

eTwinning Thematic Conference 2016

“Citizenship a new ethic for the 21st Century - the contribution of eTwinning”

Florence (Italy)

DRAFT PROGRAMME

Dates: September 21-23, 2016

Target: School Heads, Deputies, teachers with special coordinating tasks in schools

Venue: Palazzo Vecchio, Salone dei Cinquecento (September 21)

Congress Centre (September 22-23)

“No matter what global problem you are dreading, whether it’s the elimination of poverty, whether it’s the creation of peace, whether it’s solving environmental energy problems, the solution - whatever it is multiple solutions, the solutions always include education, never is it without an education component and sometimes cannot be done without education”.

Nicholas Negroponte

In the wake of the events of March 17, 2015 the EU Ministers of Education met in Paris and adopted the *“Declaration on Promoting citizenship and the common values of freedom, tolerance and non-discrimination through education”*. Since then more violence has taken place in Europe and it is even more urgent to discuss how education can contribute to personal development, ensuring inclusive education for all children and young people.

eTwinning is the main collaboration platform for schools in Europe and through the projects carried out by teachers and pupils of every country is a living proof that the cultural differences become an element of discovery and personal enrichment for pupils. eTwinning projects as widely demonstrated by teachers’ testimonies can make any pupil feel at home, irrespective of his/her ability and provenance. eTwinning teaches young people to value the good things that the past, the present and the future can give us and present them with problems that affect modern society working on possible solutions – the common European cultural heritage.

This thematic conference will concentrate on how to empower teachers to promote the values of democracy, tolerance and respect for diversity through their work in eTwinning, and will present what eTwinning has done already over the past eleven years.

DAY 1: Wednesday 21st September – Palazzo Vecchio, Salone dei Cinquecento

14:00 – 15:30	<i>Registration</i>
15:30 – 17:30	Plenary session <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Welcome addresses (European Commission DG EAC, Italian Ministry of Education, City of Florence, INDIRE)• Introduction to eTwinning (CSS/EUN)• Keynote speech (Lynn Davies, University of Birmingham)
17:45 – 19:30	<i>Networking activity - guided walk in the city centre</i>
19:30	<i>Buffet dinner</i>

DAY 2: Thursday 22nd September – Congress Centre

9:00	<i>Orientation for workshops at registration desk</i>
9:30 – 11:00	Thematic Focus Session - 5 parallel plenaries
11:00 – 11:30	<i>Coffee break</i>
11:30 – 13:00	Workshop Session I – parallel workshops
13:00 – 14:30	<i>Lunch buffet</i>
14:30 – 16:00	Workshop Session II – parallel workshops
20:00	<i>Dinner</i>

DAY 3: Friday 23rd September – Congress Centre

9:00	<i>Orientation for workshops at registration desk</i>
9:30 – 11:00	Workshop Session III – parallel workshops
11:00 – 11:30	<i>Coffee break</i>
11:30 – 12:30	Panel Session
12:30 – 13:00	Closing session (European Commission DG EAC)
13:00	<i>Lunch / departure</i>

Session Descriptions

DAY 2

Thematic Focus Session - 5 parallel plenaries

Five experts will tackle different issues on Citizenship (“Thematic Focus”) in parallel plenaries, 50 participants each. Each participant will be able to attend one plenary according to his/her personal interest.

Workshop Sessions I and II – up to 10 workshops in parallel

- Workshops about eTwinning and its role in the school (e.g. eTwinning school, Professional Development, European School Development Plan, School Internationalization, Competence based learning). Some examples will help participants to get inspired.
- Workshops about best practices of eTwinning and Erasmus+ projects and other relevant experiences on the theme of Citizenship.
- Thematic workshops moderated by experts.

DAY 3

Workshop Sessions III – up to 10 workshops in parallel

- Workshops for sharing experiences and practices related to the conference themes, and brainstorming for improvements and next steps (e.g. future collaboration among schools).
- Thematic workshops moderated by experts.

Panel Session in plenary

The aim of this session is to show how eTwinning can help schools in promoting citizenship in their local community.