

Thematic Conference: learning, teaching, exchanging – school cooperations in the Danube region
18 to 19 June 2015, Vienna
Day 1 Bertha von Suttner Schulschiff, Day 2 OeAD-Haus



The conference organized by the National Agency for Lifelong Learning, the Austrian National eTwinning Support Service and PAC 9 focused on teacher cooperation in the Danube Region. The participants had the possibility to learn more about the Danube Region and its challenges in the 21st century and to create future partnerships. On the first day the conference took place at the "Bertha von Suttner Schulschiff", on the second day in the "OeAD-House".

The keynote presentation on "Colours of the Danube Region: Integrating the Differences - Creating a New Mosaic" was held by Vedran Dzihic from the Austrian Institute for International Affairs. An overview of the EU strategy for the Danube region, provided by Jürgen Schick from the Austrian Federal Ministry of Education and Women's Affairs/EU strategy for the Danube region PA 9, as well as general information regarding Erasmus+/eTwinning and the presentation of an Austrian project Erasmus+/eTwinning project regarding the Danube region by the BHAK Linz completed the plenary programme. The participants effectively used the workshops and group works to initiate future Erasmus+/eTwinning-projects. Also, they received some tips by experienced Erasmus+/eTwinning teachers (Christine Kladnik from NMS Gaming and Peter Limbeck from the Akademie der Wirtschaft Neusiedl am See).





Participants included 49 teachers from 12 Danube countries: Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Germany, Hungary, Moldova, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Ukraine. Participants learned more about the platform (www.etwinning.net) and discussed the following four key questions regarding “Cooperations between schools in the Danube Region” in four workshops:

- Why do we need to cooperate?
- What are the challenges in cooperation?
- What are successful ways of quality assurance in projects and mobilities regarding the Danube Region?
- What are the challenges of the teaching profession in the Danube Region?

The thematic conference was extremely successful on all levels, and during the conference 10 new Erasmus+/eTwinning projects in the Danube Region were created. See a list of projects below. Furthermore the conference was also used to celebrate 10th anniversary of eTwinning, e.g. during a quiz about the history of eTwinning in the Danube Region.

Links:

www.etwinning.at

www.etwinning.net

www.bildung.erasmusplus.at

<http://www.peopleandskills-danuberegion.eu/>

List of Erasmus+ /eTwinning projects planned during the conference:

1.	
Title:	One day at school
Countries:	Croatia, Slovakia, Czech Republic, Austria, Romania, Bulgaria
Aims:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Getting to know each other's school organisation and school system - Developing communication, language and presentation skills

2.	
Title:	MOVEMENT COMPETITION FAIRNESS JOY & HEALTH
Countries:	Austria, Hungary, Germany, Ukraine, Romania
Aims:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Raising awareness of the importance of health and fitness for a good lifestyle. Students learn about healthy diets, are motivated for movements and can compete with students from other countries. - Improving English and communication skills - International sports dictionary

3.	
Title:	JOBs Joy – Orientation – Business
Countries:	Germany, Slovakia, Austria, Ukraine, Hungary,
Aims:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Developing job competences and qualifications for the future - Providing the motivation of students - Comparing/raising awareness for job finding, working conditions in other countries etc.

4.	
Title:	Famous people from different countries
Countries:	Croatia, Republic of Moldova, Austria, Ukraine
Aims:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Connecting the past with the present - Appreciating the diversity - Showing the unknown facts of famous people's life - Acknowledging different personalities

5.	
Title:	Our eCountry book
Countries:	Austria, Moldova, Czech Republic, Ukraine
Aims:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Enlarging our knowledge about different countries and people in the Danube region

6.	
Title:	Graffiti – is it an art or vandalism?
Countries:	Ukraine, Germany
Aims:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Showing the governments that graffiti can be true art - Making students acknowledge this problem (of painting on buildings and fences)

7.	
Title:	What does the Danube mean to us?
Countries:	Germany, Slovakia, Hungary, Austria
Aims:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Helping students collect interesting information and visualize it on eTwinning/Twinspace

8.	
Title:	Stereotypes
Countries:	Ukraine and some other countries
Aims:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Developing the students' communication, cooperation, language and IT skills - Helping them get rid of wrong stereotypes and getting to know about different traditional stereotypes

9.	
Title:	Once upon a time
Countries:	Czech Republic, Slovenia
Aims:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Introducing the teams by using pictures. Presenting a legend or a fairy-tale typical for the country or region and creating it as comic or photo story in doing so. Each other team will make a short video scene of the story of the other country.

10.	
Title:	Climate change in the Danube region too?!
Countries:	Germany, Austria
Aims:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Exchanging and analysing weather data of (school) weather stations.