

The background of the slide is a light gray gradient. It is decorated with numerous realistic water droplets of various sizes. Some droplets are large and prominent, while others are small and subtle. They are scattered across the slide, with a higher concentration in the top-left and bottom-right corners. The droplets have a glossy, reflective surface with highlights and shadows, giving them a three-dimensional appearance.

DIGITAL FOREIGN LANGUAGE LEARNING IN THE "INTERCULTURA" LAB

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“ AN OPPORTUNITY FOR CHANGE IN SCHOOL APPROACH CAN BE ACHIEVED WITH A SCHOOL NOT "USING " LANGUAGES FOR CONCEALED PURPOSES, BUT MAKING FOREIGN LANGUAGES EQUAL INSTRUMENTS FOR THE EDUCATION AND TRAINING OF STUDENTS IN AN INTERCULTURAL PERSPECTIVE, THROUGH MULTILINGUAL EDUCATION”

“ AN INNOVATIVE SETTING ,INTERCULTURAL AND MULTILINGUAL, OF THE SCHOOL, WOULD RESTORE TODAY THE ROLE OF VEHICULAR LANGUAGES TO THE FOREIGN LANGUAGES FOR THE ACQUISITION OF SPECIFIC CONTENTS AND COMPETENCES.”

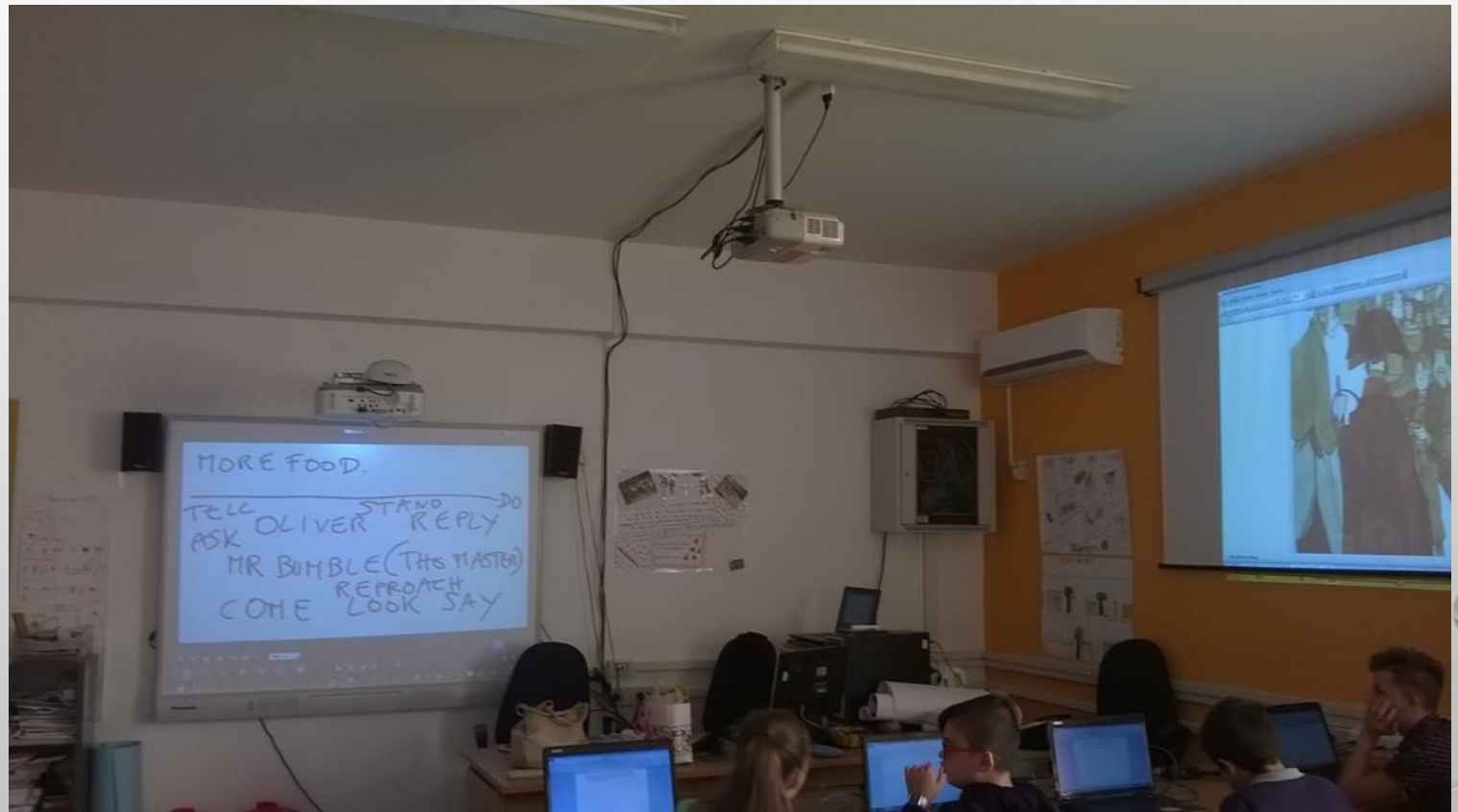
(G.FINOCCHIARO, PER UNA SCUOLA POLIGLOTTA,2018)



