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The eTwinning

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Dear educators,

Welcome to the 5th issue of our eTwinning newsletter. We have just completed evaluating all the projects submitted for the quality label award. It is with great satisfaction to note that standards are getting higher as well as the quality of the projects.

Keep tuned to our facebook page or website to be informed of face-to-face training or webinars which cover the criteria for achieving the National Quality Label. Very soon the best projects which have been conducted with foreign partners could be nominated for the European Quality Label.

This year it was noted that many local and foreign teachers came together to work on national/European projects which showed great collaboration and curricular integration of technology. It is important that we harness the potential of eTwinning as a tool to achieve our learning outcomes in an innovative and effective way making it fun and enriching for both students and teachers.

Last July, at Dingli we celebrated the eTwinning School Label. eTwinning recognised teams of teachers working together and awarded them , for the first time, with the eTwinning School Label. Many educators shared their experiences as well as provided suggestions to make best use of this innovative tool.

eTwinning is not only projects! We must remember that this is a community which provides opportunities for teachers to enhance their skills, competencies and pedagogic approaches!

From self-assessment tools (MeTP) and self-help materials (Self Teaching Materials), to online seminars, learning events and peer

learning through the eTwinning featured events, you can find an abundance of tools to help improve your teaching methods.

Enjoy reading the shared practices and updates from the local eTwinning world!



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Let's Collaborate through Tablets

Students and teachers collaborate with tablets through the eTwinning platform

The eTwinning event 'Let's Collaborate through Tablets' was held on 4th July at Microsoft Innovation Centre. All 32 Year 4 and Year 5 teachers from different colleges around Malta and Gozo who were participating in the national eTwinning project, were invited for this event. A member from the School Management Team (SMT) from each participating school was also invited. The programme included presentations, sharing of good practices and two workshops.

This eTwinning event started with a welcoming address from Ms Rose-anne Camilleri, eTwinning Coordinator, who thanked all the educators for their participation in this eTwinning project which was a huge success. She also took the opportunity to thank the SMT members and the Digital Literacy Support Staff (DLS) for supporting and empowering their teachers to embark on these collaborative projects.

Ms Michelle Saliba (DLST), compiled a video about this

eTwinning project. It included snapshots of the classroom-based activities and work carried out by the students themselves using various apps and Web 2.0 tools to tackle different curricular aspects. This project served as a springboard to assist the development of transversal skills such as collaboration, communication, problem-solving, creativity and cultural awareness. Throughout the project, the students were actively involved and learning for them was fun, meaningful and engaging. Ms Daniela Scicluna, (DLST) shared her experiences about the eTwinning Groups. She created an eTwinning Group entitled 'Nikkreaw Logħob bil-Malti – Yr1/2' where educators had the opportunity to discuss, work together and share interactive games which they had created by using learningapps.org. Ms Daniela promoted eTwinning groups as professional learning communities wherein educators can share practice examples, discuss teaching and learning methodologies and

find support for professional development.

Ms Dorita Maniscalco, assistant head at St. Nicholas College, Rabat Primary gave a presentation about the good eTwinning practices carried out in her school. She mainly emphasised the important role the SMT plays. SMT need to be involved in these eTwinning projects because they can give a helping hand to educators in the planning and coordination of such activities. She also suggested to the SMT members attending the seminar to involve parents in these projects. During this event, Ms Doreen Agius, Yr4 teacher and a group of Nurture teachers shared examples of good practice and very useful tips to the rest of the educators present. Following this sharing of practice Ms Tania Formosa and Ms Antonella Giles, HODs Digital Literacy, demonstrated to the participants practical ways of finding project partners and how to register new projects.

Two parallel workshops concluded the seminar: one was intentionally for the SMT members together with the primary teachers and the other workshop was specifically for the Digital Literacy Support Staff. Primary Teachers and SMT members were divided

into groups and planned an eTwinning project for the next scholastic year. At the end of the workshops, all group members shared their project ideas to all the other participants. In the meantime the Digital Literacy Support Staff had some time for reflection wherein they discussed some challenges the primary teachers encountered and how this eTwinning project could be improved. They also discussed how they could promote the use of tablets through eTwinning projects with other year groups for the next scholastic year.

At the end of the event, the participants who attended this eTwinning event were presented with a Certificate of Attendance. They also joined a networking lunch at Vecchia Napoli which was partially sponsored by eTwinning. This was an inspiring and encouraging opportunity to have primary educators and members of the Senior Management Team come together disseminate, share ideas and experiences, create networking opportunities and realise the benefits of collaboration.

