

<b>Name</b>	To Be Young in Europe in 2005
<b>Partners</b>	Oriveden Keskuskoulu, Finland Gimnazjum nr 3 in Myslowice, Poland 2nd Primary School of New Philadelphia, Greece
<b>Goals</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Encourage our students in different European schools to get to know each other and, hopefully, become friends.</li> <li>• Develop our students' abilities to communicate in English and connect virtually.</li> <li>• Enhance our students' ICT skills.</li> <li>• Enhance our students' understanding and knowledge of different European countries and cultures and thus overcome their prejudices and increase tolerance.</li> </ul>
<b>Working methods and contents</b>	<p>We used open learning environment Moodle, which we called eTwinning Platform.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Forums</b> for introductions and discussions on different matters concerning young people's everyday life and their home countries, for example hobbies, pets, music, sport, films, books, family, school, climate, computers etc.</li> <li>• <b>Chats</b> for real time connecting and conversation</li> <li>• <b>Quizes</b> for learning about different countries</li> <li>• <b>Surveys</b> to learn about and compare the students' usage of computers and mobile phones</li> <li>• <b>Links</b> for learning about the countries and schools involved in the project.</li> </ul> <p>We spent 1-2 lessons a month in the ICT lab for chats and teacher's guidance. Most of the work was done at home. Students used their home computers for communicating or at least prepared their texts at home.</p> <p>You can check the platform in <a href="http://www.orivedenkoulut.net/moodle/">http://www.orivedenkoulut.net/moodle/</a>.</p>
<b>Students</b>	<p>Right from the beginning, the students were really excited about eTwinning. They would have loved to spend all English lessons in the ICT lab. In a way, they didn't consider it studying at all. It was all fun in between English grammar and exercises.</p> <p>Communicative exercises as typical classroom activities always entail a certain amount of pretending and simulation. To be in contact with real people made a big difference. It was real life communicating, interesting, exciting and inspiring.</p> <p>Students were very motivated to find ways to express themselves. More than half of the students spent time in the eTwinning platform</p>

	<p>also in their free time reading each other's texts and answering them.</p> <p>A few found friends with whom they started to send e-mails and communicate regularly.</p> <p>For some students, verbal self-expression is quite difficult due to their shyness or reserved nature. They seemed to find a new active role when communicating in writing.</p> <p>The given assignments were always connected with the students' everyday life and, at the same time, with the communication and vocabulary aims and contents included in the curriculum of English studies.</p> <p>Some students raised their grades as a result of their active participation in the forum discussions.</p> <p>The students' ICT skills developed too. They learned to use Moodle environment and its different tools. This is especially good, because Moodle is used quite widely in secondary and college studies in Finland.</p>
<b>Coordianator</b>	<p>For me, the experience was very fulfilling. I learned to know two wonderful and very skilled colleagues from Greece and Poland and it was great to work together with Iwona Bujlow and Panayiotis Kampylis. Pan even visited our school in August while he was in Finland.</p> <p>Naturally, I learned a lot about project management and about using eLearning platform and its tools in project coordination. It took a lot of time, but it was worth it.</p> <p>It was also very inspiring to see my students actively connecting with students from Poland and Greece. It stimulated English studies in a very special way.</p>
<b>School</b>	<p>My colleagues and other students in our school, though not directly involved in the project, were supportive and interested in it.</p> <p>We are starting a new project with the present 6<sup>th</sup> graders, who feel quite privileged to be involved.</p> <p>Our school's English homepages were created as a by-product of the eTwinning project: <a href="http://www.orivedenkoulut.net/keskuskoulueng/">http://www.orivedenkoulut.net/keskuskoulueng/</a>.</p>
<b>Municipality</b>	<p>Local newspaper published an extensive article about our project and it immediately aroused a lot of interest in eTwinning both among teachers and parents.</p> <p>Almost twenty teachers will be coming in an evening course I'll give in September to learn how to register as a eTwinning school, find a partner and learn how to use the tools in eTwinning desktop. After that, I hope there will be at least five other schools in Orivesi with an eTwinning partner.</p> <p>On the whole, eTwinning exceeded all my expectations. So many things happened and got started during only a few months project.</p>

<b>Contact</b>	Tiina Sarisalmi <a href="mailto:tiina.sarisalmi@kolumbus.fi">tiina.sarisalmi@kolumbus.fi</a> or <a href="http://www.kolumbus.fi/tiina.sarisalmi/">http://www.kolumbus.fi/tiina.sarisalmi/</a> tel. +35850-3273826
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