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| Partners | Oriveden Keskuskoulu, Finland Iglemyr Skole, Norway |
| Details | URL: http://www.orivedenkoulut.net/moodle Age of the pupils: 10 - 12 Used language: English Duration: A school year School type: Primary school |
| Short Description | <p>The basic idea of our partnership is to create real connection and friendship between our students from Norway and Finland. They write letters on different topics following loosely "The Image of Another" project.</p> <p>At the same time we wish to enhance and strengthen the students' English communication and ICT skills, and "lure" them to free-willingly spend time in completely English virtual environment.</p> |
| Goals | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage our students to get to know each other and, hopefully, become friends. • Develop our students' abilities to communicate in English and connect virtually. • Enhance our students' ICT skills. • Enhance our students' understanding and knowledge of different European countries and cultures and thus overcome their prejudices and increase tolerance. |
| Working methods and contents | <p>We use open learning environment Moodle, which is called eTwinning Platform. It's safe, protected and can be entered only by people with usernames and passwords. So, the students can talk and chat and send messages without having to be scared.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forums 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. • Chats for real time connecting and conversation • Quizzes for learning about different countries and learning new vocabulary • Questionnaires and surveys to learn about and compare the students' everyday life. They are also good language practice • Links for learning about the countries and schools involved in the project. • MSN Messenger and Platform Messages for one to one chatting • E-mail for private letters, greetings, comments and instructions. (And for the teachers' planning) • Digital photos are used to describe the students and their school and everyday life. Students find photos very interesting and like to look at the pictures and talk about them (in English of course). |

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| | <p>We spend about three lessons a month in the ICT lab for chats and teacher's guidance. Most of the work is done at home. Students use their home computers for communicating and prepare their letters at home.</p> <p>We follow loosely "The Image of Another" project's contents. The learning and sharing process moves on step by step from one topic to the next. The first topic is Introductions, the second is Home and Family, the third is My School, the fourth My Hobbies, the fifth My Hometown and Home Country etc.</p> <p>Each topic contains a forum for letters and open communication, quizzes for language learning, links and questionnaires. The idea is that every two weeks something new will appear in the platform. New tasks, pictures, topics or quizzes seduce the students to come and check what interesting things have appeared.</p> <p>The students also get an e-mail notice each time something new has appeared in the forum.</p> |
| <p>Students</p> | <p>Right from the beginning, the students have been really excited about eTwinning. They love to spend English lessons in the ICT lab. In a way, they don't consider it studying at all. It is 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 makes a big difference. It is real life communicating, interesting, exciting and inspiring.</p> <p>Students are very motivated to find ways to express themselves. More than half of the students spend time in the eTwinning platform also in their free time reading each other's texts and answering them. Some spend up to 1-2 hours every day "studying English" and sending messages without worrying too much about making mistakes.</p> <p>After a couple of weeks they have overcome their shyness and really look for new contacts. They love to have letters addressed to them.</p> <p>A few have found friends with whom they chat in MSN Messenger or send e-mails.</p> <p>For some students, verbal self-expression is quite difficult due to their shyness or reserved nature. They seem to have found a new active role when communicating in writing.</p> <p>The given assignments are 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>The students' ICT skills develop too. They learn 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. And, of course, forums, chats, e-mail, quizzes and links are basically the same whatever environment you use.</p> <p>The students have also learned a lot about how to behave in the net. Rudeness or mockery is not allowed not to mention obscenities. Only English is used so that</p> |

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| | <p>everybody understands and it's polite to answer if someone asks you questions etc. These things were not quite clear to my students before we started.</p> |
| Coordinator | <p>For me, the experience has been very fulfilling. I have learned a lot about project management and about using eLearning platform and its tools in project coordination. It takes a lot of time, but it is worth it. This is my second eTwinning project using the platform, and I feel this one is much more developed and better structured than the previous one. It still has the power to inspire, but at the same time, the learning process is now clearer and more goal-oriented.</p> <p>It is also very inspiring to see my students actively connecting with students from Norway. It stimulates English studies in a very special way.</p> |
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