

## Lifelong Learning Together: From Ewinning To Comenius Project

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### 1. Our eTwinning projects

The cooperation among us began thanks to the eTwinning platform, which is the **Community for schools in Europe**. Working on it gave us the opportunity to meet ourselves, to exchange ideas and practice examples and to cooperate together creating projects and using Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) to carry out our work.

#### 1.1 "Searching Twelve Labours to Hercules"

The eTwinning project "Searching Twelve Labours to Hercules" involved our school, the IES "Vegas Bajas" of Montijo (Spain) and the Liceo "Lombardo Radice" of Catania.

This was a collaborative project among pupils from different European countries, whose main aim was learning about Hercules using ICT tools as much as possible. Therefore the pupils from all partner schools had to study the twelve labours of the famous mythological hero and then to create a joint series of new labours for him (pollution, unemployment, lack of respect for our monuments or environment, drugs, traffic jams) and to find possible solutions.

Our Spanish partner prepared the workspace for our project. The first step was developing a Webquest into English, Italian and Spanish, through which students could know exactly the various project phases, tasks and resources they could use.

Pupils could insert in a Wiki their works, such as introductions, presentations of ancient labours of Hercules, proposals of new labours and possible solutions. They could use virtual encyclopedias, pictures, mind maps, time lines, cartoons and even Google maps. In the wiki pupils had also vote for the best solutions provided by their European friends.



### 1-Nemeae leo

• Leo in Nemeae valle,  
cavernis hospitalibus  
plena, habitabat et  
terrorem omnibus  
iniciebat. Nulla arma eum  
sauciabant, nihil ei  
mortem dabat. Eurystei  
iussu, Hercules leonem  
occidit. Iuppiter leonem in  
sidus vertit, ut suum  
filium honoraret.

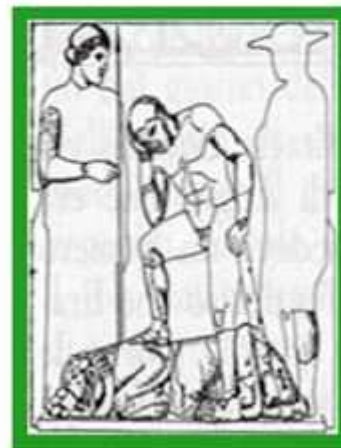


Fig. 1 Sample of presentation of Hercules'labours into Latin

We used also a blog to insert posts about Hercules with references to various actual aspects, such as literature, sculpture, art, archeology, music, cinema, comics ...

This project was succesfull for us and involved our pupil so much that it was only the beginning of a beautiful friendship and we decided to go on with our cooperation and to start a new adventure together...



### 1.2 “An ET (winning project) between us”

We developed together another eTwinning project called “An ET (winning project) between us”, in which we simulated an Alien visited us and wanted to know the Classical references of our European culture, and the pupils had to help him to better understand them. This project involved also three new schools for Alcoy (Spain), Chelles (France) and Mühlenweg (Germany).

It was based on activities and puzzles through the use of Web 2.0 tools and it was a methodological study in teaching classical languages and cultures, with a set of activities for the interaction among the students of the participating schools from different points of view. It tried to optimize teaching and to motivate pupils so that they achieved better results. The enthusiasm shown by students was more than enough to proof that we were on track.

The objectives of this project were:

1. to arouse interest and curiosity for classic antiquity;
2. to approach consciously the classical world;
3. to recognize morphological, syntactic and lexical elements in Latin texts;
4. to recognize the Latin origin of our language;
5. to know the meaning of gods and heroes of classical mythology;
6. to appreciate the contributions of Greeks and Romans to the Western culture;
7. to know the value of mythology in many Western cultures.

Pupils had to write simple texts in Latin, to understand Latin texts and to know elements of Greek and Roman architecture and mythology. They were invited to recognize the influence of the classical world in the present and to know elements of classical myths and to appreciate their presence in modern cultures.

The partners worked out together all the activities of this project, such as its evaluation, developing interaction, methodological study and teaching of new technologies. Our workspaces were a webquest translated into the languages of the project participants; the Twinspace [1]; a Google Site [2] for the activities and puzzles; a blog [2] shared by students and teachers, including contributions related to each topic; the Ning private social network, in which we tested interaction activities and methodological study.

The list of activities, all related to classical world, was very wide and various. One of the most beautiful was to reuse of the lyrics *In taberna quando sumus*, song that appear in the *Carmina Burana*. On its we created a version called *In Schola quando sumus* and students from various schools chose a different modern music to sing it.

