

eTwinning



eTwinning National Quality Label



An Roinn Oideachais
agus Scileanna
Department of
Education and Skills



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eTwinning is the online community for schools in Europe. eTwinning offers an online platform for teachers to communicate, collaborate, develop projects and be part of the most exciting learning community in Europe. Getting involved in eTwinning is easy: just register online through the **European School Education Platform**. Registered users can access **eTwinning**, the entry point to the community. eTwinning enables users to find project partners and share resources, practice and ideas through its social networking features. Users can interact collaboratively in projects with their pupils and partners through a special tool called TwinSpace, a private and secure working space for all project members.

eTwinning is co-funded by the European Union and administered in participating countries by a National Support Organisation (NSO). Léargas is the National Support Organisation for eTwinning in Ireland. The NSO is at your disposal to provide technical and pedagogical support, promote eTwinning across the country, organise professional development activities, and much more.

An Introduction to the National Quality Label

The eTwinning National Quality Label (NQL) provides concrete recognition for teachers and students who have achieved excellence through an eTwinning project. NQLs boost motivation and are public affirmation of a school's commitment to quality and openness in European collaborative work.

This eBook presents a selection of NQL winners in Ireland in 2024 as well as some useful information on creating projects. The projects vary widely in theme and content but the commitment to digital collaborative work and pedagogical innovation is common to all. We are very grateful to the teachers who have allowed us to feature their work in this booklet, and we hope its readers are inspired to apply some of these innovative approaches to their own projects in the future.

Let's celebrate the European Day of Languages

Cecelia Gavigan, Balbriggan ETNS

Background

This was a project designed to encourage a curiosity about languages and also affirm the multilingual identity of the learners in our 5th class. We connected with schools in countries across Europe including learners in Portugal, Poland, France, Türkiye, Italy, Spain, Greece, Germany, Serbian Albania, Slovenia, Romania and Croatia.

Project Aim

Our aims were to broaden children's awareness of the diversity of cultures and countries around Europe, celebrate multilingualism, both across Europe and within our schools/classes. connect with pupils from other European countries to cultivate a sense of European citizenship and motivate students to learn languages.

Project Work

We created postcards that featured all the languages spoken in our class and sent them to our partners around Europe. We engaged in video-conferences on European Day of Languages. We shared some songs, words and phrases in different languages and also got to ask questions about what school was like for them. We were also able to supplement this with explorations of multilingual books in our own school and had a philosophy session based on 'One and Everything' by Sam Winston. Finally we created a hall display showcasing all the cards and a map of where they were all situated.

Outcomes

The project successfully inculcated, early in the school year, a pride in plurilingualism and created a space where we are curious about and respectful of different languages. It allowed the children to share in a positive way the languages that they speak in their family homes. Some children who previously may not have even known the correct name for their parents' mother tongue (e.g. calling Yoruba 'Nigerian') became excited about sharing some of the words with their classmates. As a teacher, it also allowed me to collaborate with, learn from and share with educators across Europe.



A Taste of Europe

Aoife Lynch & Niamh McKenna, St Ronan's NS

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Background

Four schools from Germany, Spain, and Ireland united to collaborate on a culinary journey through the eTwinning platform. Each school contributed authentic food recipes representative of their respective countries. These recipes were exchanged among the schools, with each school tasked to recreate and document the cooking process using digital tools. The culmination of this exchange resulted in the creation of an eBook using the online platform Book Creator, showcasing the intercultural experience of preparing and enjoying these diverse dishes.

Project Aims

The aims that we had set for the project were that the students would participate actively on the eTwinning platform, use digital tools to document eTwinning exchanges (Book Creator/ Canva/Task Card), deepen their intercultural understanding and connect and collaborate with students in Germany and Spain to create an eBook.

Project Work

The students engaged in a range of activities to ensure the successful completion of this project. To begin the students created an avatar of themselves, wrote a short bio and shared it on a group Task Card. This introduced all of the students from the different schools to each other. As a class the children chose Irish scones as the recipe to share with our partner school. They designed a recipe using the tool Canva and uploaded it to the project Task Card. The students received recipes from our project partners in Germany and they followed their recipes to make German potato cakes — Reibekuchens. The students documented their progress with photos and videos and added them to 'Our Taste of Europe' eBook to display their journey.

