



Thematic Conference School cooperation in the Danube Region: Experiences and future actions



The Austrian National Agency for Erasmus+ Education hosted the seventh edition of the eTwinning Danube Region Conference in Vienna on 13 and 14 June 2019. 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, and Kulturkontakt Austria. The topic of the conference was „School cooperation in the Danube Region: Experiences and future actions“. The location was the beautiful 18th century Miller-Aichholz castle within the grounds of Europahaus Wien.



Forty-eight teachers from twelve Danube Region countries teaching pupils aged 10 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.

Klaus Körner of the Directorate General “Education, Youth, Sport and Culture” of the European Commission opened the conference and welcomed the teachers together with Ursula Panuschka, Head of Erasmus+ School Education and eTwinning Austria. The welcome speeches were followed by the keynote by 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. In keeping with this year’s theme, the conference included a reflexive panel discussion, with experienced teachers from Austria and Moldova: Michael Huber-Kirchberger and Violeta Cozonac; an eTwinning-Ambassador from the Ukraine: Taisa Khryplyva; a representative from Kulturkontakt Austria: Ulrike Sedlmayr; and a representative of the Serbian eTwinning National Support Service: Ivana Banković. The panelists agreed that projects with colleagues from the Danube region bring a significant added value to the classroom, discussing shared culture and fascinating cultural differences.

Subsequently, Frederic Bayersburg from the Austrian National Agency for Erasmus+ gave an introduction to the Erasmus+ actions for schools. This was followed by eTwinning workshops for beginners and advanced user and 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 cruise on the Danube Canal.



The second day was dedicated to completing the project concepts and strengthening the project teams. After a very motivating good practice presentation by Elisabeth Baumgartner, a teacher at Viennese elementary school Volksschule Röttergasse, the participants finalised their project ideas and registered them on eTwinning.

This year’s Danube Region Conference was a big success – 11 new projects have been registered and each participant is involved in at least one project.

Team Erasmus+ School Education/eTwinning: Ursula Panuschka, Kevin Alfan, Vesna Babaja, Frederic Bayersburg, Sabine Müller, Nicole Sattler

All photos ©eTwinning-Austria

List of registered Projects:

#	Project title	Countries	Description
1	With food to tradition and health	Romania Slovakia Ukraine Croatia	The idea of the project is to enhance students' awareness about traditional food in the participating countries and healthy eating habits. The project will culminate with the creation of a cookbook collecting recipes from all countries.
2	My country in your eyes	Ukraine Moldova Slovenia Serbia Bosnia and Herzegovina Bulgaria	The project will focus on cultural diversity through sports, culture, literature, cuisine and arts. Pupils will work in multilingual international groups. The project will last for one year, with different activities planned for every month.
3	SOS – Save the blue planet	Moldova Romania Slovenia Bulgaria	In this project the pupils will combine their knowledge of ecology and ICT. They will approach the topic through mathematics, linguistics and natural sciences.
4	FILMe: Eurovision on film	Austria Romania Serbia Moldova Germany	Each of us is "Different and Unique" and that is why each of us lives in his/ her life exclusively and only feels his "Personal Feelings" in his personal way. Depending on how we feel individual "We Feel ", we also experience situations in which we find ourselves everyday emotionally and we react in different ways. we are either happy, sad, angry, disappointed...or overwhelmed. We want to share "Our Personal Experience" of everything that happens to us in school, at home, in children life with our partner school on film . The moment we get to know different cultures and activities, we know that we are not alone and we can share our feelings with our friends of our partner schools.
5	This is us	Czech Republic Slovakia Ukraine	A project for the 11/12-year-olds to learn as much as possible about each other and the local cultures and to communicate in English. We will also create and play some fun activities.
6	TOUCH – Taste our cultural heritage	Serbia Czech Republic Germany Bosnia and Herzegovina	Students explore their regions and their traditions. They will create quizzes and virtual tours through the less known regions of their countries.
7	Economics, Business, Finance & Marketing	Austria Czech Republic	This project aims to improve business and economics knowledge, help pupils gain practical experience of business, exchange ideas and knowledge among students, enhance language competences, and prepare students better for the labour market.

8	Positive thinking within teaching methodology	Czech Republic Romania Slovakia Croatia	Using the teaching methodology and all its aspects (grammar skills, vocabulary, listening and reading with comprehension under the ethical activities and positive thinking). It works as a subproject motivation for Erasmus + involving the Czech Republic, Romania, Slovakia and Croatia. The target group are children in age 12 + including children with special needs.
9	Good mood in healthy food	Slovakia Serbia Romania	Our project aims to motivate students to live a healthy life style. In this project students will engage in activities that include health factors such as healthy eating, physical activities (brain gym), positive thinking and using fresh vegetables and herbs for preparing meals. Students will exchange ideas about healthy recipes, so they will learn how to cook healthy dishes from partner countries. They will introduce the schools via videos, create the project logo using the ICT tools, create polls for voting, introduce themselves by making avatars, communicate and make surveys in their schools. The final product is an e-book with tips on healthy lifestyle and healthy recipes including multilingual pictiography.
10	80s in everyday life	Croatia Czech Republic Germany	In this project the pupils will explore the life in the 1980s in their country. They will collect pictures, information and artefacts; create videos and an exhibition in their schools.
11	Hidden paradise	Austria Germany Slovenia	At the beginning of the project, the pupils of each school will go on a search for a hidden paradise in their region with a traditional/cultural meaning. They will present this to the partner schools. Through the personal exchange, the pupils will get to know the hidden treasures of the other regions. The aim is a cultural exchange and a friendly rapprochement, to approach a little bit of happiness through hidden paradise.