



eTwinning for Future Teachers

Initial Teacher Education Online Annual Conference 2021

Preparing teachers for the “new normal” 8 - 10 December 2021

INTRODUCTION

“eTwinning for Future Teachers” started as a European pilot bringing together initial teacher education (ITE) institutions from several European countries to include eTwinning in their teacher education activities. The initiative expanded in 2018 when it became compulsory for all eTwinning countries to participate. Since 2020, the aim is to grow the initiative in a sustainable way, providing teacher educators and student teachers the full eTwinning experience so that they can benefit from an international and professional community with the opportunity to implement innovative pedagogical methodologies with their peers. The initiative has grown since 2018 to involve today 145 initial teacher education institutions, 276 teacher educators, and 2452 student teachers.

After two years of significant challenges for educational systems due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the reopening of schools raises various questions for both students and teachers. A “new normal”, a combination of blended learning and other innovative and flexible pedagogies, is needed in order for teaching and learning to be effective and safe and teachers need to adapt and develop in order to make this possible. It is essential that new teachers entering the profession are ready to implement the “new normal” so that they feel empowered to tackle the challenges they face as they start their careers. This raises several questions which this conference aims to address: How are European countries preparing new teachers for this “new normal”? What kind of skills and knowledge do new teachers need to be equipped with to be ready for the “new normal”? How can we equip teachers with the resilience and competences to ensure their well-being in

a challenging and dynamic scenario? And finally, how can eTwinning contribute to adapting to this new reality?

Numerous examples from countries across Europe demonstrate that introducing student teachers to eTwinning delivers significant value to initial teacher education. eTwinning offers a practical application of 21st-century skills via project work, international experience and collaboration, and digital citizenship. It does this through a powerful blend of online and offline experiences, of local and international work, and through engagement in a powerful community of like-minded peers. eTwinning is an effective tool to prepare teachers for “the new normal” that should be utilised more systematically across initial teacher education.

The “eTwinning for Future Teachers” Annual Conference 2021 will be the opportunity to engage initial teacher education institutions in eTwinning by showing its full potential in the light of the “new normal”. This will also be achieved by presenting two new actions of the initiative: the launch of a framework for awarding the most active ITE institutions in eTwinning and the establishment of a network of ITE Ambassadors who will promote and give stronger credibility to the activities deployed.

The first day of the Conference will be open to the general public and live streamed. The remaining two days will be restricted to the registered participants (a total of 250 participants - in its onsite format the Conference was normally planned for 200 participants).

A flexible approach will be considered so that it addresses the needs and priorities of this diverse audience.



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PROGRAMME

WEDNESDAY, 08 DECEMBER 2021

PLENARY 1 TOWARDS A "NEW NORMAL" FOR SCHOOLS

15:00 - 15:15 Welcome

Wilhelm Vukovich, European Commission

15:15 - 15:45 Teachers in Europe – Careers, development and well-being

Akvile Motiejunaite-Schulmeister, Education Policy and Systems Senior Analyst, European Commission

15:45 - 16:00 Short break

PLENARY 2 THE "NEW NORMAL" IS ALREADY A REALITY

16:00 - 16:30 A shared European foundation by a generation of new teachers

Ilana Cicurel, Member of the European Parliament

16:30 - 17:00 eTwinning and (Initial) Teacher Professional Development

Research, evidence, and opportunities in Italy
Maria Chiara Pettenati, INDIRE

THURSDAY, 9 DECEMBER 2021

PLENARY 3 PRACTITIONERS SHARE THEIR EXPERIENCE WITH AN EXPERT IN THE FIELD OF TEACHER EDUCATION

14:00 - 14:45 What can eTwinning do for future teachers?

Panel discussion: How can eTwinning support Initial Teacher Education in Europe by addressing the challenges and opportunities faced by student teachers today? How can eTwinning help prepare future teachers for the new normal?

