

Category: pupils age 16-19 winners and runners up

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Teacher team - eTwinning

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Learning and Teaching Furniture Design in Europe

Germany:marcel-breuer-schule berlin

Turkey:Nazim Candurmaz Dursunbey

Hungary :Kaesz Gyula Technical School

Slovakia :Stredné odborné
ucilište drevárske



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Learning and Teaching Furniture Design in Europe

Description:

- Three vocational schools participated in this eTwinning project from Germany, Hungary and Slovakia.
- The project is also a Comenius Partnership called The East/West-European school partnership “Learning and Teaching Furniture Design in Europe”.



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Learning and Teaching Furniture Design in Europe

Description:

- It represents a close cooperation between vocational schools for cabinetmakers (and similar wood working professions) in the domain of “furniture design”.
- The pupils studied together the history of furniture design in each other’s countries and worked on designs of their own which they compared and commented on.



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Learning and Teaching Furniture Design in Europe

Pedagogical Innovation and Creativity :

In this project we can see an outstanding combination of learning and teaching strategies. There is a well-structured plan from aims to evaluation and all these reflect on the practical results. The ICT help to develop modules and exercises for learning and teaching furniture design in a vocational and intercultural context.



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Pedagogical Innovation and Creativity :

- Student centered learning (teachers act as moderators, fellows and facilitators towards greater access to knowledge, leaving students to create, to express their ideas, thoughts).
- Creative integration of ICT into teaching and learning - individualisation of learning (students used free and open software working at school or at home).



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Pedagogical Innovation and Creativity :

- “deep understanding” (teachers insist on facts and information but also on the comprehension and interpretation of them. The educational process didn't focus on the command of much knowledge but on the ability of students to exhibit genuine understanding).
- Interactivity (common online lessons via a virtual studio, where students from partner schools will present their proposals for furniture, rate them and communicate with each other in English).



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Curricular integration:

The thematic area of “furniture design” includes a nearly infinite number of single issues because it focused on formal, aesthetic, engineering, manufacturing, technical or even philosophical issues. Students could work on this project as part of their schoolwork since they study at vocational schools.

Vocational education subjects (drawing and modelling, technical drawing, technology, informatics)

General education subjects (history, arts, culture, English)



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Collaboration between partner schools:

- Common action plan – defined schedule tasks for each partner (the tasks were divided equally, coordinator corrected some deviations from the planned tasks. Coordinators meetings in Berlin, Liptovský Little Castle, Budapest).



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Collaboration between partner schools:

- Concrete mission for the participating students is the research for regional design standards and -examples, a documentation about these subjects at the studio for learning and designing, the realization and valuation of the design-exercises (according to the didactical-methodical concept) and the construction and the building of the furniture (for instance a sideboard).



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Collaboration between partner schools:

- Common final product (Each partner developed 2 educational modules except the Turks, who prepared just 1).

Examples: Form and function (Made by the trainees and teachers of the Kaesz Gyula Vocational School of Woodworking, Budapest) Arts and Crafts (results from Slovakia).



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Creative use of ICT:

- ICT tools have been used to promote communication; learning strategies of personal storage for information and presentation; facilitate the evaluation of the results.
- Chat, e-mail, Other software (Powerpoint, video, pictures and drawings), Video conference, Virtual learning environment (communities, virtual classes)

Slovak students during virtual lesson



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Sustainability and Transferability:

- This project is an outstanding model for a well structured project. The topic (furniture design) could get a communicating function as a “language of form”, which is able to connect cultures to each other.
- Created concepts may be used for teaching design tech and also as an open material.
- This is a whole school project (cross-curricular / methodology of developing creativity in theoretical and practical instruction)



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What distinguishes it from others in terms of quality :

This project is an example of best practice, since it is providing a complete cycle of action:

- information,
- planning (working out alternatives),
- finding out best solutions,
- putting best solutions into practice,
- reflecting on the results,
- transfer the results to other practical situations.

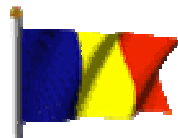


Learning and Teaching Furniture Design in Europe !



Songs, Language & Culture

Thirteen schools collaborated on this project. Seven of them have been awarded a 'quality label' for their work, Italy, Hungary, Sweden, Czech Republic, Spain, Lithuania and Romania.