To view the video summing up this experience visit:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9oaRRQPlno4>

San Gorg Preca Poala Primary - Year 4 classes

Poetry in Potato Bags

in collaboration with Holland

Michelle Saliba - eLearning Support Primary

I would like to share an activity which involved eTwinning, coding and the use of tablets. The activity was held at Paola Primary B Year 4. Antoine Grech (eLearning Support teacher) and I, together with the teachers and students of Year 4, prepared all the necessary material for the activity: PowerPoint, video and other resources.

As an introduction to eTwinning we decided to organise this activity where the students learned about the other country that were going to twin with through the PowerPoint. A video on this topic was also shown.

After this introduction, they were taken to another class where they found a track and material to construct a bot. In this activity, the students had to measure the path and programme the robot up to each stop. At each stop they had a quiz related to their eTwinning project.



This quiz was set up using the tool Quiz Maker, and was carried out using tablets. If the students answered the question correctly, they acquired a piece of jigsaw (needed to form the eTwinning logo), as a reward. At the end of the activity the students had to put the jigsaw together.

Finally, they had to scan a QR code to receive a message that read: “well done you are now eTwinners”. A coding certificate and a small eTwinning token was given to each student and teacher.

Link to Project:

<http://www.smilebox.com/playBlog/4e4455784d4459794f54673dodoa&blogview=true>

Help Us Save the World Campaign

Mariella Zahra, eTwinning Ambassador

For the occasion of the eTwinning and Erasmus day (9th of May 2018), Handaq Middle school inaugurated a positive initiative, amalgamating both eTwinning and eco-skola.



As citizens, we are all responsible to care for our environment and help to make a better world. Thus, through this initiative, students were encouraged to dispose plastic bottles in the appropriate garbage bag whilst collecting the bottle caps. Despite the positive contribution to the environment, all the participating students were awarded a reusable water bottle sponsored by eTwinning when collecting a minimum of 100 plastic caps. Over 80 students participated in this initiative and more than 36,000 caps were collected.

The top 6 students who collected most caps were also given a beautiful plant.

The caps were eventually recycled and the money collected was donated to Puttinu cares foundation.



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eTwinning Schools

Malta's Award Ceremony

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Thursday 5th July marked an important date in this year's national eTwinning calendar. Eleven Maltese schools among 2012 European schools were officially awarded the eTwinning School Label during a ceremony held at St Nicholas College Dingli Secondary School.

The awarded schools were: Gozo College Middle School. San Gorg Preca College Marsa Primary, San Gorg Preca College, Hamrun GP 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 and St Thomas More College Marsaskala Primary

The eTwinning community used to award quality labels to individual teachers working on projects. Now it has gone a step further and extended

its acknowledgement to teams of teachers and school leaders collaborating within the same school. The schools receiving this award are given better recognition on a European level and have the possibility to use the eTwinning label on their website and in official publications. Furthermore, they are recognised as leaders in areas such as digital practice, eSafety, innovative and creative approaches to pedagogy and promotion of continuous professional development of their staff.

This prestigious award, which is granted by the eTwinning Central Support Service, based in Brussels, was awarded for the first time this year. Malta placed 2nd a very prominent position when considering the population of Malta against other far bigger countries. The placings were worked out accordingly per capita, with a record number of 11 schools in Malta and Gozo.

Prior to the actual presentation of the awards, the National eTwinning coordinator Ms. Rose-anne Camilleri made an introductory speech. Ms. Natalie Buttigieg, programme manager at EUPA – the Erasmus+ Agency in Malta – conducted a presentation on synergies between Erasmus+ and eTwinning. Later a number of educators, representatives from the awarded schools had the opportunity to share with those present their experiences in embracing eTwinning in their respective schools. Finally, Mr. Stephen Cachia, Director General at the Ministry for Education & Employment, presented the awards to the school leaders and their teams. Included in the award was a plaque and a pack for each school.

A reception followed the ceremony.





The School Education Gateway is a platform for teachers, schools, experts, and others to find information on news, trends, policies, initiatives, and activities in the field of school education, as well as contribute by discussing and engaging important issues with peers.

Do you have multilingual students, and you wonder how to better deal with foreign languages being spoken in the classroom?

Are you keen to try a CLIL lesson but don't know where to start?



The new School Education Gateway Teacher Academy course **'Embracing Language Diversity in Your Classroom'** covers these and other language-related questions, and provides you with practical tools and innovative pedagogical approaches that can easily be integrated in the classroom.

Find out more and register via the link below or scan the QR code!

http://bit.ly/LanguageMOOC_etw