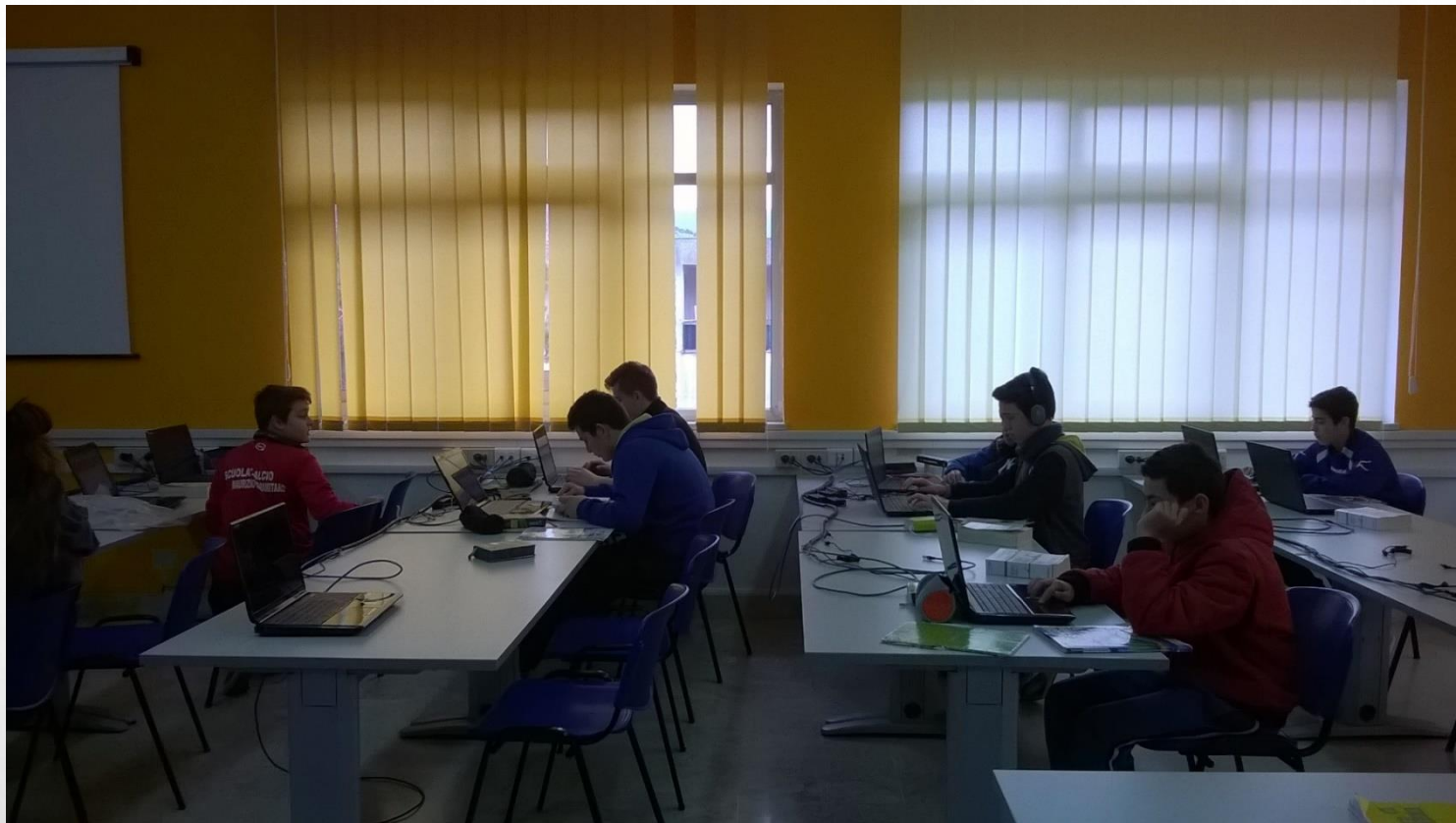
AMONG THE MOST INNOVATIVE AND CHALLENGING STRATEGIES IN FOREIGN LANGUAGE LEARNING, DIGITAL TOOLS PLAY A STRATEGIC ROLE. IN PARTICULAR CONCERNING ENGLISH AS A FOREIGN LANGUAGE AS ALL THE BASIC VOCABULARY RELATED TO ICT IS ENGLISH LANGUAGE BASED.