Outcomes

The students involved in this project thoroughly enjoyed it and benefitted from it in several different ways. They deepened their intercultural understanding through exploring and cooking the recipes that were shared with them. The children also developed their technological skills greatly, they are now enabled to use the digital tools Canva, Task Card and Book Creator efficiently and effectively. Their communication skills, time management, organisational and group work skills also developed as they had a set timeline to complete each task as a group. They also really enjoyed cooking the different foods and have even said that they will continue to make them in their own homes! Thank you eTwinning for this fabulous project!



Olympic Games and Sports Values

Marie-Anne Kearns, St George's NS

Background

At the beginning of 2023, my 6th class pupils at St. George's NS, Balbriggan, enthusiastically joined the eTwinning project "Olympic Games and Sports Values." As a newcomer to the eTwinning platform, I was eager to embark on this exciting educational journey alongside my students, collaborating with teachers and students from European schools. The project's timely theme aligned perfectly with the upcoming Paris Summer Olympics, sparking our curiosity and motivation.

Project Aims

This project aimed to develop learning opportunities and wellbeing through exploration of the Olympic Values, as well as promote awareness of the importance of physical activity. It also aimed to increase awareness of multicultural sports and games and promote inclusion through sport.

Project Work

We participated in various interactive and creative activities, including online meetings with teachers and students from partner schools. We participated in Creative Content Creation, designing Olympic flame videos and developing an eBook that showcased our collective learning experiences. Furthermore, we enjoyed knowledge exchange, sharing insights and cultural experiences, and learning about school life in various European countries.

Outcomes

The collaborative nature of the project extended beyond learning about the Olympics; it fostered essential 21st-century skills like digital literacy, teamwork, and communication. Students learned to use ICT tools effectively while engaging with peers from different cultural backgrounds, promoting a genuine sense of global citizenship.

This project was a transformative experience for both my students and me. The pupils developed a deeper understanding of the Olympic values of excellence, friendship, and respect while enhancing their academic, social, and interpersonal skills. They emerged as confident, collaborative learners prepared for a globalised world.

For me as a primary school teacher, the project provided invaluable professional development. The experience underscored the potential of eTwinning to connect classrooms, enrich learning, and inspire meaningful collaboration across borders.

Looking ahead, I am motivated to integrate these best practices into my teaching and to advocate for similar projects that cultivate global awareness, cultural understanding, and lifelong learning.



Edison's Light Bulbs

Laura Kenna, St Patrick's Infants National School

Background

This project between Portuguese, French, Spanish and Irish pupils on the topic of wellbeing in school. Our students were aged from 4 to 15 years (approx.). We also included Syrian students who live in Lebanon as guests for certain activities.

Project Aims

This project wanted to foster a positive and supportive learning environment that prioritizes the wellbeing of students. The project focused on recognising and celebrating pupils' diverse learning styles, exploring positive emotions and creating activities that supported wellbeing. The project also aimed to include the whole-school community in activities.

Project Work

There was a great sense of collaboration during this project, not only between the teachers but also between the pupils from different schools. The use of various digital tools such as flip videos, posters, word clouds, presentations and eBooks meant pupils had many opportunities to participate together. Senior Infant Irish pupils for example drew pictures for the French students' fairytale eBook, whilst pupils living in Lebanon listened to the Portuguese students' fairy tales and wrote maths questions based on the story which the Portuguese pupils then answered. The products of the project were all very inclusive of pupils and their voices.

Outcomes

This project shows how pupils from Senior Infants in Ireland to Middle School in Portugal were able to successfully work on an eTwinning project together. The activities of the project such as Our Class Act of Kindness were able to inspire pupils across Europe to focus on the theme of wellbeing in our school communities. Our school developed digital literacy skills and awareness of other places and languages through our participation in this project. The project also linked to our schools' wellbeing and digital plans. Overall, this was a very positive experience for our school.