The activities were carried out through the use of many web resources, pupils could choose depending on their needs. They used gmail, Twinspace, Google Docs to communicate; Wikipedia such as information source; Calameo, SlideBoom, Slideshare, Prezi to share presentations; Youtube, Ivoox, dotSub, Imagelcop, Flickr, Expono to share multimedia; Google Sites, Blogger, Ning, TwinSpace for publication and dissemination; and many other web tools like Google Maps, Google Earth, Scribd, Bubbl.us, etc.



Fig. 2 The results of the competition in problem solving among pupils

One of the most important results of this project was the pedagogical experimentation. In fact, a large part of the proposed activities can be applied anywhere in Latin Europe, and such a project can promote the relationship among European pupils.

The amount of produced material demonstrates that pupils felt motivated and fascinated by this new way of approaching the classical world.

This eTwinning project, like the other one, was awarded with the European Quality Label. That's why we decided to go on with our cooperation creating a new project...

### 1.3 “A short Latin movie”: from eTwinning to Comenius project

We developed the idea of the project “A short Latin movie” that, born like an eTwinning experience [4], is now a multilateral Comenius project, involving our school that's the Liceo Ginnasio Statale “Q. Orazio Flacco” of Bari, the Liceo Statale “Lombardo Radice” of Catania (Italy), the IES “Vegas Bajos” of Montijo (Spain), the Ernst Albrecht Gymnasium of Oettingen (Germany) and the Çiftlikköy Atatürk Anadolu Lisesi of Yalowa (Turkey).



Through the eTwinning platform students are using the 2.0 web tools and they are interacting in social activities. We are making a series of activities: creation of a common blog, a travel guide, report of a significant moment in the history of our cities, creating a song, etc.

The Comenius project can offer our pupils an unforgettable experience of the European dimension through the awareness of differences and analogies among different countries and the discovery of their common heritage. They are now enthusiasts because they can meet each other and visit their respective towns and countries and our friendship is growing and growing...

In addition to interpersonal and cultural exchange, our project aim is to create a short movie set in Roman times. The main focus is our students, belonging to different High Secondary Schools in different European countries, working together, communicating to make Latin culture protagonist of contemporary Europe.

Creating this film is a funny and useful experience for our pupils. They chose ideas for the plot and they are responsible to write the storyboard. We are shooting in places, close to our schools, where Roman monuments left their imprint in our respective territory. That's one of our common denominators!



Fig. 3 Egnazia - Via Traiana: a set for our short movie

The film will be shot into English and Latin with subtitles. Thus we intend to enhance the knowledge of English and of classical subjects, considering that we are mainly teachers of Latin, Greek, English and History.

We would like our students learn about other European realities and become able to transmit their own culture through a funny experience on the basis of our common cultural and Latin heritage.

Therefore, we try to encourage students in learning their history, motivating them to take part in cultural activities.

We would like to achieve the following objectives:

1. our students express themselves fluently and accurately in a foreign language: English;
2. they use efficiently and responsibly new technologies (web 2.0);
3. they value the traces of Roman civilization in Europe and appreciate its cultural and historical heritage;
4. they deal with different sources that provide information about our classical tradition;
5. they learn about the daily life of the participating countries;
6. they compare Roman society with today's;
7. they learn in a practical way the morphological, syntactic and lexical basis of the Latin language;
8. they develop a collaborative project in order to interact and know better one another.

Through this Comenius project we intend to address the following subjects and problems:

1. knowledge and appreciation of our local and also our common European history;
2. knowledge of Roman life from a historical perspective;
3. approach to Latin as a spoken language;
4. use of English as *lingua franca* among students and operating language in the different activities;
5. use of web 2.0 tools.

In this way we hope to motivate our students to learn better through an innovative teaching methodology (methods: teamwork, creative work, focus on pupils, ...). Carrying out different activities to create a movie makes the learning process more memorable and enjoyable. Interactive activities allow students to show to others their local history and historical environment. This type of activities should let our students to know each other and



overcome prejudices about unknown costumes and uses. They can show their fellows not only their way of life, but also their environment and monuments, promoting the respect for the remains of Roman civilization in Europe and appreciating its cultural and historical heritage among members of the community.

## 2. Conclusions

We hope to apply an innovative methodology for Latin, English and History in a collaborative project among students from different countries who share common values in Europe's classical heritage. We teachers intend to widen our own horizons concerning new teaching methods (project work, focus on students, use of web 2.0 tools ...).

We are sure that we can promote and "live" the idea of "One Europe" by the various aspects of our concrete international project, by motivating pupils in their learning process through a new approach to our role of teachers!

## References

- [1] <http://new-twinspace.etwinning.net/web/p21131/home>
- [2] <http://sites.google.com/site/anettwinningprojectbetweenus/>
- [3] <http://anettwinningprojectbetweenus.blogspot.com/>
- [4] <http://new-twinspace.etwinning.net/web/p37416/welcome>