

**Programme**

# **Fostering citizenship education through eTwinning for future teachers**

**European conference for initial teacher education 2024**

Online and onsite conference | 28-30 November 2024 | Budapest, Hungary

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# Fostering citizenship education through eTwinning for future teachers

## European conference for initial teacher education 2024

### Introduction

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

### 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 other things, that [eTwinning](#) and the [European School Education Platform](#) contribute to the reinforcement of common European values and EU democratic citizenship.

Focusing on ITE, [eTwinning for future teachers](#) supports collaboration between ITE providers and schools, which has proven to be crucial for integrating diversity into the educational practices of ITE programs ([European Commission, 2017](#)). In addition, a dedicated study on the impact of eTwinning in ITE highlights eTwinning’s contributions to fostering a sense of citizenship at both national and European levels by promoting student teachers’ intercultural, multilingual and interpersonal competences in multinational and diverse learning environments ([European Commission, 2023](#)).

Nevertheless, certain barriers have been identified in Member States with regards to teachers’ intercultural and democratic competence development ([European Commission, 2020](#)), including a 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 to showcase 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 in the context of ITE.
- To explore innovative pedagogical approaches to 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 in eTwinning projects that have effectively promoted European values among future teachers and teacher educators.
- To foster peer learning, collaboration and networking for implementing impactful eTwinning projects in ITE among teacher educators.

# PROGRAMME

All times listed in the agenda are in Central European Time (CET)

## DAY 1

### 28 November | Plenary session

(streamed for the online audience – no registration needed)

Venue: Novotel Budapest Centrum, Rákóczi út 43-45, 1088 Hungary

14:00 – 15:00

#### Registration

15:00 – 15:30

#### Opening

Welcome by the European Commission

Greetings from the Educational Authority Vice President of Public Education, Dr. Bernadett Puszter

Introduction by the Central Support Service

15:30–16:00

#### Keynote

**European values: a ‘challenge’ or an ‘invitation’ for citizenship education?**

Prof. Márta Fülöp, Scientific advisor and head of the social and cultural psychology department of the Hungarian Research Network

16:00–16:45

#### European award ceremony

*During the ceremony, the award-winning initial teacher education institution will be announced and the European Commission will present the award to the teacher educator representing the institution. A short video of the award-winning institution will be displayed, and the teacher educator from the award-winning institution will present their work, lessons learned and future steps to provide inspiration and support.*

16:45–17:15

#### Break

17:15–18:30

#### Cultural activity: scavenger hunt in Pest

*Onsite participants will embark on a fun-filled sightseeing adventure through Erzsébetváros, one of Budapest’s most vibrant districts. This interactive scavenger hunt invites you to discover the area’s hidden gems while completing engaging tasks along the way. Join us for a leisurely one-hour stroll as you search for intriguing items tied to the district’s rich history.*

19:30

*Dinner at the hotel restaurant*

# DAY 2

**29 November**

(One room per session will be streamed for the registered online audience )

Venue: Novotel Budapest Centrum, Rákóczi út 43-45, 1088 Hungary

**09:30–11:00**

## **Workshop session 1**

**WS1:** Global citizenship education across cultures

**WS2:** Tell a story – embrace inclusion and EU values

**WS3:** Interculturality in action: Empowering future teachers with eTwinning

**WS4:** An intercultural approach to inclusion thanks to eTwinning (The workshop is open to the online audience, who are encouraged to actively participate throughout the session)

**11:00–11:30**

*Break*

**11:30–12:30**

## **Networking – partner finding for future eTwinning projects**

*The session aims to support teacher educators connect and build partnerships for future eTwinning projects. During the session, participants at the onsite conference will present brief overviews of their project ideas, allowing attendees to find potential partners with similar interests or goals. Although the presentations will be delivered by in-person attendees, the session is also open to the online audience, who can engage with the presenters and explore collaboration opportunities afterward.*

**12:30–14:00**

*Lunch*

**14:00–15:30**

## **Workshop session 2**

**WS5:** Global citizenship education across cultures

**WS6:** Embedding EU values in initial teacher education projects through digital storytelling

**WS7:** Bridging divides: Promoting depolarization in education through mediation and eTwinning (The workshop is open to the online audience, who are encouraged to actively participate throughout the session)

**WS8:** eTwinning in teacher education: Good practices for preparing teachers in vocational education and training

**15:30–16:00**

*Break*

**16:00–17:00**

## **Research meet – collaborative partnerships for research**

*The session aims to support teacher educators connect and form partnerships for conducting research on eTwinning. During the session, participants at the onsite conference will present their research plans, allowing attendees to find potential partners with similar research interests. Although the presentations will be delivered by in-person attendees, the session is also open to the online audience, giving them the opportunity to engage with the presenters and explore collaboration opportunities afterward.*