ESPIRELAND

**Yésica de los Reyes Jiménez Godoy &
David Jiménez Martín, CBS Roscommon**

Background

The ESPIRELAND project was a two-way initiative that focused on collaborative, cross-cultural learning through Geography and the study of Spanish and English. The project was chosen to promote connections between Ireland and Spain. It involved second year Spanish students from the CBS Roscommon, in Roscommon, Ireland and 40 ESO English students from IES Virgen del Puerto, in Plasencia, Spain.

Project Aims

The aims of ESPIRELAND were to improve the use of new technologies, teach geography through project-based learning, foster collaboration with the Spanish school and engage students in real-world learning by using Spanish and English to learn about landscapes, climates, and environmental issues in Ireland and Spain.

Project Work

Students participated in a variety of activities while working together to research the climate and landscape in Ireland and Spain. They created presentations and videos using tools like Canva, Genially, PowerPoint and eTwinning. They also wrote scripts and recorded videos. The final product was an **eBook** that showcases a comparative study of Spanish and Irish climates and landscapes.

Teachers coordinated the project, supporting students in creating content, organising group work, and ensuring regular collaboration between CBS Roscommon and IES Virgen del Puerto.

Outcomes

The project significantly improved students' teamwork and digital literacy skills through collaborative tasks. They also improved their communication while getting a deeper understanding of climate and landscapes.

Teachers used new methodologies, integrating technology like Genially, Prezi, Canva and eTwinning for cross-cultural collaboration. The project promoted innovation in teaching practices, encouraging the use of interactive tools and collaborative platforms. Teachers shared best practices, learning from colleagues in Spain, and developed a more interdisciplinary approach that integrated language, geography, and environmental education, benefiting both students and educators. The experience was incredibly enriching and rewarding for all participants, fostering creativity and connection.



European Cultural Heritage — Learning from the Past, Sharing the Present and Building a Diverse Future

Breda O'Malley & Karen Lavelle, Coláiste Pobail Acla

Background

The theme of this project was weaving the Tapestry of Europe. We wanted to look at the interconnectedness of partner countries' histories and cultures, and how they contribute to the rich tapestry of European heritage. We aimed to look at the similarities between cultural dances, beliefs, stories, music and language.

Project Aims

The aims were to promote the students' knowledge of cultural traditions and heritage in their own countries and different countries in Europe, to provide the students with the opportunity to cooperate and collaborate with their peers in Europe, to increase the students' interest in foreign languages, to develop the students' skills in using ICT tools and to increase the creativity skills of the students.

Project Work

Our project was an exciting and enriching experience that brought together students from Ireland, Germany, and Spain. Through a series of online meetings, collaborative projects, we delved into the rich cultural tapestry of our countries.

Our journey began with a series of virtual meetings, where we connected with students from the other participating schools. These online discussions provided a way for us to share our initial ideas, discuss project plans, and develop a deeper understanding of each other's cultures. We explored a wide range of topics, including traditional dances from each country, the role of music in our cultures, historical buildings and landmarks and customs, stories and myths in each country. We also exchanged language lessons and learned basic phrases in each other's languages.

We embarked on in-person activities as part of our Erasmus+ project. We had a one-day guided bus tour of Achill Island in Ireland. The German students visited our school, where we participated in a variety of cultural activities. We learned Irish dancing, cooked traditional Irish food, and practiced speaking the Irish language. In the evening, we watched the movie "The Banshees of Inisherin," which was filmed on the island, providing us with a deeper insight into Irish culture and history. We made videos and presentations.

Outcomes

Students visited Achill Island in Ireland, experiencing its stunning natural beauty and rich cultural heritage.

Students gained experience in using digital tools for collaboration, communication, and creative expression. They created short videos showcasing the highlights of their cultural exchange, including interviews, performances, and behind-the-scenes footage. Students also developed informative presentations using PowerPoint on specific cultural topics, such as historical landmarks, traditional crafts, and folklore.

Students gained proficiency in foreign languages, facilitating intercultural communication. Students developed a sense of global citizenship and understanding of different cultures.

