



## **The “Sign up and Connect” eTwinning Project: an Intercultural Approach to Teaching English as a Foreign Language**

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### **Abstract**

Learning a foreign language does not only involve the mastery of a system of linguistic norms but it also requires intercultural understanding, the competency to see the world in a different perspective. Taking this into consideration, foreign language education has a crucial role to play in fostering the use of English as an intercultural language to interact with people from different cultural backgrounds. The problem is that most European foreign language learners have very few opportunities for ‘real’ intercultural contact.

The eTwinning action from the European Union elearning programme represents an opportunity for intercultural contact as it cuts geographical distances through integrating ICT tools in the classroom. The integration of eTwinning appears to be the key to achieve the major goals for a life-long education of the twenty-first century as reported to UNESCO of the International Commission on Education for the Twenty-first Century by Jacques Delors (1996) which is based on four pillars: learning to know, learning to do, learning to live together and learning to be.

In this paper we will present the results of a successful curricular integration of an eTwinning project which is being developed as a teaching strategy grounded on intercultural interaction mediated by ICT tools between students and teachers from different countries.

As eTwinning project is based on the principles of collaborative and cooperative learning, it is expected to introduce changes in the teaching process and to the design of a learner-oriented curriculum for the acquisition of intercultural communicative competence. In parallel, it will have an impact on the learning process as it will engage learners in learning and using the foreign language to communicate with students from other cultures to accomplish a set of collaborative tasks.