**19:30**

*Dinner at Spoon the Boat*

# DAY 3

## 30 November | Plenary session

(streamed for the online audience – no registration needed)

Venue: Novotel Budapest Centrum, Rákóczi út 43-45, 1088 Hungary

09:30–10:00

### Keynote

**Innovating initial teacher education through the integration of 'eTwinning for future teachers': Models, benefits, and challenges**

Maria Chiara Pettenati, Research Director at INDIRE  
Maria Ranieri, Full professor at University of Florence

10:00–11:00

### Panel discussion "Fostering citizenship education through eTwinning for future teachers"

*The objective of the panel discussion is to explore how eTwinning is (and can be) used to effectively promote citizenship education among future teachers. The discussion will highlight good practices, challenges, and strategies for integrating European values into teaching. The session will include a moderated discussion followed by an open Q&A, encouraging active interaction.*

11:00–11:30

Break

11:30–12:15

### Reflection on models and formats for 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 session will encourage discussion and the exchange of ideas, aiming to inspire innovative practices and improve the integration of eTwinning into initial teacher education programs.*

12:15–12:30

### Closing of the conference

12:30

Lunch boxes

# KEYNOTES

## KN 1 European values: a 'challenge' or an 'invitation' for citizenship education?

Prof. Márta Fülöp | 28 November, 15:30–16:00



The keynote will briefly summarise the developmental issues in children's and young people's understanding of social issues and society. Drawing upon several international comparative studies on the concept of the 'good and active citizen', as well as on young people's understanding of European values and 'being European', the keynote will propose educational practices that can promote democratic citizenship and active engagement with social issues. The attendees will be invited and challenged to reflect on the implications of these ideas and practices for initial teacher education.

Prof. Márta Fülöp (DSc) is a scientific advisor and head of the social and cultural psychology department of the HUN-REN (Hungarian Research Network) Institute for Cognitive Neuroscience and Psychology, Research Centre of Natural Sciences. She is also a professor of social and cultural psychology at the Institute of Psychology at Karoli Gaspar University, Budapest. She is the immediate past-president of the Children's Identity and Citizenship European Association. She was a member of the executive committee of the Children's Identity and Citizenship Socrates Academic/ Jean Monnet Network from 1998 to 2017 and the Citizenship Education and European Values Jean Monnet Network from 2019 to 2024. She was the chair of the annual doctoral student conferences of these networks for almost 15 years. She is associate editor of the journal *Citizenship Teaching & Learning*. Her main field of expertise is the psychology of competition and cross-cultural psychology, also in relation to citizenship.

## KN 2 Innovating initial teacher education through the integration of 'eTwinning for future teachers': Models, benefits, and challenges

Maria Chiara Pettenati, Maria Ranieri | 30 November, 09:30–10:00

The keynote will briefly summarise the developmental issues in children's and young people's understanding of social issues and society. Drawing upon several international comparative studies on the concept of the 'good and active citizen', as well as on young people's understanding of European values and 'being European', the keynote will propose educational practices that can promote democratic citizenship and active engagement with social issues. The attendees will be invited and challenged to reflect on the implications of these ideas and practices for initial teacher education.



Maria Chiara Pettenati is research director at INDIRE, the National Institute for Documentation, Innovation and Educational Research in Florence, where she coordinates national projects in teacher training. Her work includes overseeing programs aimed at supporting the continuous professional development of teachers across Italy. Maria Chiara is also deeply involved in strategic efforts related to the 2030 agenda for sustainable development, particularly in education. She co-coordinates the thematic working groups for Goal 4 and Target 4.7 at ASviS (Italian Alliance for Sustainable Development).




Maria Ranieri is full professor of education and instructional technologies at the University of Florence, where she directs the Laboratory of Educational Technologies and the master's program in new digital competencies. Her work focuses on digital technologies and educational processes, coordinating various international projects and producing numerous publications. She is also co-editor of the journal *Computers & Education*.

# WORKSHOPS

## WS 1 Global citizenship education across cultures

Frans Kranenburg | 29 November 09:30–11:00




The workshop will present activities on the topics of (global) citizenship, cultural sensitivity and inclusion of minorities internationally and across cultures, which were implemented in eTwinning projects with student teachers of primary and secondary education. Participants will engage in interactive group work, designing a collaborative activity on these topics using 'Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and education' as a common theme within the partnership. A framework and context are provided by the eTwinning project CIA024, run by a partnership of three institutes for initial teacher education in Italy, South Africa and The Netherlands.

Frans Kranenburg started as a biology teacher at a Dutch secondary school in 1983. He was involved in the creation and development of the International Baccalaureate middle years programme in the late 80s and 90s. In 2000 Frans started as a teacher educator in the bilingual and international teacher education programme at Utrecht University, with a focus on intercultural education, biology teaching methodology, action research and use of technology. Since 2015, Frans has worked as a teacher educator/coach and lecturer of pedagogy, culture and citizenship education for the language department of the ITE section at Amsterdam University of Applied Science.