INNOVATIVE APPROACHES FOSTERING THE USE OF DIGITAL TOOLS ARE ESSENTIAL IN IMPLEMENTING LANGUAGE SKILLS. IN THE FOREIGN LANGUAGE INTERCULTURA LAB OF THE *ISTITUTO COMPRENSIVO LAURA LANZA BARONESSA DI CARINI*

WHERE I CURRENTLY TEACH
AND THAT I PERSONALLY RUN
IN SCHOOL YEARS 2009.-2017.
THIS INPUT WAS THOROUGHLY
PROMOTED ENCOURAGING
BOTH AUTONOMY
AND TEAMWORK IN STUDENTS



A photograph of a computer lab. In the foreground, a computer monitor displays a Windows 7 desktop with various icons and the Windows logo. The room has large windows with yellow blinds and a projector screen on the left wall. Several laptops are open on desks in the background.

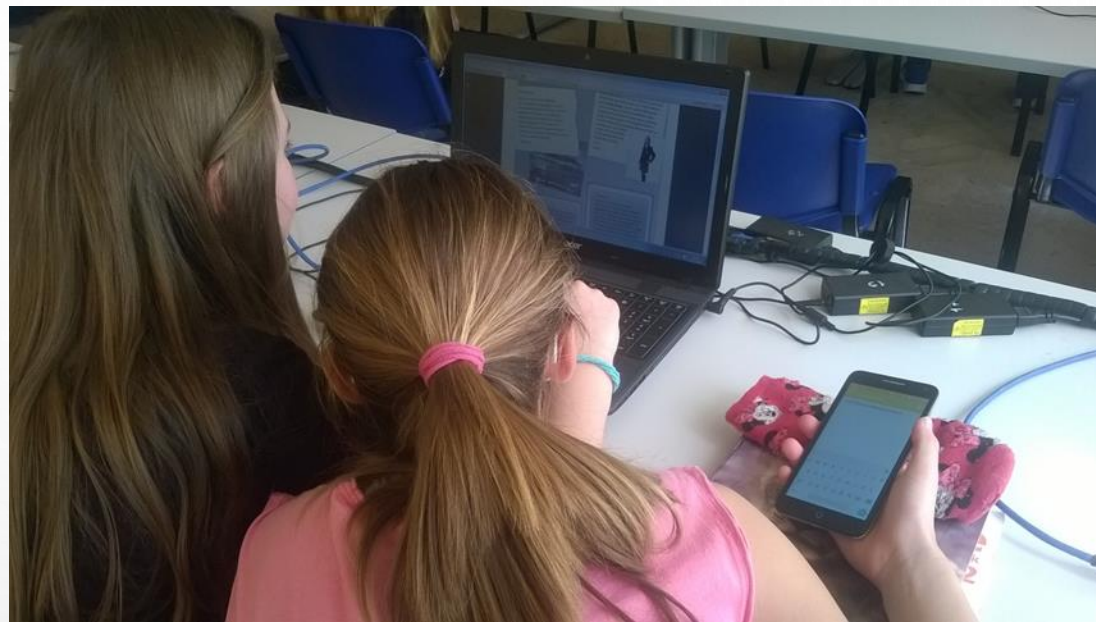


EDUCATION TO THE SECOND LANGUAGE STARTS REALLY SOON IN MOST EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM, NONETHELESS ITALY IS ONE OF THE LATEST IN THE EUROPEAN FRAMEWORK FOR LEVEL OF GOOD FOREIGN LANGUAGE USERS (ENGLISH SPECIFICALLY) AND PARTICULARLY, SICILY IS THE SECOND TO LAST IN THE ITALIAN CONTEXT .ACTUALLY, ALTHOUGH SOME IMPROVEMENT HAS BEEN ACHIEVED IN THREE YEARS OF MONITORING BY THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION , SUGGESTS THAT “IN PARTICULAR ...IN ITALY IT WOULD BE REALLY USEFUL TO ADOPT IN PUBLIC EDUCATION THE MOST PRACTICAL COMMUNICATIVE ASPECTS OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE” (EF EPI 2017)

A GOOD BASIC ASSUMPTION IS TO CHOOSE
TOOLS AND METHODOLOGIES THAT CAN BE
FLEXIBLE AND NEAR TO THE DAILY LIFE

OF THE STUDENTS TO ACQUIRE COMPETENCES AND REUSE THEM IN AN OPTIC OF LONG LIFE
LEARNING.

THIS WAS THE HINT GIVEN TO THE BUILDING UP OF A LABORATORIAL SPACE FOR SECOND
LANGUAGE LEARNING IN OUR SCHOOL. THE LAB AS A LEARNING SPACE TO PROMOTE A BETTER
LEVEL OF ACQUISITION OF SKILLS IN FOREIGN LANGUAGE WAS CONCEIVED WITHIN THE
FRAMEWORK OF OUR SCHOOL ACADEMIC PLAN BASED ON "BEAUTY AND INNOVATION".

