

eTwinning and the Project Based Learning approach

Emanuela Leto

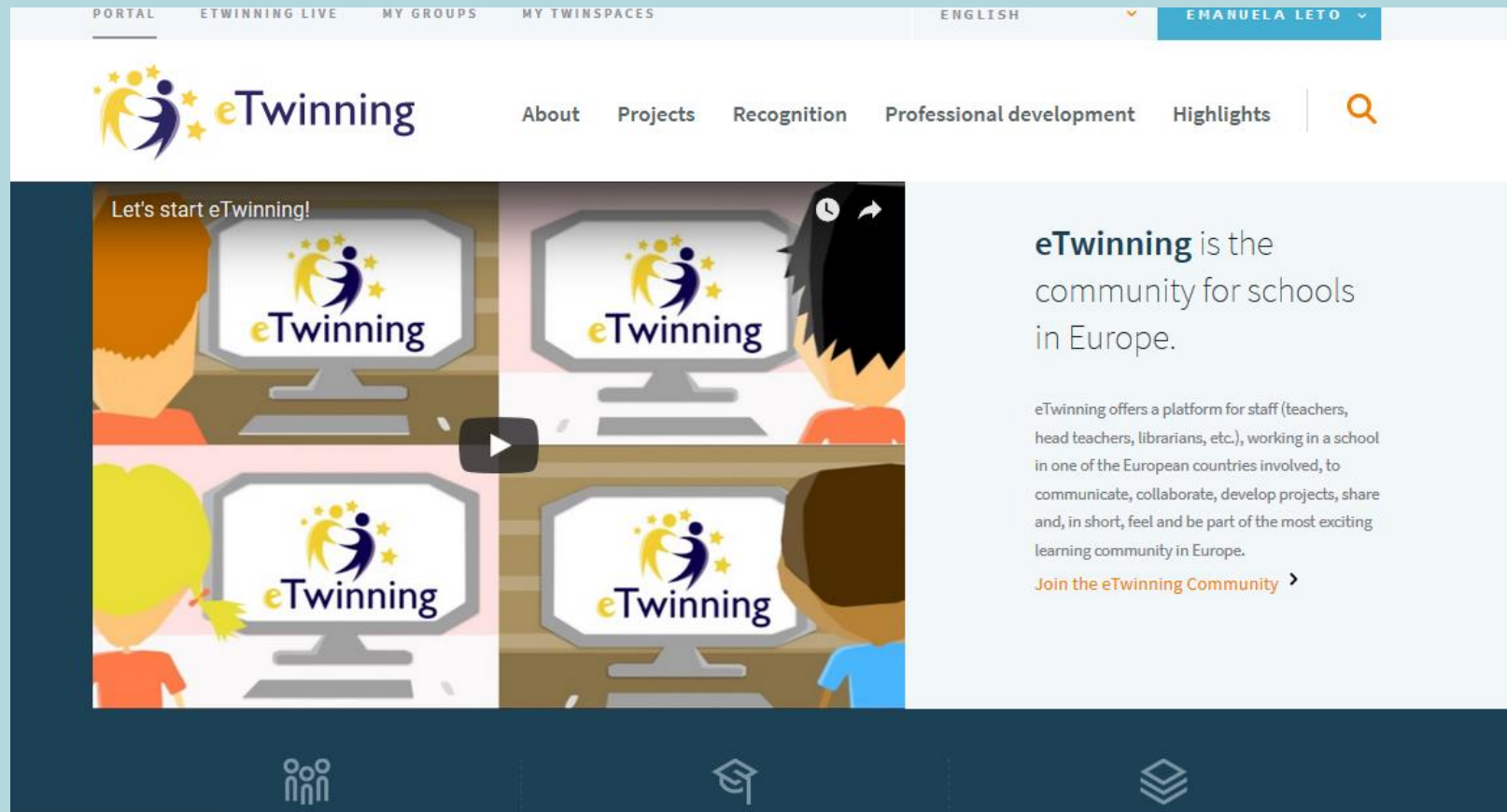
Istituto Comprensivo Laura Lanza Baronessa di Carini

What is eTwinning?



eTwinning is the European platform created in 2005 by the European Union Commission to promote international virtual partnerships and good practices exchanges among European schools. Since 2005 onward, the platform has gone through several changes and nowadays, under the Erasmus program, it is considered a basic instrument of innovation in learning and teaching strategies with particular reference to cross disciplinary and disciplines integration.

eTwinning fosters the use of a PBL approach based on digital tools. This approach is moreover powerfully inclusive as the variety of tools and strategies the whole platform can provide is helpful in coping with learning difficulties, which are a tough challenge for traditional teaching approaches.



