



Thematic Conference

Learning, teaching, exchanging – school cooperations in the Danube Region



Am 22. und 23. Juni 2017 fand zum bereits sechsten Mal die eTwinning-Donauraumkonferenz unter dem Titel „Learning, teaching, exchanging - school cooperations in the Danube Region“ in Wien statt. Die Veranstaltung entstand in Kooperation zwischen der Nationalagentur Erasmus+ Bildung, der österreichischen eTwinning-Kontaktstelle und dem Bundesministerium für Bildung, welches den Prioritätsbereich 9 der EU-Strategie für den Donauraum koordiniert. Zum Thema der Konferenz passend wurde für den ersten Tag das auf der Donau liegende „Bertha von Suttner Schulschiff“ als Veranstaltungsort gewählt. Der zweite Tag ereignete sich in den Räumlichkeiten der OeAD GmbH.



Insgesamt nahmen 49 Lehrer/innen aus 12 Ländern der Donauregion, die Schüler/innen zwischen 11 und 19 Jahren unterrichten, an der Veranstaltung teil. Durch eTwinning-Plus waren auch heuer wieder Lehrer/innen aus Moldawien und der Ukraine dabei.

Ursula Panuschka, die Leiterin von Erasmus+ Schulbildung und eTwinning Österreich, eröffnete die Konferenz und begrüßte die Teilnehmer/innen gemeinsam mit Harald Schwarz, dem Direktor des Schulschiffs. Im Anschluss erfolgte eine Keynote durch Matthias Makula vom Verein Kulturkontakt. In Vertretung von Jürgen Schick vom Bundesministerium für Bildung referierte er über die EU-Strategie für den Donaauraum, insbesondere im Kontext der Bildungsk Kooperationen. Ein weiter Plenarbeitrag wurde von Sebastian Schäffer vom Institut für den Donaauraum und Mitteleuropa zum Thema „The future lies downstream – why the Danube Region is the key to further European Integration“ beigesteuert. Er rückte dabei schulische Kooperation zwischen den Donaauraumstaaten und deren Bedeutung für europäische Integration in den Mittelpunkt. Im Rahmen von Arbeitsgruppen hatten die Teilnehmer/innen dann Gelegenheit, mögliche Projektthemen zu definieren und in weiterer Folge zu konkretisieren. Der interkulturelle Austausch wurde beim Abendprogramm – einer Innenstadtführung und eines Heurigenbesuchs – erfolgreich weitergeführt.



Der zweite Konferenztag wurde von Ernst Gesselbauer, dem Leiter der Nationalagentur Erasmus+ Bildung eröffnet und stand ganz im Zeichen der Finalisierung der Projektideen durch die Teilnehmer/innen. Nach Einführungen in die eTwinning-Plattform für Anfänger/innen und Fortgeschrittene und der Präsentation eines Best-Practice Beispiels durch Kristina Guggerbauer von der Europäischen Mittelschule Neustiftgasse Wien, hatten die Teilnehmer/innen ausreichend Zeit Ihre Projektideen zu finalisieren und auf der eTwinning-Plattform zu registrieren.

Die diesjährige Donaauraumkonferenz war ein großer Erfolg. Insgesamt konnten 15 Projekte neu gegründet werden, wobei alle 12 teilnehmenden Länder in zumindest einem Projekt involviert sind.

Liste der neu gegründeten eTwinning-Projekte:

#	Project title	Countries	Description
1	You are what you eat	Austria, Moldova	We want students to exchange their favourite food recipes (salads e.g.) by introducing themselves. They may share their preferences in matter of dishes, fruit and vegetables.
2	Danube Treasures (Water!)	Ukraine, Romania	Aims of the project: To involve pupils to the learning process by studying the importance of preserving fresh clean drinkable water in the Danube region; to show the dependence of life from having drinkable water; to learn more about ecosystems of the Danube river and its affluents; to develop all communicative skills and get pupils engaged to ICT; to give young learners some lessons of sustainability and mindful usage of water in everyday life
3	Follow me! - Viens avec moi! - Komm mit!	Austria, Slovakia, Hungary, Germany	Students from different countries use online-tools in order to interact, compare and contrast their life and lifestyles throughout the school year including special days of the year.
4	What do we eat today	Slovakia, Czech Republic, Romania, Austria	Food is different in each country. We are trying to teach children about the importance of food in our life.
5	Flowers of Friendship	Bosnia and Herzegovina, Moldova, Armenia, Georgia, Serbia, Ukraine	Students will present themselves, their favourite flowers and the flowers of their regions. Students will tell legends and sing songs about flowers, will discover flowers in literature, arts and pharmacy, will organize The Flower Festival, will plant The Flowers Friendship bed and will create an e-book of flowers of the participants' countries.
6	more CAKES - more HELP	Austria, Slovakia, Germany, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia	A charity project based on the idea to help to improve somebody's conditions through voluntary cake baking activity.

7	DANMUN - Model UN for the Danube Region	Austria, Hungary, Slovakia, Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Moldova, Croatia, Ukraine, Czech Republic	Building up a model UN with and for the countries of the Danube Region. Educational simulation in which students learn about diplomacy, international relations and the UN.
8	Favorite places outdoors - connecting people	Austria, Moldova, Hungary	The project is about sharing favourite places to students from three European schools. Children will show their most liked places in their daily life using different tools to present and they will create videos and an e-book.
9	Trink Wasser! Trinkwasser?	Austria, Croatia, Germany	The pupils have running water in front of their school building in all participating schools. In this project they will research the water quality regarding health risks. All project partners will present their findings until the international water day on 22 March.
10	Young Sherlock Holmes	Serbia, Czech Republic, Slovakia	Students from 3 countries collaboratively write a detective story and put it on stage. Cooperation between schools, learning about other countries, improving communication skills, critical thinking, ability to work in a team, building confidence of our students.
11	The Danube: "The greatest treasure with which nature has endowed our country"	Romania, Moldova	A river as old as history, but equally indifferent to a young man. How many dreams and destinies his waves are, he no longer knows. It can be said that the impressive diversity of habitats and life forms it hosts in a relatively small area, the Danube is a true treasure of biodiversity, a bank of natural genes of invaluable value for the universal natural heritage.

12	"Verfallen und vergessen" - lost places in Kärnten, Slowenien und Friaul	Austria, Italy, Slovenia	Old stonewalls, gates and ruins are silent witnesses of an ancient time in Carinthia, Friuli and Slovenia. Some lost places can tell stories which should not be forgotten. Therefore we want to go on a search with our pupils to discover these lost places and to capture them on pictures.
13	21st century jobs - learning and succeeding together	Czech Republic, Slovakia, Croatia, Hungary, Bulgaria	The project aims at sensitizing students about the jobs of the future, raising their awareness of new job areas and the cross-disciplinary and soft skills students need to develop in order to be successful in their careers. The project also aims at identifying the factors which influence students' choices.
14	Revisiting Grandmother's recipes	Austria, France, Hungary, Czech Republic	Healthy and unhealthy lifestyle in the past and nowadays. Find the good practise in both. Recook the old style recipes in a healthier way, which contain less calories, less fat, more vitamins, less meat... and so on.
15	DIVERSITY OF ECOSYSTEMS	Ukraine, Moldova	This project follows the ecological education of students. Students will observe and describe the ecosystems of their region. They will make a gallery of photographs that best show the diversity of landscapes and the seasonal changes in their country. They will also learn of the beauty of landscapes in other European countries.