciate seeing their work published, show their work to their parents/guardians/friends; and of course, get rewarded.

What's in it for me? Professional growth; eTwinning is an essential classroom tool; make new friends; share ideas; get to know about different cultures.

I really wish to get the eTwinning School Label, to get the most of eTwinning for myself but also for the benefit of the whole school. Feel free to browse through my Embed Awards 2020 eTwinning Project Entry, [Paw Patrol](#)

NEW YEAR, NEW DREAMS AND ADVENTURES

eTwinning Competition

Share what you'd like to achieve in eTwinning, this New Year 2022, be it an expert or a novice, we all have eTwinning Wishes. Fill in this form and tell us more about your eTwinning Dreams. Feel free to be creative as much as you like...dare to dream, the sky is the limit. We are looking for innovative and creative ideas.

3 participants with the best ideas will win a prize and eTwinning Tokens for their students.
Deadline is 31st January 2022
Winners will be announced in February 2022.

[CLICK HERE TO PARTICIPATE](#)

