



Thematic Conference

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



The Austrian National Agency for Erasmus+ Education hosted the seventh edition of the eTwinning Danube Region Conference in Vienna on 14 and 15 June 2018. The event was organised in cooperation with the Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research 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.



Fifty teachers from 11 Danube Region countries teaching pupils aged 11 to 19 participated at the event. Amongst them were again participants from the Republic of Moldova and the Ukraine, 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 Jürgen Schick from the Ministry of Education, Science and Research who presented the EU Strategy for the Danube Region highlighting the aspect of cooperation in the educational field. Subsequently, Frederic Bayersburg of the Austrian National Agency for Erasmus+ gave an introduction to Erasmus+ for schools, eTwinning and the School Education Gateway. This was followed by structured partner finding activities, after which the participants were able to define topics for their projects in mixed working groups and discuss them in more detail. The intercultural exchange continued in the evening during a guided tour through Vienna and a dinner in a typical Viennese restaurant.



At the beginning of the second day, Stefan Zotti, General Director of the OeAD, greeted the participants of the conference and encouraged them to make use of the conference to launch new cooperative projects. This was followed by a good practice presentation by Elfriede Maier, a teacher at Don Bosco Schulen Vöcklabruck, about her project “Revisiting Grandmother’s Recipes”. After the eTwinning workshops for beginners and advanced users, the participants finalised their project ideas and registered them on eTwinning.

This year’s Danube Region Conference was a big success – 12 new projects have been registered and each of the fifty participants is involved in at least one project.

Team Erasmus+ School Education/eTwinning: Ursula Panuschka, Vesna Babaja, Frederic Bayersburg, Marie-Kristin Mandl, Nicole Sattler

Supported by:

- Melina Baumgartner and Claudia Saracevic, Vienna Business School, Hamerlingplatz, 1080 Vienna
- Ulrike Sedlmayr, Kulturkontakt Austria

All photos ©eTwinning-Austria

List of registered Projects:

#	Project title	Countries	Description
1	Save our place from plastic	Germany Ukraine Austria Bulgaria	The idea of the project is to enhance students' awareness about the plastic problem and to learn how different countries find solutions to it. There will be live conferences, questionnaires and at the end the students will organize a campaign for collecting plastic garbage.
2	My region-your adventure	Slovakia Slovenia Bulgaria Czech Republic Austria	The project focuses on presentation and comparison of cultural heritage in the participants' countries, especially their regions. Students will present, communicate, explore natural, tangible and intangible cultural heritage and discuss the meaning of its preservation.
3	Show me your CULTURE	Slovakia Czech Republic Germany Austria	Cooperation where students teach other students about their region also through practical activities (Mystery Skype; videos – how to make...; eBook; Quizzes...) and they at the same time learn about the region of the other country (region) – music (folk songs); dress (folk dress); national cuisine; hairstyle; buildings and interesting places. (how they did hairstyle in the past/how they combed their hair in the past)
4	Our plastic world	Austria Slovenia Germany	Raising awareness of the shocking importance of plastic in our lives. Is it even possible to live without (or a small amount) of it? Showing ways of how we can minimize our plastic waste. Doing research in our very specific subjects.
5	The First World War - different countries, different perspectives?	Austria Germany	In the end, students should be able recognize similarities and differences of everyday life experiences in different European countries during the First World War. The aim is to strengthen the historical competence of multiperspectivity.
6	Inclusion is not an illusion	Slovakia Austria	To show that integrated pupils can improve their skills through the support, special individual approach and good methods and strategies at school. Apply new teaching strategies, individually focused on integrated pupils to improve their learning skills, build their self-confidence and positive motivation for learning.
7	"Yes or no?" – strengthening democracy	Austria Hungary	By the end of the project students will preferably improve their social and political skills; also their reasoning techniques should develop.

8	European cooperation through competition	Austria Slovenia Czech Republic Slovakia	The project is based on improving basic knowledge of European countries. Students use fun online learning platform "Kahoot" and Twin space to learn, compete and communicate. They will improve their ICT skills through making their own Kahoot quizzes and practice their English language speaking and writing skills. By competing they will learn about Europe and its diverse culture and heritage. The general topics will include themes as: national flags, capital cities, famous sights and important personalities of all the European countries [including European departments e.g. Martinique].
9	Our garden, our world	Croatia Moldova Austria	The project is intended for schools that have their own garden or are near the park. The students will share information about the kinds of trees, shrubs and plants that exist in their school garden. Students through contact with nature will develop their ecological behaviour and raise their awareness of preserving nature
10	AHU Games	Austria Hungary Ukraine	To learn about the free time activities of pupils. To teach each other traditional games replacing the overuse of technological devices. To implement these activities into everyday life in and outside the school. To make school children aware how important these games are to keep up social contacts. To develop the pupils' ICT and language skills. To give pupils a new insight into different cultures.
11	Cultural Heritage Exchange	Serbia Moldova Croatia Hungary	Students will make presentations about their schools, their hometowns. They will also make a research about the country's cultural heritage and exchange the results with the partners, in a graphic organizer. This way they will be able to learn about each other's cultural heritage. The knowledge acquired will be reflected in the results of a quiz and presented in a closing ceremony on the European Day.
12	New learning and teaching methods supported by different learning spaces	Austria Slovakia Hungary	