

## **eTwinning project**

TITLE: Open doors

### DESCRIPTION

This project aims to support students in gaining cultural awareness through the use of English as a *lingua franca* and a variety of IT tools. The project is divided into 3 steps with the possibility of a follow-up short-term mobility project thanks to an agreement between schools based on reciprocal welcoming.

Step 1: The first or “Discovery” phase is an eTwinning project aiming to gain awareness of some features of the countries involved. Step 2 or “Production” phase aims to the production of trans-cultural products created by students from different countries thanks to the use of a variety of digital tools. Step 3: The “Sharing” phase allows all the students involved to share their experience with the community.

Possible follow-up phase: If the schools agree to welcome each other’s students reciprocally, a short-term mobility phase can be taken into consideration. A small group of students from one of the two countries involved will be welcomed by students from the other country for one week. Subsequently, the students who have previously welcomed their twin-mates will be hosted by them for one week.

COUNTRIES INVOLVED: Preferably two or three: Italy and one or two partners. Our preferences would be Germany, France, Spain, Ireland, but we are open to cooperation with other countries too.

### AGE RANGE

14-16

### NO. OF STUDENTS

10-12 (per country)

### LINGUA FRANCA – SHARED LANGUAGE

English

### KEY COMPETENCES

Citizenship, Cultural Awareness and Expression, Digital, Social and Learning

## AIMS

The main aims of the project are to allow students to use the English language and IT tools to share information about their countries. Through language and IT they will be able to open a window to the world, learn about how varied cultures and customs are, go beyond stereotypes, appreciate differences, make connections with people in different parts of the world, open their minds and broaden their views.

## PROJECT STEPS

The project will be divided into three phases: Discovery, Productions and Sharing phase with the possibility of a follow-up mobility phase.

-Step 1: The first or "Discovery" phase is an eTwinning project aiming to gain awareness of some cultural aspects of the countries involved. Thanks to a number of activities and tasks, the students from different countries will reciprocally find out about culture, history, geo-morphology, economy, legal features, stereotypes, do's and don'ts in different parts of the world. (one month)

-Step 2: The "Production" phase supports students in building team spirit, making connections and creating a number of trans-cultural products which illustrate what they learn about their respective cultures. (one month)

-Step 3: The "Sharing" phase allows all the students involved to share their experience with the community and highlight its meaningfulness. (2 weeks)

-Follow-up step: A possible follow-up could be the planning and organization of a short-term mobility program thanks to cooperation between schools. The mobility phase requires an Agreement between the two schools involved, based on reciprocal hospitality and respect. All the stakeholders involved will sign an agreement stating rights, duties and responsibilities. 1) A small group of students from one of the two countries involved will be welcomed by students from the other country for one week, in order to experience life beyond one's comfort zone. Students will use the TwinSpace to keep a diary based on words and/or images that summarises the most significant parts of the experience (one week). 2) The students who have previously welcomed their twin-mates will then be hosted by them for one week. Students will use the TwinSpace to keep a diary based on words and/or images that summarises the most significant parts of the experience (one week).

## EXPECTED RESULTS

During steps 1 and 2 of the project, a TwinSpace will be used for the collaborative creation of final products based on the students' personal inclinations, aptitude and creativity.

During step 3 students will share their experience with others in order to spread knowledge, feedback and development.

By the end of the project students are expected to have

- improved IT competences
- enhanced communicative strategies and improved language competences
- ameliorated negotiating skills, problem-solving
- worked in teams to produce a shared product
- improved transcultural awareness

The follow-up mobility project would allow students to move from the virtual to the real sphere, improving their cultural awareness and language competences by directly experiencing a short term stay in another country.