

Pilot project: Norway-Italy

ITALY – **Cattolica University of Milan**, Pre-primary and Primary teacher education
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The project started in April 2014 and was based on the project kit "Fairytale". It is still on going and is mainly composed of 2 stages: 1 month planning and 1 month Implementation. Two groups of Italian and Norwegian students were supposed to start working on it, but only one of the Norwegian groups could work on it because of different timings.

Project details

The Norwegian students would like to start a project with the Italian students. The idea is to start an international project about traditional fairytales: the Norwegian folk fairytale is "Askeladden and the hungry Troll", the Italian one is Pinocchio.

First stage

The first planning phase was only between tutors and ambassadors (Monica Gorla, Marzia Luzzini for Italy, Milan - for Norway, Hilde Øen an elementary school teacher and mentor teacher at Østfold University, also project founder). The trainees' placement in school had different timings in Italy and the activities had to be adapted to the different situation. In Italy trainees registered in eTwinning in April under the supervision of their tutors: the Ambassador/tutor coordinators organized several meetings in order to empower the knowledge of the eTwinning website, all the opportunities offered there, the tools and the students learned how to use it. Next the students, always with tutors, looked at the project kit suggestions and some existing projects and in tutors' TwinSpaces. After the first step, the tutors identified a student leader in each group, who had to manage group communication and share decision: there were direct contacts among students. At the beginning Italian tutor and students decided to register another project named, European trainees to share general information about school systems and teacher training (TwinSpace: <http://new-twinspace.etwinning.net/web/p104381/welcome>).

Project Implementation

All trainees, with the help of their tutor coordinators, tried to gather school and pupils presentations during their placement but they did not succeed. All pupils have been involved to the project activities. Students worked in pairs: two in pre- primary, two in a primary school in Varese, and two in primary school near Lodi. The students chose different activities about partners' fairytales, which were shown and commented with pupils and school teachers. All materials were uploaded in the TwinSpace.

Outcomes

Pupils' presentations through PPT of the fairy tales, with drawings and other activities. TwinSpace: <http://new-twinspace.etwinning.net/web/p104462/welcome>

Critical points and possible improvements

- Define roles and responsibilities at the start. It would be useful to set up a planning meeting between all partners to define roles, aims and objectives at the beginning
- Activities planning and different timetables. It would be important to know in advance the trainees' calendar in each university/country.

- Project registration: there is no eTwinning profile for “trainee” and it’s difficult to understand roles.
- Weak collaboration between trainees and between pupils. A suggestion may be online meetings (chat, skype...) and some collaborative work.
- To foster collaboration and sharing of practices among students, we could set up webinars for students of the same countries (but different universities) and/or among European students.
- Provide a certificate of involvement to Teacher Trainees.

Proposed evaluation and follow up:

- Set out a common questionnaire for trainees to collect their opinion and considerations on eTwinning and on the pilot project.
- Discuss together to find out difficulties and highlights, collect ideas and proposals.
- Monitor students’ acquired skills.