Songs, Language & Culture

Description:

This project involved the pupils in a topic they are familiar with and through it they reinforced their ability in the use of the ICT. It also aimed to help them reflect upon their own language and English in order to understand in what extent culture is implied in the study of a foreign language. Songs were in every step of the project; as forms of art; as a window to a culture, as examples of English language, usage; as a topic for discussions.



Songs, Language & Culture

Pedagogical Innovation and Creativity :

In this project we can see a prosperous marriage of ICT and media tools. Media were used to promote learning. ICT tools were used to enhance the quality of learning process and to facilitate the collaboration between partner schools.



Songs, Language & Culture

Pedagogical Innovation and Creativity :

- Team work
- Creative integration of ICT – media into teaching and learning
- Highlighting of many skills (taking pictures around the city, translating, reciting, trying to record music, opening accounts in you-tube or voki.com, blogging ...)



Songs, Language & Culture

Curricular Integration :

- The subject promotes the curricular integration and students seem to be strongly motivated to work for this project.
- Subjects: Art, Drama, Foreign Languages, Informatics / ICT, Language and Literature, Media Education, Music



Songs, Language & Culture

Collaboration between partner schools :

- Teachers have created a wiki for planning project activities.
- Students were working collaboratively, as we can see from their comments on blog posts.
- Teachers and students have chats every week.



Songs, Language & Culture

Creative use of ICT :

- A variety of tools is used. ICT tools were used mostly for research, for communication and for publication reasons.
- They have created a blog: <http://edita.edublogs.org/> where they were posting their tasks, comments, the outcome;
- They have used you-tube for recording some of their tasks, multimedia for performing their tasks, watching videos, trying out students' song worksheets.



Songs, Language & Culture

Sustainability and Transferability:

- This project has already been expanded since another project about filming has started, based on the material and experience partners have gained.
- This project can perfectly be used in another country setting.



Songs, Language & Culture

Results :

- [Booklet](#)
- [Project song](#)
- [Project blog](#)
- [Teachers wiki](#)



Songs, Language & Culture

Results and Benefits :

This project is a very good example of an effective collaboration. The strong points are: The collaborative activities, the innovative integration of ICT tools, and the cross curricular approach to knowledge. It also combines a good planning with a high level interactivity between schools.



Songs, Language & Culture



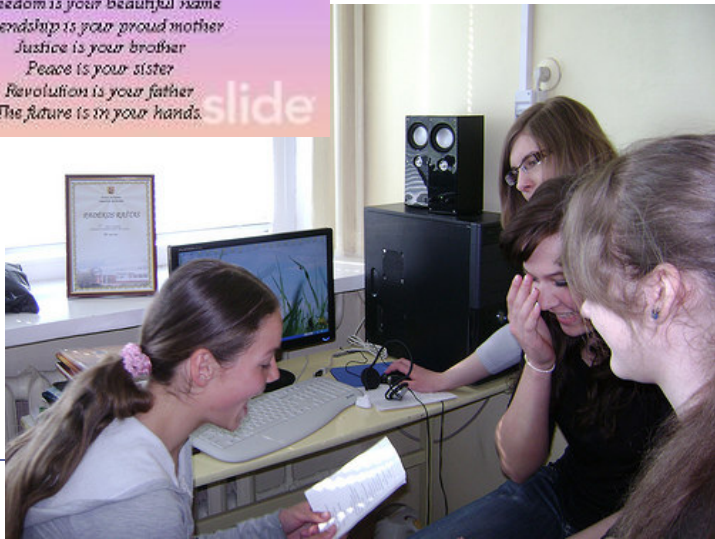
Song to freedom
Björn Afzelius

*You are the most beautiful thing for me
You are the most invaluable thing in the world
You are like the stars
Like the winds
Like the waves
Like the birds
Like all flowers on earth*

*You are my guiding star and friend
You are my faith, my hope, my love
You are my blood
And my lungs
My eyes
My shoulders
My hands and my heart*

*Freedom is your beautiful name
Friendship is your proud mother
Justice is your brother
Peace is your sister
Revolution is your father
The future is in your hands.*

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Thank you!