Moderator:

Rute Baptista, Professional Development Manager, Central Support Service (CSS)

Panelists:

(TBC) Christian Monseur, Full Professor, External expert of the Eurydice report "*Teachers in Europe: Careers, Development and Well-being*"

Osman Dülger, TR Teacher Educator

Ph.D. Barbara Muszyńska, PL ITE Ambassador

María García Molina, ES Student Teacher

14:45 - 15:00 Short break



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15:00 - 16:15 **Workshop slot A** (4 in parallel)

The implication of the eTwinning principles in the “new normal”

Sessions for Student teachers and Teacher Educators run by experienced eTwinners who participated in the eTwinning Schools Monitoring focus groups

S1. Shared leadership

Fina Vendrell Vila, eTwinning School Teacher

S2. Collaboration

Natalia Tzitzis, eTwinning School Teacher

S3. Inclusion

Vera Kerrisk, eTwinning School Deputy principal

S4. Student agency

Loredana Popa, eTwinning School Teacher

16:15 - 16:30 **Short break**

16:30 - 18:15 **Workshop slot B** (5 in parallel)

ITE practices in eTwinning

W1. ITE for beginners: Models & procedures

Rute Baptista, Professional Development Manager, Central Support Service (CSS)

This workshop will describe the different models and procedures available in eTwinning, for Teacher educators and student teachers, along with some practice examples. At the same time, we will look at the benefits of being involved in eTwinning and how it contributes to providing opportunities to prepare teachers for the new normal.

W2. eTwinning ITE Stories

Italian National Support Organisation (NSO)

During this workshop participants will have the opportunity to hear different practices and experiences from the past 2 years, from other countries and learn and get inspired by peers.

W3. eTwinning Pedagogy

Irene Pateraki, Central Support Service (CSS)

In this workshop, we will examine the approaches to pedagogy adopted by eTwinning teachers during their project work. Through example and discussion, we will explore the place of eTwinning in a Blended Learning scenario, and the added value that eTwinning can bring to the engagement and motivation of teachers & students.

W4. Sharing research activities

Nikolaos Mouratoglou, Central Support Service (CSS)

Teacher Educators, Professors, Student Teachers and eTwinning ITE Ambassadors from different Initial Teacher Training Institutions in different countries will share their experience with eTwinning in research activities. All participants will be invited to ask questions, share ideas and practices.

W5. Erasmus+ opportunities for ITE

French National Support Organisation (NSO)

Erasmus+ encourages students and staff mobility of Institutions in education and training, to support innovation and the introduction of new approaches to teaching and learning with the aim of promoting the modernisation of higher education systems in Europe and beyond.



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FRIDAY, 10 DECEMBER 2021

10:00 - 11:00 World Café & Networking

Session 1: Knowing each other

Online rooms will be dedicated to the following Erasmus+ priorities:

- Inclusion and Diversity
- Digital Transformation
- Environment and fight against climate change
- Participation in democratic life

Participants will be divided into small groups and, for 15 mins, they will explore different opportunities and ideas for projects based on the priorities. Each discussion will be guided by a NSO member. After 15 mins participants will move to a different room to build and reflect on what the previous group did. This will provide the context for networking exchange and peer learning, thus setting the basis for partner finding. Groups should visit at least three different rooms.

11:00 - 11:15 Short break

11:15 - 12:15 World Café & Networking

Session 2: Projects' planning

Based on the previous exchanges during the world café, participants are invited to propose project ideas to facilitate partner finding. Up to 10 interactive presentations will be accommodated under the coordination of the CSS.

12:15 - 12:30 Short break

12:30 - 13:15 Getting ready for the “new normal” with eTwinning

Rute Baptista, Professional Development Manager, Central Support Service (CSS)

The CSS will wrap up the main points to be taken away from the Conference, describe the ITE awards framework and introduce the plans for the future, including the establishment of the ITE Ambassadors and the Student teachers' group.

The session will involve the audience via interactive activities and a Q&A session.

13:15 Closing

Contact us

For more information about eTwinning please
consult our website:

www.etwinning.net