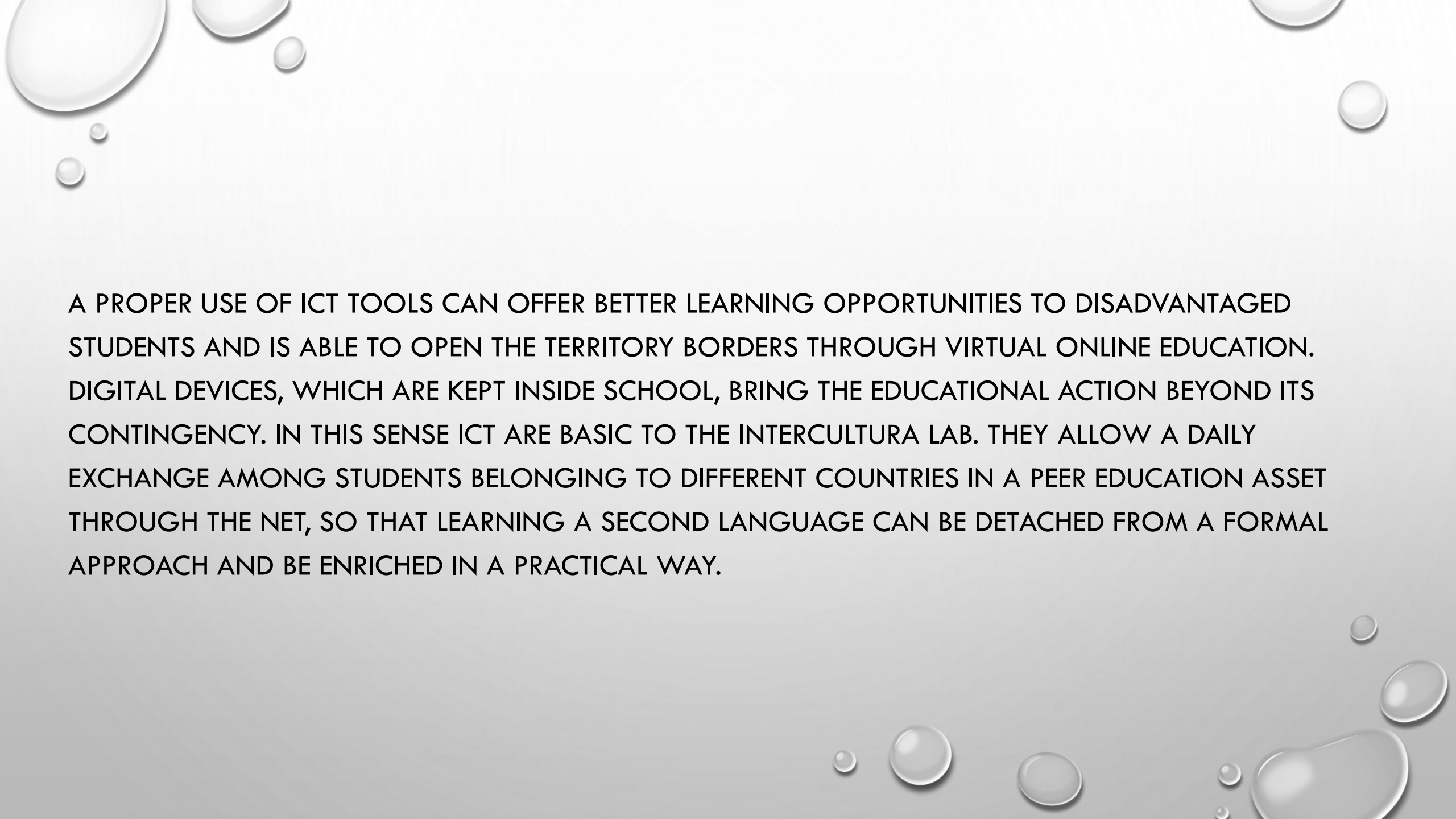


OUR LANGUAGE LAB MOREOVER EMPLOYS THE FOREIGN LANGUAGES NOT AS A GOAL BUT AS A LEARNING TOOL IN AN INTERCULTURAL DIMENSION. STUDENTS LEARN LANGUAGES THROUGH THEIR USE TO ACCOMPLISH “OTHER” TASKS; IN THIS WAY, THEIR LEARNING ATTITUDE ACQUIRES AN INTERCULTURAL DIMENSION.



OF COURSE, THE USE OF ICT TOOLS HAS TO BE ADAPTED ACCORDING TO THE SPECIFIC SOCIAL CONTEXT. IN SOME SOCIAL ENVIRONMENTS AN EXCESSIVE USE OF ICT CAN PRODUCE AN EXTRA EXPOSITION OF THE STUDENTS TO A VIRTUAL WORLD THEY PRIVATELY ABUSE . ON THE OTHER SIDE THERE ARE DISADVANTAGED SOCIAL CONTEXTS WHERE WITHOUT A PUBLIC SCHOOL EDUCATION TO NEW TECHNOLOGIES STUDENTS WOULDN'T BE ADEQUATELY TRAINED TO A PROPER USE OF DIGITAL TOOLS .



