What is a Blog?

The Weblog (shorthand term of Web- log) began as an online journal, with a single author providing hyperlinks to Web sites of interest and posting personal commentaries for the world to read, ponder, and discuss-sometimes rather heatedly (Encyclopaedia Britannica 2006). The blog is a form of Internet publishing that has become an established communication online tool. Bloggers enter posts into a blogging application, add formatting or hyperlinks, and save the post. Entries can include text, hyperlinks, images, or multimedia. Visitors can read postings, submit comments, find blog entries by date, and search the site by keyword. Estimates suggest that more than 50 million people are now blogging, because blogs are easy to create and modify. Many blogs are created for educational reasons since this is a tool for reflection, knowledge building, and sharing. As, John Dale, head of IT services at Warwick University says: "We believe that blogging opens new opportunities for students and staff. It gives students the opportunity to work together in projects".

Blog as collaborative tool in education sessions

Blog is a collaborative tool that enables project teams to communicate and coordinate tasks in an efficient manner. Blogs enable people to be engaged in the knowledge society serving some basic educational functions:

- Blogs can be used as a portal to foster partners' collaboration, because they are easy to create and update efficiently, inform their partners of project requirements, post handouts, notices, assignments, or act as a question and answer board.
- Blogs provide a space where partner schools can work to further develop their project with the advantage of an instant audience. An online mentoring is also possible. Pupils can also participate in cooperative learning activities such as research, sharing ideas, or making suggestions.
- Blogs open the opportunity for students to share their thoughts, to be reactive to another and reflective. When students work together they learn from one another and extend their interaction and learning outside of classroom.
- Blogs could be used as a digital portfolio where student's work is presented, organized and protected.

How to use blogs in your projects

1. At the beginning teachers from all partner schools create a blog, post the project information, and add links to interesting resources and

commentary on project topics. This helps teachers become familiar with technology and students check regularly the online resource. This can be used as a model for students who will begin their own blogging

2. Students from partner schools should begin their entry into blogging by reading posts and respond to them. Teachers should support learning and creative thinking as well as foster reading skills.

3. Students will create their context and make their own posts. Teachers should help their students by giving something specific to write about. Students learn also to upload photos or video.

4. Teachers should encourage interactivity between partner schools. Blogging is not an individual activity, so partners must read each other's work and comment on it. Students could set up an RSS reader to be informed for everything new. Remember: Effective blogs tend to be updated on a regular basis.

Attention! Teachers or students who post their work on a blog (texts, drawings, or pictures) should follow the "Kids' Rules for Online Safety" established by the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children. These rules are designed to protect children's personal information, such as students' last names, addresses, and telephone numbers that are definitely out! The "Kids' Rules for Online Safety" may be viewed at www.iafekids.com/kidsrules.htin.

Sample: http://climatechangeetwinning.blogspot.com/

Group A.1 : …………………… (your names)