

Succeeding in basic skills through project-based learning and eTwinning

Onsite workshop for early childhood education and primary teachers

Riga, 10-12 April 2025

Draft agenda

Date: 10 - 12 April

Format: Hybrid

Venue: Radisson Blu Latvija Conference & Spa Hotel, Riga

Target audience

This course is addressed to early childhood education and care (ECEC) teachers and primary education teachers, members of the eTwinning community.

Introduction

In today's fast-evolving educational landscape, equipping students with strong basic skills—such as literacy, numeracy, digital competence, and critical thinking—is essential for their academic and personal growth (European Skills Agenda, [2016](#)). Project-based learning (PBL) is an innovative approach that empowers students to acquire these skills by actively engaging in real-world challenges and collaborative projects. The [eTwinning](#) initiative enhances this methodology by fostering cross-border partnerships, enabling students to collaborate with peers across Europe while building key competencies for the 21st century.

This onsite workshop is designed to support early childhood and primary education teachers integrate PBL and eTwinning into their teaching practices. It will provide participants with the knowledge, tools, and strategies to design engaging projects that develop students' foundational skills and promote cultural exchange.

Background

Basic skills are the building blocks of lifelong learning and active citizenship, forming the foundation for advanced learning and employment (European Commission, [2024](#)). According to the [European Commission](#), fostering basic skills requires innovative pedagogical approaches that connect classroom learning with real-life applications, ensuring a high-quality education, targeted towards success. Ensuring the provision of high-quality early childhood education and care is, therefore, also an efficient and effective investment in education and training (European Commission, [2024](#)). Project-based learning (PBL) has emerged as a proven method for achieving this, as it engages students in active problem-solving, teamwork, and hands-on activities.

eTwinning, as part of the Erasmus+ programme, provides a dynamic place for teachers and students to collaborate on projects across Europe. By integrating eTwinning with PBL, teachers can enhance their students' basic skills while promoting digital literacy, creativity, and cultural understanding. Students work collaboratively with one another to share ideas, build understanding and complete projects. Teachers discuss, share best practices and look for inspiration from other teachers. Students and teachers work with external stakeholders to

make learning relevant and authentic. Learning comes alive. These combinations not only align with European educational goals but also empower students to thrive in an interconnected world.

Objectives of the Workshop

1. Understand the principles and benefits of project-based learning for developing basic skills.
2. Learn practical strategies for integrating PBL and eTwinning into classroom practice.
3. Design innovative eTwinning projects focused on improving literacy, numeracy, and digital competence.
4. Build a network of educators committed to using PBL and eTwinning to foster key skills in students.

Draft Agenda

All times indicated are EEST (Eastern European Summer Time)

DAY 1 – Thursday 10 April

Plenary session (streamed for the online audience – no registration needed)

13:00–14:00	Registration
14:00–14:30	Opening - Welcome by the European Commission - Greetings from the Latvian NSO (or similar) - Introduction by the CSS
14:30–15:00	Keynote 1 <i>Project based learning and basic skills</i>
15:00–15:30	Keynote 2 Digital skills by EC, TBC
15:30–16:00	Break
16:00–16:45	Networking Activity: Part 1 and Agenda of day 2 and 3
17:00–18:30	Cultural activity (TBA)
19:30	Dinner

DAY 2 – Friday, 11 April

Workshops and Networking

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

09:30–11:00	Workshop session 1 4 in parallel
11:00–11:30	Break
11:30–12:30	Networking – Creative Activity Stations
12:30–14:00	Lunch
14:00–15:30	Workshop session 2 4 in parallel (same as above)
15:30–16:00	Break
16:00–17:30	Workshop session 3 4 in parallel (same as above)
19:30	Dinner

DAY 3 – Saturday, 12 April

Plenary session (streamed for the online audience)

09:30–10:15 **Networking activity outcomes**

10:15–11:15 **Panel discussion**

11:15–11:45 Break

11:45–12:15 **Keynote 3**

12:15–12:30 **Closing speech**

12:30 Lunch boxes - Departure