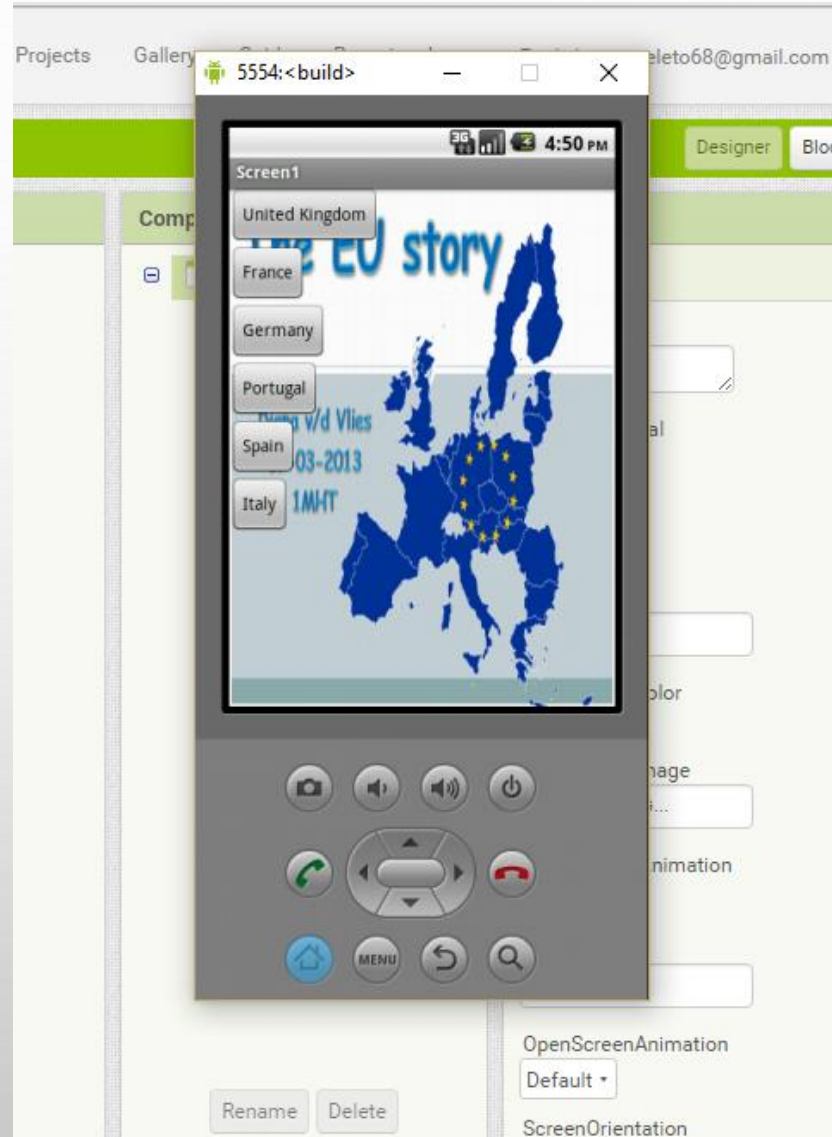


A PROPER USE OF ICT TOOLS CAN OFFER BETTER LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES TO DISADVANTAGED STUDENTS AND IS ABLE TO OPEN THE TERRITORY BORDERS THROUGH VIRTUAL ONLINE EDUCATION. DIGITAL DEVICES, WHICH ARE KEPT INSIDE SCHOOL, BRING THE EDUCATIONAL ACTION BEYOND ITS CONTINGENCY. IN THIS SENSE ICT ARE BASIC TO THE INTERCULTURA LAB. THEY ALLOW A DAILY EXCHANGE AMONG STUDENTS BELONGING TO DIFFERENT COUNTRIES IN A PEER