



**Thematic Conference: learning, teaching, exchanging
– school cooperations in the Danube Region
9th to 10th June 2016, Linz International Business School**



The conference organized by the Austrian National Agency for Erasmus+ Education, the Austrian National eTwinning Support Service and PAC 9 focused on teacher cooperation in the Danube Region. The participants had the opportunity to expand their knowledge about the Danube Region, to learn about its challenges in the 21st century and to establish future partnerships. The conference took place at Linz International Business School, a school involved in many international projects in the Danube Region.

Ursula Panuschka from Austrian National Agency for Erasmus+ Education was delighted to welcome about 50 teachers who were prepared to start an international school partnership.

The keynote “Cooperation in the Danube Region – a (new) narrative for European integration?” was held by Sebastian Schäffer and stressed the importance of starting cross-border projects at school level.

An overview of the EU strategy for the Danube region was provided by Jürgen Schick from the Austrian Federal Ministry of Education and Women’s Affairs/EU strategy



for the Danube region PA 9. In addition representatives from Linz International Business School presented their Danube region Erasmus+/eTwinning project and participants received general information about Erasmus+/eTwinning by the National Agency.

Thereupon Austrian pupils welcomed the participants and Romana Sadravetz, head of the European Region Danube – Vltava shared her knowledge as part of the plenary programme. Afterwards participants actively took part in workshops and work groups to initiate future Erasmus+/eTwinning-projects. Additionally, Darina Lopatníková, an experienced eTwinning teacher from Slovakia. Central questions were addressed during the workshops, such as “Why do we need to cooperate?”, “What are the challenges?”, “How can we assure quality in projects?”.



Participants included 47 teachers from 11 Danube Region countries: Austria, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czechia, Germany, Hungary, Moldova, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia and Ukraine. On the evening the participants were invited to a reception and a dinner sponsored by the Province of Upper Austria at the “Landhaus”.

In summary the thematic conference was extremely successful on all levels. 12 new Erasmus+/eTwinning projects in the Danube Region were created, which show a very active and effective participation. See a list of projects below.



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

1.	
Title:	Water of our Rivers
Countries:	Austria, Croatia, Czechia
Aims:	Focus on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - What does history tell us? - Do you recall the big flood, granny? Historical floods and droughts in our region. - Do we have enough water for fish farming, hydroelectric power plants and for river navigability? - How much water do we use up per year, month, day?

2.	
Title:	eWaves
Countries:	Germany, Hungary, Moldova, Ukraine
Aims:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Intercultural awareness - To stress the importance rivers

3.	
Title:	eRunning, eSwimming, eTwinning
Countries:	Austria, Czechia, Hungary, Slovakia
Aims:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Encourage students to do sports, to write about sports, to write about healthy diet for sports - Running competition

4.	
Title:	Around the Danube River
Countries:	Moldova, Ukraine, Romania
Aims:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Recognizing the geographical position of the Danube River - Learning about the other countries and their people - Exchanging experiences - Working with new technologies - Improving language skills - To learn more about ecological problems of the Danube Region



5.	
Title:	Culture e-box
Countries:	Hungary, Ukraine
Aims:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To know more about other cultures, traditions, languages and ICT skills

6.	
Title:	eTwinning Talks
Countries:	Austria, Bulgaria, Czechia, Germany, Moldova,
Aims:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Growth in self-confidence - Improving English and presentations skills of pupils - Establishing international contacts

7.	
Title:	Hit The Iron, Hit The Road!
Countries:	Austria, Czechia, Hungary
Aims:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To discover long forgotten traditions of past industries of our regions

8.	
Title:	Cool Schools – Comparison of our Lifestyles Schools in the Danube Region
Countries:	Austria, Croatia, Slovakia, Slovenia
Aims:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Comparison of lifestyles of teenagers in different countries - Improvement of students' language and ICT skills

9.	
Title:	Live to eat, eat to live
Countries:	Austria, Czechia, Germany
Aims:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Based on the website www.freerice.com from the World Food Programme pupils will work with the topic of the project

10.	
Title:	Let's be healthy
Countries:	Bulgaria, Romania
Aims:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Raise students' awareness of healthy living - Learn more about other lifestyles - Improvement of English and ICT skills

11.	
Title:	Bringing Generations together
Countries:	Austria, Germany, Moldova, Slovakia
Aims:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Learning about the values across generations and countries - Developing language and ICT-skills - Developing soft skills and overcoming prejudices

12.	
Title:	Special species in our Countries
Countries:	Hungary, Republic of Moldova, Slovakia
Aims:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To highlight the importance of nature - To describe the nature of individual countries - To show the diversity of our native countries - To develop communicative and social competences

Links: www.etwinning.at; www.etwinning.net; www.bildung.erasmusplus.at
<http://www.peopleandskills-danuberegion.eu/>