The screenshot shows the eTwinning website homepage. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for PORTAL, ETWINNING LIVE, MY GROUPS, MY TWINSACES, ENGLISH, and EMANUELA LETO. Below the navigation bar is the eTwinning logo and a search bar. The main content area features a large video player with the text "Let's start eTwinning!" and a play button. To the right of the video player, there is a text block that reads: "eTwinning is the community for schools in Europe." Below this text, there is a paragraph describing the platform's purpose: "eTwinning offers a platform for staff (teachers, head teachers, librarians, etc.), working in a school in one of the European countries involved, to communicate, collaborate, develop projects, share and, in short, feel and be part of the most exciting learning community in Europe." At the bottom of the page, there is a dark blue footer with three icons: a group of people, a graduation cap, and a stack of books.

PORTAL ETWINNING LIVE MY GROUPS MY TWINSACES ENGLISH EMANUELA LETO

eTwinning About Projects Recognition Professional development Highlights

Let's start eTwinning!

eTwinning is the community for schools in Europe.

eTwinning offers a platform for staff (teachers, head teachers, librarians, etc.), working in a school in one of the European countries involved, to communicate, collaborate, develop projects, share and, in short, feel and be part of the most exciting learning community in Europe.

[Join the eTwinning Community >](#)

What is PBL – Project Based Learning ?

The definition of PBL “Project Based Learning (PBL) is stated by Thomas Markham (Project Based Learning, 2011) who describes project-based learning thus: "PBL integrates knowing and doing. Students learn knowledge and elements of the core curriculum, but also apply what they know to solve authentic problems and produce results that matter. Using PBL students take advantage of digital tools to produce high quality, collaborative products”.

eTwinning and PBL in foreign language teaching

As foreign language teaching is transversal to all school curricula this approach is really effective, as long as CLIL (Content and Language Integrated Learning) . This assumption is at the same time one of the mainframe fundamentals of the Academic plan, based on Beauty and Innovation, belonging to the school where I have been teaching so far, Istituto Comprensivo Laura Lanza Baronessa di Carini, located in Sicily, Italy .

A PBL approach based on eTwinning and on Interculturality characterised around the 80 per cent of the whole academic curricula related to L2 or L3 according to the path the project was covering in each school year.