Students formed lasting friendships with peers from different countries; we are now organising a visit to the German school in 2025.



European Day of Languages — Record a Rhyme

Sonia McCarthy, Coláiste Dún Iascaigh

Background

To mark European Day of Languages, this project was co-founded with schools in Portugal and Italy where students of FLE (French as a Foreign Language) learned and performed a new rhyme in the target language. Students then set music and art to the recording and showcased this on EDL.

Project Aims

Our goal was to exchange, celebrate and reflect. By sharing the piece we had worked on, our own students became aware of their place within a broader European Language Community which is why we set out to learn a new language. EDL became a celebration of all our new-language learners who were motivated to go further and communicate more as they learn.

Project Work

Each partner school chose a rhyme or '*comptine*' in a new language. Students rehearsed this and created a presentation to share on EDL. On EDL each school shared the recordings, in our own school we celebrated in a mini-Oscars party. We voted for our favourite rhyme during the viewing. Afterwards by post we exchanged bookmarks and artwork inspired by the project. We used TwinSpace to collaborate as partners and agreed a schedule and a broad set of objectives that allowed each school to work within its own resources. We checked in over the course of six weeks by using TwinSpace and shared our final project recordings there.

Outcomes

Students showed increased motivation during the project and recognised more communities within the EU that speak French, including students like themselves learning it as a foreign language. Given the recordings were based on rhymes this put oral skills to the fore and students learned a great deal about pronunciation which we reflected on regularly. As a group of teachers, it was very inspiring to see what other '*comptines*' were being used and creating a new bank of resources for our students.



Positive Vibes

Carol Fynn, Middleton CBS



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Background

In September 2023 we began our “Positive Vibes” project. We wanted to target students’ wellbeing following COVID, but we also wanted the outcomes to be fun and positive rather than focused on negativity.

We partnered with two schools we had previously worked with on Twinning. Our TY students worked with students from Germany and Czechia aged 14–18.

Project Aims

The project aimed to foster empathy and healthy communication and focused on encouraging pro-social behaviour such as helping others. Through Erasmus+ students were encouraged to gain a sense of responsibility and confidence.

Although the project was done through English there were opportunities to speak German and Czech. The native English speakers had to up their game when they heard how fluent their counterparts were.

The project also aimed to give students experience performing and presenting before a group.

Project Work

Our first task was to allow the students to get to know each other. Enter Flat Freddy, a life-size cut out character who travelled to each country and gained colourful phrases and decoration along the way. We also decorated playing cards which were framed to display positive phrases.

Storyteller Niall de Búrca was our guest of honour, and his performances were a highlight of the project. Students collaborated on their own stories and created dramas with an element of empathy in the storyline.

Our student mobility to Germany focused on wellbeing and helping others. Students researched young people’s difficulties in their home countries. We gave group feedback and heard from psychology experts. Students worked in mixed groups on activities to demonstrate coping mechanisms for their peers.

Our week in Czechia focused on the local community. Students prepared for visits to schools, nursing homes, and prepared songs. They baked gingerbread and painted bookmarks to hand out. We also chose stones on a forest walk and painted them with positive phrases whilst listening to our “Positive Vibes” playlist. These were also given as random acts of kindness to strangers we met during the week.

Outcomes

All the students gave fantastic feedback and thoroughly enjoyed the project activities. They made friends for life and travelled to wonderful places. They improved their groupwork skills and spoke about emotional and difficult topics. Finally, they had an opportunity to give back to total strangers and feel the emotion of giving.

It was also a new methodology for us teachers. It is lovely to leave the classroom. We strengthened ties with our partner school and helped each other with technology and ideas. As always, we also learned from the students while working with them on a closer level than the classroom.

eTwinning Ambassadors are there to support you with their experience, enthusiasm and exceptional eTwinning skills and knowledge. This engaged group of teachers are fundamental to the success of eTwinning in each and every country. eTwinning Ambassadors are an active community that works closely together to make eTwinning stronger.

