

eTwinning Online Seminar School cooperation in the Danube Region



The OeAD - Austrian National Agency for Erasmus+ School Education hosted the ninth edition of the eTwinning Danube Region Seminar as an online event on 10 and 11 June 2021. The seminar was organised in cooperation with the Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research which coordinates the Priority Area 9 “Investing in people and skills” of the EU Strategy for the Danube Region. The topic of the seminar was „School cooperation in the Danube Region“. Forty-nine teachers from all thirteen Danube Region countries which are part of the eTwinning community participated via Zoom and the eTwinning TwinSpace.

Ursula Panuschka, Head of Erasmus+ School Education and eTwinning Austria, opened the seminar together with Jürgen Schick from the Ministry of Education, Science and Research who also gave a thematic input about the EU Strategy for the Danube Region and the goals and activities of Priority Area 9 in particular. As a warm-up activity, the participants shared their first associations with the river Danube, most prominent of which were “Europe”, “connection”, “strong” and “different cultures”. They also created a collaborative map of their favourite places in the Danube Region, which can be seen [here](#). Subsequently Elisabeth Baumgartner, an awarded eTwinning teacher and ambassador, gave a best practice input about her past projects as an inspiration for the participating teachers. After a short break the participants moved into smaller breakout rooms to collaborate and to further discuss project ideas which they had submitted upfront. The goal of these breakout sessions was to

define project teams which would meet again on the second day. The first day was closed with an interactive virtual Vienna city tour with a professional tour guide.

The second day was dedicated to training the participants in working with the eTwinning platform and to advancing the planning stages of the projects. Therefore an optional eTwinning training for beginners led by Elisabeth Baumgartner was offered before the official start, which then kicked off with a quiz about the Vienna city tour. This was followed by an input about the synergies between eTwinning and Erasmus+ projects and an eTwinning TwinSpace training. After a short break the project teams got back together in breakouts to further develop their projects, which were then presented to the audience. The event was closed with a group photo of the whole delegation.

The eTwinning Danube Region Seminar 2021 was a big success – 7 new projects with all participants involved have been created:

Project name	Countries involved	Goals and activities
A year together	Czech Republic; Hungary; Ukraine; Germany; Austria; Serbia; Slovenia; Croatia	Get to know each other, share experiences throughout the year, learn about different cultures; e.g.: celebrating national holidays, but also individual projects.
Dive into the amazing world of Artificial Intelligence	Moldova; Hungary; Slovakia; Austria; Czech Republic; Germany	Learn basics of AI. learn sub-branches of AI. Create/Improve coding skills, creative writing: fictional & non-fictional texts (e.g. pro/con AI, survey), e-paper/print magazine.
Exploring different youth cultures	Germany; Czech Republic; Hungary; Austria	Using 3 languages (English, Spanish, French) exchange about culture important to youth; create video games and videos.
Great teacher	Hungary; Croatia; Bosnia and Herzegovina; Germany; Slovenia; Bulgaria	Research what pupils need from teachers, explore stereotypes about teachers and other cultures, create teaching modules to share with community.
Saving the bees' world	Hungary; Slovakia; Czech Republic; Germany; Bosnia and Herzegovina; Moldova	Each school will create a garden and exchange and implement ideas how to save bees, discuss the reasons bees are endangered, discover bees life. Each garden could have an additional purpose - educational gallery.
Students' media literacy project	Bulgaria; Ukraine; Romania	In the school subjects "national language" and "ICT" form students' critical thinking skills, the ability to analyze, take responsibility, identify problems and solve them, and also the ability to express their own views and opinions.
Traditional games from old times	Croatia; Moldova; Bulgaria; Slovakia	Pupils will explore cultures, history and traditions by researching and playing traditional games from all involved countries.