In this way L2 /L3

Functions

Structures

Contents

Vocabulary

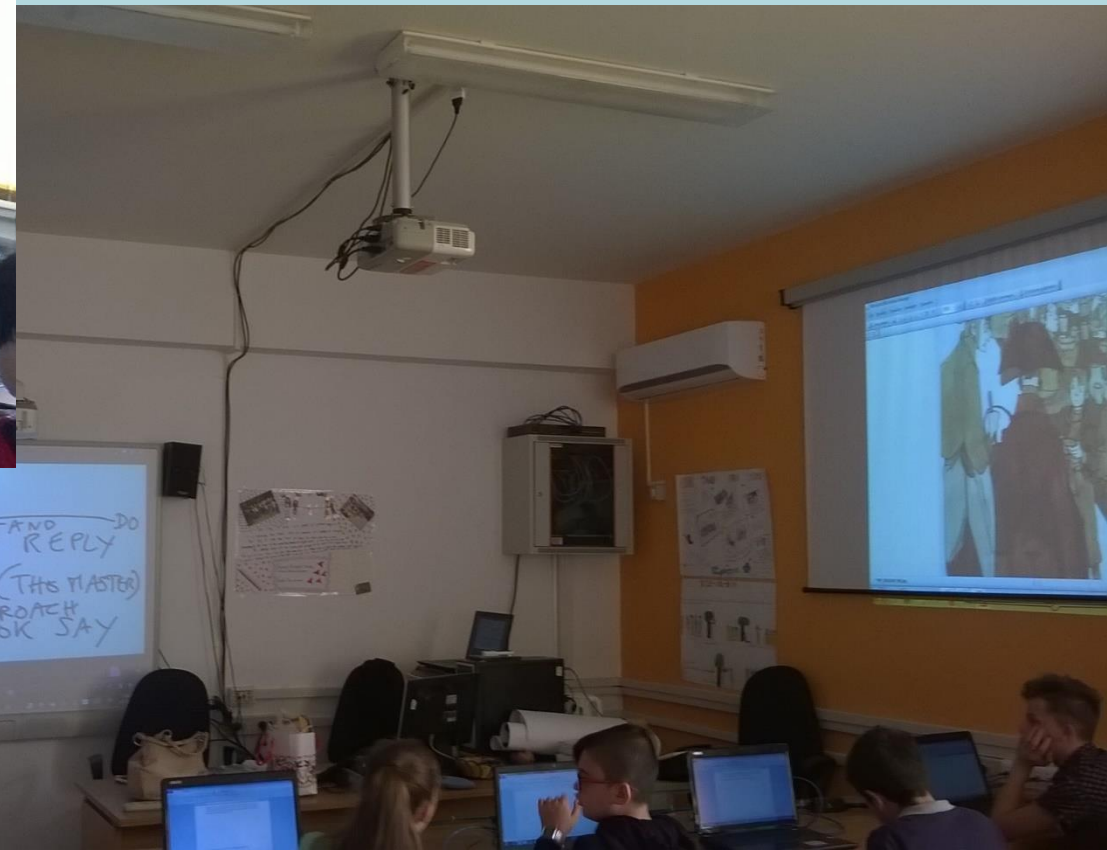
are all related to the Projects topic itself.

Doing things in L2 /L3 . *This is the Key.*

PBL and eTwinning applied to Lab School Asset

In this way a laboratorial asset and the detach from the rigid classes structures is very helpful .In Laura Lanza School spaces are revolutionized from the students' point of view, no static frontal asset with a main desk but open and flexible ones in charge of the students themselves. In particular concerning the Foreign Language field, a Laboratorial working space has been introduced where the new path in the acquisition of language skills could take place in the most suitable way. The lab was ICT equipped and had a flexible set-up.

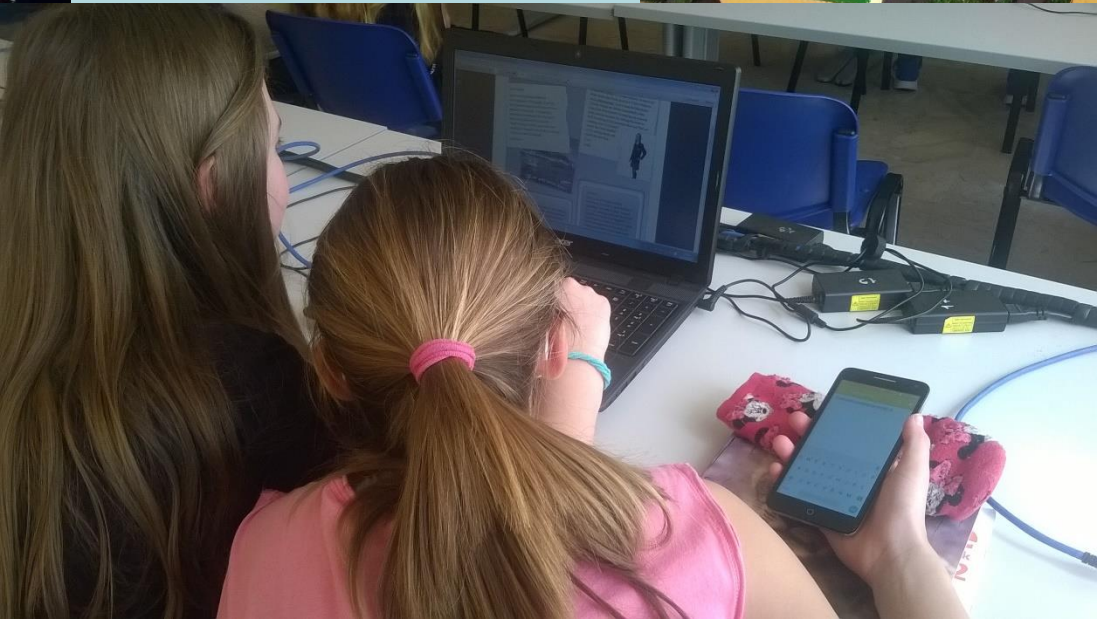
The Intercultural Lab in Laura Lanza School



MORE FOOD.