## WS 2 Tell a story – embrace inclusion and EU values (\*participants must bring their own devices)

Ioannis Lefkos | 29 November 09:30–11:00




This workshop is related to a project that involves students in digital storytelling. Participants will collaborate in groups, to first create a story and then visualise it in comics or animation using digital tools. The theme of the story will be 'Inclusion and EU values in our everyday lives'. Inclusion is an idea – a way of perceiving society – that can be applied to various aspects of our lives. It could relate to ethnicity, race, sexual orientation, religion, disability, etc. Storytelling enables people to share their ideas and express their beliefs and experiences. This workshop can support teacher educators in raising future teachers' awareness of inclusion and EU values and improve their digital skills. Overall, this workshop will invite teacher educators to reflect on how storytelling can promote student teachers' intercultural, multilingual and interpersonal competencies.

Ioannis Lefkos is working as laboratory teaching staff at University of Macedonia. He has Majors in Pedagogy and Science, and an MSc and PhD in Physics Education & ICT in Education. He has many years of teaching experience in primary education and as a teacher trainer in traditional or distance learning programs. He has been involved in a number of European and national research projects, working on the development and application of educational software or educational materials. His research interests focus on ICT in education, science education and scientific literacy.

## WS 3 Interculturality in action: Empowering future teachers with eTwinning

Hélène Claeys | 29 November 09:30–11:00



As we embark on new eTwinning projects, we often ask ourselves how these initiatives can enhance the wellbeing of our students. My partners and I have explored a variety of themes, but one area that still demands our attention is interculturality. Intercultural exchange and dialogue are essential in today's interconnected world, yet we must consider how to effectively prepare our students for these experiences. Is mobility alone sufficient? Can goodwill and open-mindedness truly equip future educators with the intercultural skills they need?

Join us for a thought-provoking workshop, where we will delve into these pressing questions. Drawing on our experiences from a blended intensive programme with eTwinning that integrates training and research, we will explore practical strategies and insights for fostering intercultural competence among students.

Hélène Claeys is a teacher trainer and the international coordinator at the Teacher Training Institute (INSPE) of UPJV - Université de Picardie Jules Verne in France. She is responsible for developing internationalisation at home and fostering international openness among all students. Her objective is to facilitate the mobility of future teachers and colleagues through placements abroad and Erasmus mobility, as well as international collaboration between students and lecturers. Furthermore, she promotes international online or hybrid projects to equip all participants with the essential skills for teachers in an increasingly open world. Hélène creates and participates in eTwinning projects and working groups that facilitate interculturality and promote plurilingualism and the inclusion of alloglot children (ALTA Teacher Academy project). Her objective is to contribute to the internationalisation of our training courses and curriculum.

## **WS 4 An intercultural approach to inclusion thanks to eTwinning**

**Catherine Guillemot | 29 November 09:30–11:00 (The workshop is open to the online audience, who are encouraged to actively participate throughout the session)**

‘Everyone has the right to quality and inclusive education’ is the first principle of the European Pillar of Social Rights, adopted in December 2017 by the European Council, European Parliament and European Commission. In this workshop, teacher educators will explore the notion of inclusion in their own national context. By building transnational teams, participants will study concrete situations of inclusion proposed in different forms, including a serious game. A group discussion will encourage them to reflect on the construction of a common European approach on this issue through eTwinning.

Catherine Guillemot is a teacher educator in Didactics of Languages and Cultures and head of international relations, INSPE de Bretagne – UBO. She coordinates the DISCO+ project, which involves six countries and nine partners, including six universities. This cooperation project would not be possible without the eTwinning programme, which brings together transnational teams online. The first stage of the project explored the notions of inclusive education, gender equality in STEM and critical thinking. This preparatory stage continues this year with the implementation of transnational cooperation engineering teams who will design a STEM lesson following the lesson study methodology. Coordinating such a project is in itself an intercultural experience, in which the objective is not to become identical, but to understand each other’s point of view in order to cooperate, work, learn and grow together.

## **WS 5 Global citizenship education across cultures**

**Frans Kranenburg | 29 November 09:30–11:00**

Please see WS 1

## **WS 6 Embedding EU values in initial teacher education projects through digital storytelling**

(\*participants must bring their own devices)

**Raffaella Leproni | 29 November, 14:00–15:30**

This workshop begins with an overview of the best practices for implementing ‘eTwinning for future teachers’ at Roma Tre University. Participants will engage in a collaborative exercise to co-develop a project proposal centred on European values, utilising digital literature and storytelling as foundational elements. The workshop will also engage participants in designing a unique logo for each proposal, leveraging artificial intelligence (AI) tools in the process.



