



## Thematic Conference Learning, teaching, exchanging – school cooperations in the Danube Region



The Austrian National Agency for Erasmus+ Education hosted the sixth edition of the eTwinning Danube Region Conference in Vienna on 22 and 23 June 2017. The event was organised in cooperation with the Federal Ministry of Education which coordinates the Priority Area 9 of the EU Strategy for the Danube Region. The topic of the conference was „Learning, teaching, exchanging - school cooperations in the Danube Region“ and therefore the first day took place on the “Bertha von Suttner Schulschiff”. On the second day the conference continued in the premises of the OeAD.



Forty-nine teachers from 12 Danube Region countries teaching pupils aged 11 to 19 participated at the event. Amongst them were also participants from the Republic of Moldova and the Ukraine. It was also possible to invite them thanks to the eTwinning Plus initiative.

Ursula Panuschka, Head of Erasmus+ School Education and eTwinning Austria, opened the conference and welcomed the teachers together with Harald Schwarz, principal of the Schulschiff. The welcome speeches were followed by the keynote of Matthias Makula from Kulturkontakt. He presented the EU Strategy for the Danube Region on behalf of Jürgen Schick from the Ministry of Education, highlighting the aspect of cooperation in the educational field. Sebastian Schäffer from the Institute for Danube Region and Central Europe also gave a presentation titled “The future lies downstream – why the Danube Region is the key to further European Integration”. He focused on cooperations between schools in the Danube region and their importance for European integration. In mixed working groups the participants were able to define topics for their projects and discuss them in more detail. The intercultural exchange continued in the evening during a guided tour through Vienna city centre and a dinner in a typical Viennese outdoor restaurant.



At the beginning of the second day, Ernst Gesslbauer, head of the Austrian National Agency for Erasmus+ Education, greeted the participants of the conference and encouraged them to make use of the conference to launch new cooperations. After the eTwinning workshops for beginners and advanced users there was a good practice example presentation by Kristina Gugerbauer, a teacher at Europäische Mittelschule Neustiftgasse in Vienna: With that, the participants finalised their project ideas and registered them on eTwinning.

This year's Danube Region Conference was a big success – 15 new projects have been registered and each of the twelve participating countries is involved in at least one project.

**List of registered Projects:**

#	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.