TELL	ASK	OLIVER	STAND	DO
			REPLY	
		MR BUMBLE (THE MASTER)	REPROACH	
COME		LOOK	SAY	

Students working in the Intercultural Lab



eTwinning projects and PBL experience in Laura Lanza school

In around 9 years, in Laura Lanza school, about 40 eTwinning projects were carried on involving around 200-250 students working within the same class or in paired classes. Most of these projects were awarded by the European Quality Label, a recognition of the added European value of the project by the European eTwinning Board.

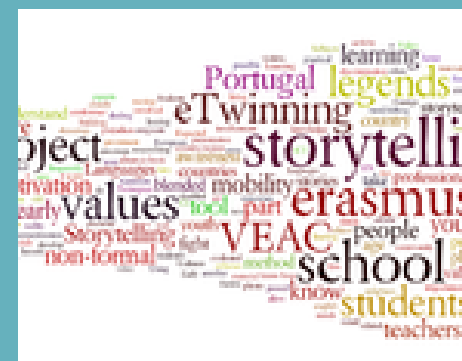


Two examples

A Brave New Nation: The Rainbow Citizens



Values: The Essence of an Active Citizen - The StoryTelling
Corner



Title: A Brave New Nation The Rainbow Citizens.

Age of the Students: 12-14

Partners of the project:

Italy I C Laura Lanza Baronessa di Carini, Carini(PA)

France Collège du Revermont, Bourg En Bresse

The Netherlands CSG Calvinj vestiging Groene Hart, Barendrecht

Disciplines involved: Citizenship, Environmental Education, Foreign Languages, Geography, Natural Sciences, and Technology

Language: English

My job for our Nation
(Mathematicians)

A New National Anthem

Our National Sport and Dance

Our T.V shows: Save the planet!

Think Green (Our designers)

Our Village Rebuilt (Our engineers and architects)

Recycling: our new passion!

The Rainbow Food

TOGETHER FOR A BRIGHT FUTURE: EXPO MILANO 2015 VIDEO

Dear partners,

This is the first step, each partner will have their pupils introduce themselves so as to draw a class profile. In order to help the pupils build a Rainbow Nation, and reflect all the colours of their future citizens, it will be interesting at this stage to know the pupils' different origins, if any, and the languages they can speak. They will state their likes, dislikes and other interests that will help us organize international teams of pupils later on. And last but not least, they will give their opinion about environmental issues and speak about their own habits.
Activity's deadline: end of November
Add your photos to the map below.

Where to find us: Just click on the cities to get additional information and videos.



Maps of Australia at StepMap
GET READY!

Watch this little animation I have created to help you with your task!

The ecological home better preserves our planet!



made with **Smilebox**
This free photo slideshow created with Smilebox.

RAINBOW ITALY: OUR IDEAL CITY! ❤️



By emmanuela leto | 2 Views, 0 Comments | Flag

Italian project for the ideal house in the new town

26 March 2014 09:52



The main aim was that to promote citizenship and environmental awareness. A simulated real situation was stated in a PBL. The main topic was the imaginary rebuilding of the students' hometown after a climate disaster due to pollution and abuse of earth resources in which they were, the only survivors. Like the Pilgrim Fathers, they had to plan and manage a new society through practical real tasks, although in a simulated scenario.

Our new rules, by citizens for citizens

Our Rescue Team: Volunteers ready to help!

Our Museum: A Memorial to the catastrophe

Our Survival Kit (Scientists)

A Flag for Our Nation (Mathematicians)

A New National Anthem

Our National Sport and Dance

Our T.V shows: Save the planet!

Think Green (Our designers)

Our Village Rebuilt (Our engineers and architects)

Recycling: our new passion!