Throughout this process, attendees will be encouraged to consider the responsible and ethical use of digital technologies, fostering a commitment to civic engagement and social responsibility.

Raffaella Leproni, PhD, is a researcher and professor of English language and translation (ANGL-01/C) in the department of education, departmental Erasmus coordinator, referee for the transversal skills and vocational courses (PCTO) and eTwinning referee for the Athenaeum at Roma Tre University. Her teaching and research activity focuses on the use of storytelling and digital literature for FL/L2 teaching; English for specific purposes in the HR, humanities and social sciences from a CLIL perspective; teachers' self-assessment; and analysis of the role of language in the participatory and inclusive construction of intercultural social identity.

## **WS 7 Bridging divides: Promoting depolarisation in education through mediation and eTwinning**

**Dr. Isabel López-Cirugeda and Dr. Raquel Sánchez Ruiz | Friday, 29 November, 14:00–15:30 (The workshop is open to the online audience, who are encouraged to actively participate throughout the session)**

As teacher educators in an increasingly polarised world, it is essential to reflect on how we can effectively prepare our students and future teachers to meaningfully manage differences and mediate conflicts. Mediation is a critical tool that not only fosters dialogue but also helps bridge divides, whether they stem from cultural, ideological or other differences. But how can we equip future teachers with the skills to manage and prevent polarisation, particularly in educational settings with the support of eTwinning projects? Join us for an engaging and practical workshop focused on mediation and its relationship to polarisation, drawing on the framework provided by the 2020 CEFR Mediation Companion Volume. In this session, we will explore how mediation can help address polarisation and will delve into practical strategies that teacher educators can use to foster mediation skills among their students.

Dr. Isabel López-Cirugeda and Dr. Raquel Sánchez Ruiz are both tenure-track assistant professors in the department of Modern Languages (English) at the Faculty of Education of the Universidad de Castilla-La Mancha (UCLM) in Albacete, Spain. Isabel is the regional coordinator of the service-learning and education innovation and research programmes in Castilla-La Mancha. Raquel is the Vice Dean of Academic Planning and Teaching Staff and the Leader of the national 'eTwinning for Spanish future teachers' group. They both teach English as a foreign language (TEFL) for young and very young learners in the degrees in early childhood education and primary education, the EMI degree in primary education, and the dual programme in early childhood education and primary education, as well as in the master's degrees in bilingual education and ICT for early childhood and primary education; compulsory education, upper secondary education, vocational education and training and official school of languages teaching; and education innovation and research.

## **WS 8 eTwinning in teacher education: Good practices for preparing teachers in vocational education and training**

**Rita Kattein-Pornói, PhD & Eva Tóth | 29 November, 14:00–15:30**

As we prepare future teachers for careers in initial vocational education and training (IVET), we continually seek innovative ways to enhance their pedagogical skills and professional development. One avenue that has gained increasing relevance is eTwinning. But how can we best integrate eTwinning into initial teacher education, ensuring that it offers both practical value and pedagogical depth? How do different models, formats and examples of eTwinning projects enrich the preparation of future teachers for the diverse challenges they will face in IVET? Building on our experiences as teacher educators involved in preparing IVET teachers, we will share a range of strategies for embedding eTwinning into teacher education curricula. Through real-life examples, project formats and models from successful eTwinning projects, participants will gain insights into how these collaborative projects can foster the essential skills such as collaboration, digital literacy and intercultural competence needed in today's vocational education landscape.





Rita Kattein-Pornói, PhD, currently works at the Budapest University of Technology and Economics as an assistant professor in the department of technical pedagogy. Her work at the university includes organising teaching practice and contacts with technical schools. Her research interests include the possibilities of talent development in vocational education and training and talent management for disadvantaged students, as well as career choice and talent management in the period between the two world wars in Hungary. The main aim of her teaching and research activities is to provide students in vocational teacher education with knowledge that is relevant to, harmonised with and strengthened by European values.



Eva Tóth is a teacher of English and ICT project work in vocational education, an ITE ambassador, and an eTwinning ambassador from Budapest. She is also the editor-in-chief of the Hungarian educational website for teachers, 'Modern Iskola'. In her work, she incorporates project-based learning into the daily routine by organizing programs such as eTwinning projects, Code Week, and the Digital Thematic Week, all aimed at developing 21st-century skills. All her efforts focus on bridging the gap between the world of work and school. She has been an active member of the eTwinning community for almost 12 years and has participated in more than 15 European certified eTwinning projects. Her projects are related to vocational training, which she considers particularly important, as vocational school students also have a great need for cooperative work that develops 21st-century skills, for which eTwinning provides the perfect platform.

