eTwinning for Future Teachers

Digital Exchange in Europe during Teacher Education

What is eTwinning?
eTwinning is the network for schools in Europe and one of the largest online communities for teachers and educational staff today—with members from more than 40 countries. The European School Education Platform provides the framework for international networking and collaborative digital classroom projects. eTwinning is part of Erasmus+, the EU programme for education, training, youth and sport.
eTwinning projects often accompany a class throughout the school year, but they can also be implemented over a shorter period of time. Whether the primary, secondary or vocational level, eTwinning is suitable for all ages. And there are no limits on the number of project partners. Depending on the type of topic, teachers can decide individually whether groups from two or ten schools work together on a project.

Schools receive support from National Support Organisations (NSO). In Germany, this is located at the Pedagogical Exchange Service (PAD) of the Standing Conference of the Ministers of Education and Cultural Affairs.

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Questions?
The team at the eTwinning Support Service are happy to help you.

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“I have been working with eTwinning as a teacher for many years. Authentic communication and intercultural learning have become an integral part of my teaching through multilingual and interdisciplinary learning environments developed together with our partner schools. The enormous potential of such creatively designed digital learning environments should already be made clear in university teacher training and future teachers should be trained accordingly.”

Dr. Melinda Veggian, upper secondary teacher and eTwinning Ambassador for the area of eTwinning for Future Teachers

In a European context, eTwinning makes it possible to:
• experiment with project-based teaching and interdisciplinary learning
• design and implement collaborative projects with partner schools
• develop ICT skills
• apply and develop language skills
• gain experience in European school cooperation
• acquire intercultural competences
• reflect on one’s own professional practice through exchange with teachers and students from other educational systems
• exchange best practice examples and benefit from the expertise of international colleagues

Here you will find an overview of sample projects: https://erasmusplus.schule/digitaler-austausch/inspiration
The integration of eTwinning in teacher education allows for the design and implementation of collaborative projects, the improvement of ICT and language skills, the development of intercultural competences through international exchanges, the development of professional competences, such as project management, collaborative and multidisciplinary work, and a reflection on one’s own professional practice through exchanges with (prospective) teachers from other educational systems.

**eTwinning for Future Teachers**

The initiative was launched in 2019 for the opportunity offered by eTwinning during their training, new, prospective teachers can try out digital project work with eTwinning in practice. eTwinning for Future Teachers aims to introduce students during their teacher training phase to the working methods and pedagogical possibilities of eTwinning. This is done primarily through two activities: an introduction to the basics of eTwinning in the context of the Initial Teacher Education (ITE) curriculum, and the design and implementation of a short collaborative project with students from a partner university. In the case of trainee or pre-service teachers or in the context of school placements, students can already be involved in the eTwinning project.

**Strengthen Digital and Intercultural Competences**

Preparing students for the challenges of an increasingly digitised world and empowering them to participate and co-design in an eTwinning context is a central task of schools. In addition to imparting knowledge, prospective teachers should be adequately prepared for this task during their teacher training. eTwinning is ideally suited for this purpose, as it enables students to strengthen their own digital and intercultural competences within the framework of hands-on project work. This lays the foundation for passing on these skills to students later on.

**eTwinning for Future Teachers**

The **eTwinning for Future Teachers** initiative was launched in 2019 to enable student teachers across Europe to learn about the opportunities offered by eTwinning during their training. Prospective teachers can try out digital project work with eTwinning in practice. eTwinning for Future Teachers aims to introduce students during their teacher training phase to the working methods and pedagogical possibilities of eTwinning. This is done primarily through two activities: an introduction to the basics of eTwinning in the context of the Initial Teacher Education (ITE) curriculum, and the design and implementation of a short collaborative project with students from a partner university. In the case of trainee or pre-service teachers or in the context of school placements, students can already be involved in the eTwinning project.

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**“There is a need to professionalise teachers who are committed to Europe. Europe-wide virtual encounters, as they can be organised with eTwinning between universities and regional institutes, are an important contribution to the way on to promoting the intercultural European competence of future teachers.”**

Source: Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania, Regional Office for Foreign Languages in the state programme Zukunft Schulen im digitalen Zeitalter. The Institute for Qualify Development at Stuttgart University, Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) and the DAAD, funding body for eTwinning for Future Teachers.

**“eTwinning is a key part of Lehramt curriculum and training at Stuttgart University and the Pädagogische Hochschule Ludwigshafen.”**

We have been able to work together with universities from all over Europe. By firmly anchoring eTwinning in the curriculum of teacher education programmes, this gap can be closed.

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**eTwinning as a Building Block for a University’s Internationalisation Strategy**

Internationalisation is a central building block for the further development of university teacher training. A survey of university representatives from the field of teacher training conducted by the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) in 2020 shows that the focus in this area is primarily on promoting individual mobilities. Digital formats in cooperation with partner universities have so far been the exception. By firmly anchoring eTwinning in the curriculum of teacher education programmes, this gap can be closed. Digital formats in cooperation with partner universities have so far been the exception. By firmly anchoring eTwinning in the curriculum of teacher education programmes, this gap can be closed.

**Interessen?**

This is how it continues

Consider where and how you can incorporate eTwinning into your curriculum. There may be opportunities in areas such as ICT, methodology, international exchange, project-based learning, or intercultural learning. Find the right partners, resources, and opportunities to enhance your European education.

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