EDUCATION ASSET THROUGH THE NET, SO THAT LEARNING A SECOND LANGUAGE CAN BE DETACHED FROM A FORMAL APPROACH AND BE ENRICHED IN A PRACTICAL WAY.

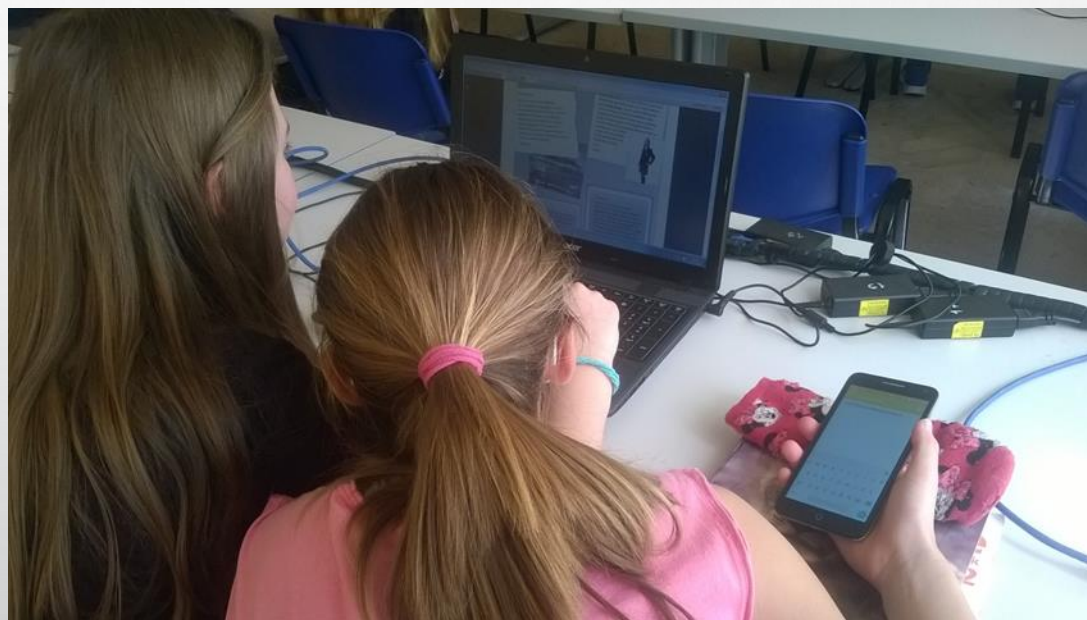
ICT TOOLS ARE CONSIDERED A LEARNING TRANSVERSAL INSTRUMENT OF ACQUISITION OF LANGUAGES AND CONTENTS . THE USE OF LAPTOPS IS ASSOCIATED WITH THE USE OF SPECIFIC SOFTWARE, BUT ALSO TO PRODUCE NEW CONTENTS. DIFFERENT TOOLS ARE EXPLOITED ALSO TO FACILITATE LEARNING PROCESSES AND MANIPULATING CONTENTS.