The Rainbow Food

TOGETHER FOR A BRIGHT FUTURE: EXPO MILANO 2015 VIDEO

31 March 2015 10:45

And here we are! Our project leads us to a universal exhibition! Let's tell the world how great it all was to work together on this Brave New World!

Our mutual video for the International Exhibition in Milano 2015!!



made with
Smilebox
This slideshow made with Smilebox

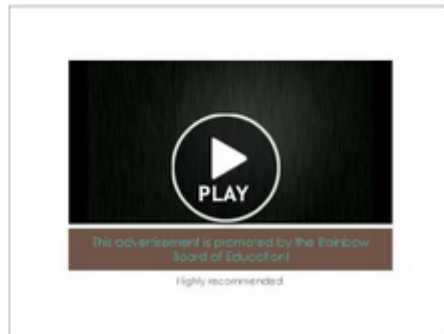
But don't forget our team's last recommendations over the summer holidays:

LET'S NOT WASTE!

USE LESS ENERGY and WATER = SAVE THE EARTH

BE RESPONSIBLE 💡 😊

Watch our great advertisement! By Rainbow France. 🇫🇷



The final project outputs, the Ideal city plan and its realization on a scale model, were disseminated on the occasion of EXPO in Milan in 2015.

Title: Values - The Essence of an Active Citizen- The Storytelling corner

Age of the Students: 11-14

Partners of the project:

Italy I C Laura Lanza Baronessa di Carini, Carini(PA)

Portugal Agrupamento de Escolas Cego do Maio Póvoa de Varzim, Portugal

Poland Zespół Szkół Szkoła Podstawowa Pobiedziskach Pobiedziska

Estonia Kuusalu Keskkool, Kuusalu

Turkey Esenler ENGİN CAN GÜRE ORTAOKULU Esenler

Norway Kvaale skule. Sogndal

Croatia Osnovna škola Otona Ivekovića, Zagreb

Disciplines involved: Foreign Languages, Language and Literature, Arts,

Language: English



Support



PEOPLE

EVENTS

PROJECTS

GROUPS

PARTNER FORUMS

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT



Values - The Essence of an Active Citizen- The Storytelling corner

📅 Registered on 25.11.2015 · Closed ●

ACTIVITY

ABOUT

MEMBERS

PICTURES

LIKES

3



GO TO TWinspace



SIMILAR PROJECTS



Gifted European Mathematician
(G.E.M)
11.06.2018

About the project

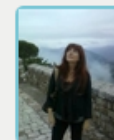
Storytelling – a non-formal learning tool to fight ESL: this project is part of the Erasmus Ka2 project on Early School Leaving "Values - The Essence of an Active... [Read more](#)

JOURNAL

Browse in public mode ⁱ

SETTINGS 

Welcome
Emanuela Leto



Values - The Essence of an Active Citizen- The Storytelling corner ⁱ



Storytelling – a non-formal learning tool to fight ESL: this project is part of the Erasmus Ka2 project on Early School Leaving "Values - The Essence of an Active Citizen" . It will deal with the activities of Storytelling (C1- blended mobility of school learners) which will take place in Portugal on March 2016. In its twinspace all materials an...



Pages ⁱ

- 1- DEFINITIONS
- 2 - ART OF STORYTELLING
- 3 - LEGENDS
- 4 - WORKSHOP - The Forge of Storytellers (Portugal)

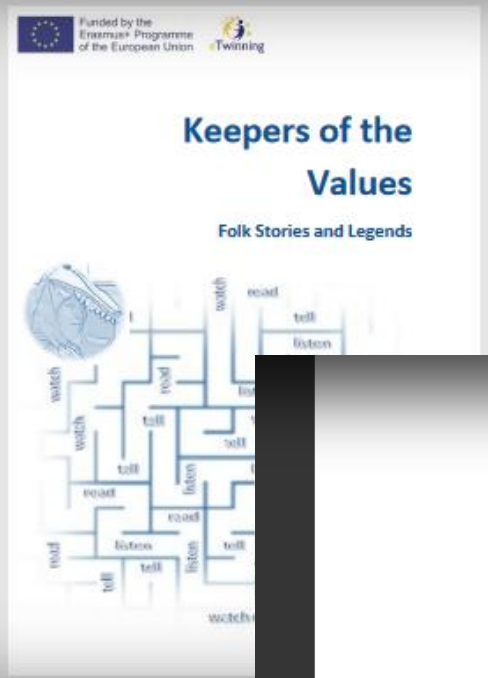


Images ⁱ



Videos ⁱ





The other project was supporting one of the school financed Erasmus Plus Ka2 partnerships involving students of the same age. The main aim of this project was to experience useful strategies to fight early school leaving. One of the strategies was a non-formal educational tool, the Art of Storytelling.