In collaboration with the National Support Organisation, they share good practice, learn from each other and develop their skills so that they are always ready to provide support and guidance to all eTwinners both online and in person. If you want to contact an ambassador, or become one yourself, visit www.leargas.ie/etwinning/etwinning-ambassadors/ for more information.



Celebrations

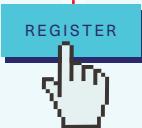
In 2024, a total of 15 teachers won a National Quality Label for 21 different projects. The winners were celebrated at an award ceremony at the eTwinning National Conference 2024. Well done to all the teachers, students and schools for their hard work and creativity in their projects!



8 Easy Steps to Register a Project

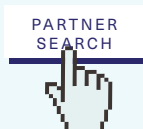
1 Register

Register on the [European School Education Platform](#). Check your inbox for an email to complete the sign-up process. Once verified, you will be prompted to register for eTwinning. You can join your organisation or create it, if it doesn't already exist on the platform.



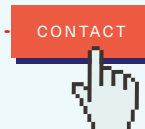
2 Find a Partner

Go to [Partner Search](#) where you can check out proposed project ideas from other teachers and answer their posts. You can also post your own ideas and connect with teachers.



3 Check Availability

Contact teachers first to check their availability and interest in working with you. Make sure you have ticked that you are available for an eTwinning project on your profile.



4 Add Contacts

Once you've found a potential partner, **add them as a contact**. This allows you to register a project together.

5 Create a Project

When they accept your request, you are ready to set up a project! Decide which one of you will register the project — only one partner can do this. Go to [MY PROJECTS](#) and click on [CREATE PROJECT](#).

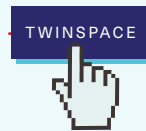


6 Approval

After you submit your project, your colleague will receive a notification to accept it. Once this is done, the project will be approved by the NSO of both countries.

7 Your TwinSpace

Once the project is approved, you can find it in [MY PROJECTS](#) where you can navigate to your [TWINSPACE](#), the private workspace for your project.



8 Collaborate!

You can now go to the [PROJECT > MEMBERS > INVITE A MEMBER](#) to add other colleagues you want to work with. Check out our [new support videos](#) and [eTwinning handbook](#) to guide you while using the platform.



Contact the National Support Organisation for eTwinning in Ireland

Léargas manages funding for national and international exchange programmes in education and training, youth, sport, and community work. We are a registered charity under the aegis of the Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science. Our programmes connect people and communities across borders, bringing an international dimension to organisations in Ireland.

Léargas is the National Support Organisation for eTwinning in Ireland. In addition to eTwinning, we administer EPALE, Eurodesk, and Language Initiatives in Ireland on behalf of the European Commission. We are also the National Agency for Erasmus+ in schools, youth, sport, adult education, and vocational education and training, as well as for the European Solidarity Corps programme.

Déan teagmháil leis an tSeirbhís Tacaíochta Náisiúnta eTwinning in Éirinn

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Déanann Léargas bainistíocht ar mhaoiniú do chláir mhalartaithe náisiúnta agus idirnáisiúnta san oideachas agus oiliúint, san obair óige, sa spórt agus san obair phobail. Is eagraíocht neamhbhrabúis sinn faoi choimirce na Roinne Breisoideachais agus Ardoideachais, Taighde, Nuálaíochta agus Eolaíochta. Ceanglaíonn ár gcláir daoine agus pobail trasna teorainneacha, ag tabhairt gné idirnáisiúnta d'eagraíochtaí in Éirinn.

Is í Léargas an Eagraíocht Tacaíochta Náisiúnta do eTwinning in Éirinn. Lasmuigh d'eTwinning, déanaimid bainistíocht ar EPALE, ar Eurodesk agus ar Tionscnaimh Teangacha in Éirinn thar ceann an Choimisiúin Eorpaigh. Is sinne an Ghníomhaireacht Náisiúnta don gClár Erasmus+ san oideachas scoile, san óige, sa spórt, san oideachas aosach, agus sa ngairmoideachas agus san oiliúint, chomh maith leis an gCór Dlúthpháirtíochta Eorpach.

eTwinning

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Support Organisation

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When is Europe
not Europe?



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