SOFTWARE TO BUILD UP MIND MAPS (MINDMUP, MINDOMO, COGGLE ETC),
ONLINE QUIZZES AND QUESTIONNAIRES (KAHOOT, EDMODO TESTS) AS WELL AS
VIRTUAL CLASSROOM PLATFORMS
ENGAGE BOTH STUDENTS AND TEACHERS
IN RESEARCHING, EXPLORING ,
DEVELOPING , SHARING AND CREATING
NEW CONTENTS RELATED TO DIFFERENT
TOPICS , TOPICS LINKED TO THE WHOLE
EDUCATIONAL CURRICULA (SCIENCE,
HISTORY, GEOGRAPHY, LITERATURE, ARTS,
TECHNOLOGY).



PERMITTING ON THE OTHER SIDE THE STUDENTS TO EMPLOY THEIR MOBILES (BYOD) FOR EDUCATIONAL PURPOSES ,NEXT TO A LAPTOP OR A PERSONAL COMPUTER , AFFORDS THIS GENERATION OF DIGITAL “TOUCHISTS”(USERS OF DIGITAL “TOUCH” DISPOSITIVE), TO COMPARE THE USE OF THE SAME SOFTWARE ON DIFFERENT DEVICES AND TO REALIZE SIMILARITIES AND DIFFERENCES.





THE CONTENTS ARE TRANSVERSAL TO MOST DISCIPLINES, EXPLOITED AND REMASTERED THROUGH THESE TOOLS, PROMOTING THE ACQUISITION OF SPECIFIC VOCABULARY. MOST OF THE TOOLS ARE VISUAL, LIKE MULTIMEDIA PRESENTATIONS OR VIDEOS, SINCE BUILDING UP BOTH IMAGES AND TEXTS MAKES LEARNING FOREIGN LANGUAGE AND CONTENTS EASIER.



DESPITE THE DISADVANTAGED CONTEXT, IN AROUND NINE YEARS OF EXPERIMENTATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF INNOVATIVE METHODOLOGIES BASED ON ICT, THE LEVEL OF ACQUISITION OF FOREIGN LANGUAGES, IN PARTICULAR ENGLISH HAS INCREASED YEAR BY YEAR AMONG OUR STUDENTS IN LAURA LANZA SCHOOL AS WELL AS THE LEVEL OF INTEREST AND MOTIVATION.

A SURVEY CARRIED OUT IN OUR SCHOOL IN 2016 PROMOTED BY THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION HAS GIVEN A POSITIVE FEEDBACK IN COMPARISON TO THE NATIONAL BENCHMARK OF PROPER STANDARD LEVEL OF ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE. THIS ENCOURAGED US TO FOLLOW THE PATH WE HAVE BEEN TAKING SO FAR.

THE CHALLENGE IS NOT EASY AS WE FACE EACH DAY MORE AND MORE DIFFICULTIES DUE TO THE INCREASING ECONOMICAL, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL PAUPERIZATION OF THE CONTEXT WE WORK WITHIN. YET IT IS NECESSARY TO PERSIST FOR THE SAKE OF OUR STUDENTS IN THE PERSPECTIVE OF THEIR BEING OUR FUTURE EUROPEAN CITIZENS.



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THANKS FOR YOUR ATTENTION