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[Legends and stories performed by each team of the Erasmus+ Project at the Storytelling Festival in Portugal](#)

- [\(CROATIA\)](#)
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- [\(TURKEY\)](#)
- [\(ESTONIA\)](#)
- [\(PORTUGAL\)](#)

TEAMS

[Legends and Stories in National Languages](#)

- [Babina Bilka](#)
- [La Leggenda di Artù nell'Etna](#)
- [Jostedalsrypa](#)
- [Legenda o Smoku Wawelskim](#)
- [Dede Korkut ve Öjüm Meleği](#)
- [Kalevipoeg](#)
- [A Lenda do Galo de Barcelos](#)

This *ebook* is for pupils, teachers and all those who enjoy stories and storytelling.

It is the final product of the activities developed in the meeting that took place in Portugal in March 2016 and is part of the Erasmus+ Project **VEAC – The Essence of an Active Citizen**.

In the meeting we heard and travelled in the legends and stories of the seven countries. In this *ebook* we can have the same feelings by reading and watching the pictures and videos created during a Storytelling Festival.

Europe is rich in folktales and legends. All the countries in this project have their own special stories, be it a legend, a Dark Age mystery, a strange happening or a fable and this *ebook* gathers legends from each country in the project.



Participating schools:

- [Otona Ivekovića Primary School](#) - Croatia
- [L. Comp. Laura Lanza Baronessa di Carini](#) - Italy
- [Kvåle School](#) - Norway
- [Zespół Szkół w Pobiedziskach](#) - Poland
- [Kuusalu Secondary School](#) - Estonia
- [Engin Can Gure Secondary School](#) - Turkey
- [AE Cego do Maio](#) – Portugal

Arthurian legend in Etna

(ITALY)



Storyteller assistant: Everybody knows that in Sicily Mount Etna lies. It is a huge flaming volcano topping the town of Catania, a mount called whatsoever Mangibello. The citizens still tell that, among its desert inners, you can find traces of the ancient residence of the legendary King Arthur.

And now we are going to tell about his staying in Etna valleys. But to give greater honour to the Noble King I will give the word to my Master, famous and gracious storyteller of all the times.

Storyteller: My noble, dear audience, I would like to tell you a short tale showing the greatness and magnanimity of a so Noble Monarch. You

The result was an eBook on legends assembled by teachers and students in both languages, mother tongue of each country taking part to the project and second language.

https://issuu.com/erasmusveac/docs/keepers_of_the_values

The way in which eTwinning and PBL are related is one of the most effective way for students to learn and improve foreign language competences, but also mother tongue. The twinspace and the project moreover affords to use most languages and they have an inclusive value for students with less advantaged in their levels of acquisition of competences and contents. Moreover the use of a virtual platform, the detach from a traditional school curricula promotes engagement, and motivation as the students feel they are doing something concrete and effective, a way towards which school plan have to tend.

In Laura Lanza School these experiences way of teaching gave birth to the Intercultura Academic project in which cultural awareness and exchanges were the basis of foreign language learning open to all disciplines. A working place based on communication in which language is the tool and which learning by doing is a duty, a duty to raise competences, motivation and success in students in the optic of Long Life Learning for the sake of European tomorrow citizens .



Credits and references

www.eTwinning.net

<https://twinspace.etwinning.net/14866/home>

<http://new-twinspace.etwinning.net/web/p98781/welcome>

Leto E. Bringing together digital learning and language learning, Open Education Europa Newsletter, www.openeducationeuropa.eu/en/news/bringing-together-digital-learning-and-language-learning 2013

Finocchiaro G., Autonomia e innovazione, quaderni Laura Lanza, I, 2009, ora ed. Carlo Saladino, Palermo, 2014, 119-120

www.iclauralanza.it/jml/etwinning

Thanks for your Attention!