

## 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.



Here you will find an overview of sample projects:  
<https://erasmusplus.schule/digitaler-austausch/inspiration>



#### 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
- develop professional 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



“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

## Questions?

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

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## 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. Here, 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.



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
- a reflection on one's own professional practice through exchange with (prospective) teachers from other educational systems



### Strengthen Digital and Intercultural Competences



Preparing students for the challenges of an increasingly digitised world and empowering them to participate and (co-)design in a European 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 competencies within the framework of hands-on project work. This lays the foundation for passing on these skills to students later on.



**“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 on the way to promoting the intercultural European competence of future teachers.”**

Schirin Polzien, Regional Advisor for Foreign Languages in the state programme **Zukunft Schule im digitalen Zeitalter** at the Institute for Quality Development at Schools Schleswig-Holstein (IQSH) and eTwinning Facilitator for eTwinning for Future Teachers.



**“eTwinning is a key part of Lehramt curriculum and training at Stuttgart University and the Pädagogische Hochschule Ludwigsburg. We’ve run over 26 projects with countries from all over Europe and made important partners. Future teachers’ competences in interculturality and digitalisation dynamically improve through exciting project-based learning. We love it!”**

Richard Powers, Professor of Literature and Education at the University of Stuttgart and eTwinning facilitator for eTwinning for Future Teachers

### 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, because regular digital exchange in a European context ensures the international orientation of teacher education.

Virtual encounters

## Interested?

### This is how it continues

#### STEP 1

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. Plan for sufficient human resources and time: Who, what, when, how?

#### STEP 2

Contact the eTwinning Coordination Office at the PAD. We can advise you on all aspects of eTwinning, put you in touch with experienced university representatives, provide you with examples of good practice and help you organise training and information sessions by experienced eTwinning teachers.

#### STEP 3

Plan concrete activities.

- Organise an information session or training session on eTwinning for yourself and your students.
- Conduct a practice project to familiarise yourself with the eTwinning platform.
- Get in touch with other European teacher education institutions, for example in the eTwinning group eTwinning for Future Teachers and start the European exchange.



Register today via EU login on the European School Education Platform and apply to become an eTwinner:  
[school-education.ec.europa.eu/de/esep/registration-process](https://school-education.ec.europa.eu/de/esep/registration-process)