

eTwinning Seminar
School cooperation in the Danube Region
Linz, 04.-06. Juni 2025



The OeAD organized the eTwinning Danube Region Seminar for the fourteenth time this year. The cooperation event with the Federal Ministry of Education, which coordinates Priority Area 9 of the EU Strategy for the Danube Region, brought together 37 teachers from 11 countries in the Danube Region this year. The overarching goal of the Danube Region Strategy is to provide all citizens of the Danube Region with better opportunities for education, employment and prosperity in their home region.

The eTwinning seminar focused on networking and cooperation with partner schools. On the first day of the seminar, the participants also received background information on the Danube Region Strategy and learned about various projects. In her keynote speech "The EU Strategy for the Danube Region and cooperation in education and training", Sarah Fellner from the OeAD explained Priority Area 9 and the importance of cooperation in the region: *"The Priority Area 'People & Skills' covers policies and actions in the fields of education, training, labour market and inclusion. It's about investing in people and developing skills to meet the demands of the labour market and our rapidly changing, interconnected world. [...] In the end, it is people-to-people contacts through events like this eTwinning seminar that inspire cooperation. To date, more than 500 teachers have participated in these seminars and have developed 140 cooperation projects. This is quite a remarkable number!"*



In keeping with the “Danube” theme, Cyril Dworsky from the Children's Office at the University of Vienna then presented the Mission Ocean project “SHORE”. This initiative to raise awareness and increase skills aims to deepen teachers' and pupils' knowledge and understanding of the water habitat and the sustainable use of our waters (blue literacy). Schools also have the opportunity to apply for project funding.

Afterwards, the seminar participants took part in eTwinning training courses for beginners and advanced learners in order to get to know the possibilities of the European School Education Platform better and to exchange experiences.

After brief words of welcome from the Regional Educational Authority of Upper Austria by Edith Kern-Klambauer, the Austrian eTwinning Ambassador Gerald Landl and his Romanian colleague Ana Clara Grecu presented their eTwinning and Erasmus+ project in a very motivating way and emphasized the importance of the project work: *„We need to get out of the classroom! [...] Projects are essential. Not only for our students, who get the chance to explore the world, but also for ourselves, for the schools where we work, and for the communities we live in.”*

After the lunch break, the participants formed international project groups and defined topics and plans for their school projects. The intercultural exchange continued in the late afternoon with a guided tour of the ARS ELECTRONICA Center in Linz on the topic of *“Artificial Intelligence & Society”*, followed by dinner in the city center.

The second day began with a thematic input by Sophia Beiter from the IDM - Institute for the Danube Region and Central Europe entitled “The Future of European Integration: How to achieve a citizen-based, enlarged and reformed EU”. The Institute is committed to regional cooperation, informed dialog and European integration in Central, Eastern and South-Eastern Europe. With their educational activities, IDM experts impart knowledge about the region and initiate debates that deal with the central issues of our time.

At the end of the seminar, the teams finalized their project ideas in intensive group work and prepared creative project presentations. A total of 12 new eTwinning projects were developed and numerous new contacts for international cooperation were made.



Team Erasmus+ School Education/eTwinning: Ursula Panuschka, Vesna Babaja, Frederic Bayersburg, Katrin Handler, Jesika Lux, Isabel Reiter

All photos © eTwinning-Austria except last Photo ©Linztourismus/Johann Steininger