Fostering citizenship education and European values through eTwinning for future teachers

European conference for initial teacher education 2024

Date: 28 – 30 November 2024

Venue: Novotel Budapest Centrum

Address: Budapest, Ntak Sz 22041413, Rákóczi út 43-45, 1088 Hungary

Introduction

"eTwinning for Future Teachers" brings together initial teacher education (ITE) institutions that include eTwinning in their teacher education activities. The aim is to introduce teacher educators and student teachers to the full eTwinning experience so that they can benefit from an international and professional community, with the opportunity to implement innovative pedagogical methodologies with their peers.

The current document outlines the proposal of the 2024 European Conference for Initial Teacher Education including:

- the background of the conference;
- the objectives of the conference;
- a description of the target audience;
- a draft agenda.

Background of the conference

Article 2 of the Treaty on European Union states that the Union is founded on the values of respect for human dignity, freedom, democracy, equality, the rule of law and respect for human rights, including the rights of persons belonging to minorities. In 2023, the Council Conclusions on the contribution of education and training to strengthening common European values and democratic citizenship, acknowledged, among others, that eTwinning and the European School Education Platform contribute to the reinforcement of the common European values and EU democratic citizenship.

Focusing on initial teacher education (ITE), eTwinning for future teachers supports collaboration between ITE providers and schools, which has proven to be crucial for the

integration of diversity into educational practices of ITE programs ([European Commission, 2017](#)). In addition, a dedicated study on the impact of eTwinning in ITE highlights the contribution of eTwinning in fostering a sense of citizenship at both national and European levels by promoting student teachers' intercultural, multilingual and interpersonal competences in a multinational and diverse learning environment ([European Commission, 2023](#)).

Nevertheless, certain barriers have been identified among Member States with regards to teachers' intercultural and democratic competence development ([European Commission, 2020](#)), including the lack of:

- adequate educational policies and legal frameworks;
- policies for including obligatory intercultural education in ITE;
- professional development opportunities for teaching intercultural and democratic competences;
- methods for developing intercultural and democratic competences in ITE;
- peer-learning, networks, working groups in school, experiential learning, collaboration, the challenging assumptions, and learning communities.

In this context, the current conference aims at showcasing concrete practices that address these barriers and provide innovative solutions to promote citizenship education and European values in ITE. The conference will feature a range of sessions, including keynote speeches, panel discussions, and workshops that will:

- present good practices from teacher educators that have successfully incorporated citizenship education and European values in their eTwinning projects;
- offer insights into enhancing intercultural and democratic competences in the ITE curriculum;
- introduce various innovative methods (see above) for promoting citizenship education and European values via eTwinning;
- emphasise the role of international cooperation in enhancing ITE via shared learning and the development of common European values.

Goals of the conference:

- To examine the role of eTwinning for future teachers in promoting citizenship education and European values within the context of ITE.
- To explore innovative pedagogical approaches for integrating eTwinning into teacher education curricula to enhance future teachers' competences.

- To discuss the challenges and opportunities of integrating eTwinning projects into university courses and initial teacher training programs.
- To identify good practices of eTwinning projects that have effectively promoted European values among future teachers and teacher educators.
- To foster peer learning, collaboration and networking among teacher educators for implementing impactful eTwinning projects in ITE.

Target audience

The target audience of the conference include:

- teacher educators nominated for the European Award for ITE in 2024, 2023 and 2022;
- teacher educators with a national ITE label for 2024;
- new teacher educators.

In addition:

- country quotas apply for the conference;
- the maximum number of onsite attendees is 100 participants;
- the streaming of the first day will be via MS Teams.

Draft Agenda

DAY 1 – OPEN (STREAMED), 28 NOVEMBER

14:00 – 15:00 **Registrations**

15:00 – 15:30 **Opening**
Welcome by European Commission
Greetings from Hungarian stakeholders
Introduction by the Central Support Service

15:30 – 16:00 **Keynote 1**
The keynote would introduce attendees to the overarching theme of the conference.

16:00 – 16:45 **European ITE Award Ceremony** –
In this session, the award-winning ITE institution will be announced; a representative of the European Commission will hand the Prize to the teacher educator representing the institution. A short video of the award-winning initial teacher education institution will be displayed,

and the teacher educator of the award-winning institution will present their work, their lessons learned and future steps to provide inspiration and support.

16:45 – 17:15   Coffee break

17:15 – 18:30   **Cultural activity**
                     (TBD with the Hungarian NSO)

19:30   Dinner at the hotel

DAY 2 – CLOSED (ONLY REGISTERED ONSITE PARTICIPANTS), 29 NOVEMBER

09:30 – 11:00   **Workshop slot 1: Four workshops***
                     The workshops will address topics related to the theme of the conference referring either to aspects of curriculum integration or eTwinning projects implementation (areas of the ITE framework). See the endnote after the agenda.

11:00 – 11:30   Coffee break

11:30 – 12:30   **Networking - Partner finding for future eTwinning projects**
                     This session is designed to facilitate the formation of new connections and partnerships among attendees. Participants will have the opportunity to meet, network, and identify potential partners for future eTwinning projects.

12:30 – 14:00   Lunch at the hotel

14:00 – 15:30   **Workshop slot 2: Four workshops***
                     Same as above.

15:30 – 16:00   Coffee break

16.00 – 17.00   **Research Meet - Collaborative partnership for research**
                     This session will enable attendees to present, discuss and develop collaborative partnerships for research conducted on eTwinning (an area of the ITE framework). The format of the session will be like a "speed-dating" session, so attendees can move around and interact with those presenting their work.

19:30   Dinner
                     (place TBD)

DAY 3 – CLOSED (ONLY REGISTERED ONSITE PARTICIPANTS), 30 NOVEMBER

09:30 – 10:00   **Keynote 2**
The keynote would introduce attendees to the insights gained from the study conducted by INDIRE regarding the impact of integrating eTwinning in ITE (title of the study: Empowering Future teachers for a sustainable intercultural and inclusive education).

10:00 – 11:00   **Panel discussion**
This session will feature a panel of experts who will present their insights and engage in discussions on topics related to the theme of the conference (TBD). The format will include a moderated discussion followed by an open Q&A, encouraging active interaction.

11:00 – 11:30   Coffee break

11:30 – 12:15   **Reflection on models and formats of integrating eTwinning in Initial Teacher Education**
This session will provide attendees with an opportunity to reflect on and discuss the various models and formats for integrating eTwinning into Initial Teacher Education (ITE). The interactive format will encourage lively discussions and the exchange of ideas, aiming to inspire innovative practices and improvements in integrating eTwinning into teacher education programs.

12:15 – 12:30   **Closing of the conference**

12:30   **Lunch boxes**