

POWER OFF COOPERATION - ETWINNING Project example

Lea Smolander
Esa Liukkonen

Kärpänen school,
Lahti



We are green

Who are we? Project was made by co-teachers from Kärpänen school: two class teachers (Lea and Esa), special needs teacher (Kristiina Viitasuo) and English language teacher (Ritva Metso)

Finding partners: First plan was to find partner schools from other European Green capital cities. Plans changed and Ritva asked “old eTwinning partners” to join the project. For us the partners was new ones.

Partners were from Germany, Portugal and France.

Background: The European Commission chose Lahti as the European Green Capital 2021 (European Green Capital Award, EGCA) as the first city in Finland.



Project Goal

Why did we have the project? Kärpänen school is an “eTwinning school”. We have decided that every 5th grade pupil has possibility to do an eTwinning project. This time we wanted to do a project which has something to do with sustainability and biodiversity because Lahti was awarded Green capital of Europe 2021.

What did we want to change?

We wanted to introduce good ways to support sustainable development. "A sustainable future calls for action, not just talk." As a green school, we highlighted solutions and how pupils could have an active role. We highlighted how the knowledge of the nature is transferred to the future generations.

What did we want them to learn?

We want the pupils to learned about the surrounding nature, how to recycle, value of the fresh water and minimize food waste. They also learned about life of the children living in a different part of Europe from their own. The pupils learned communicating through the Internet safely and using many ICT tools. The partner



Pupils learned about life of the children living in a different part of Europe from their own. The Finns learned (and teach aswell) to use bicycle to make a tour in their own city.



Activities

What did we do; how did we work and what did we “produce”?

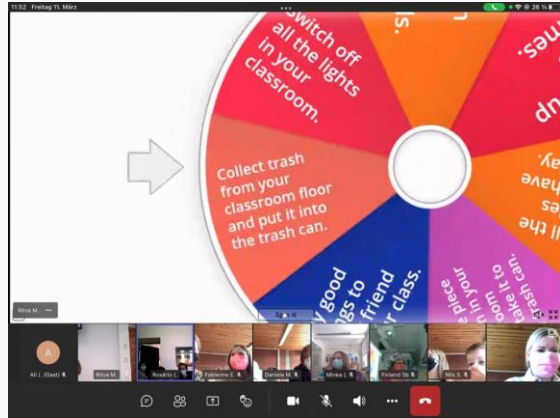
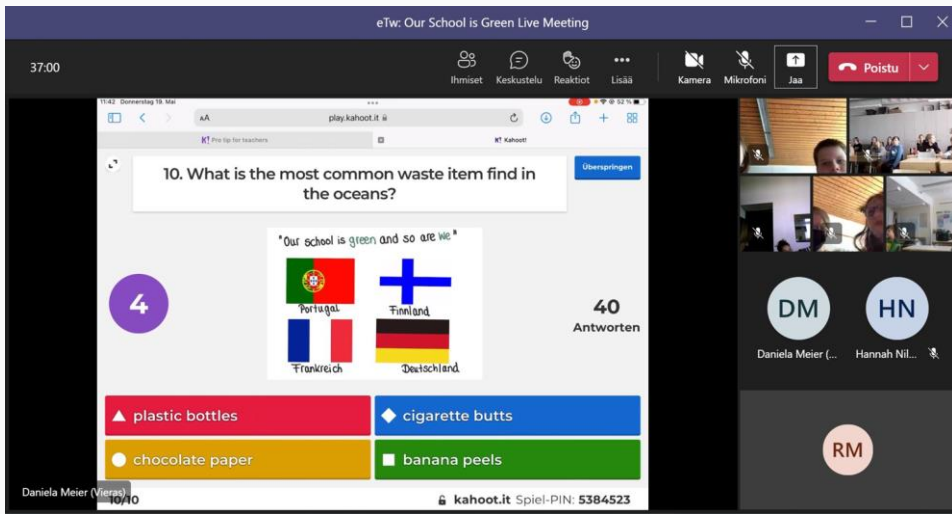
[Planning doc](#)

[Green School, green things](#)

[Kärpäslätkä](#)

eTwinning: How did we activate the children to work together across the border (versus “parallel work”):

- shared docs
- live meets
- activities together
- eco friendly wordlist
- BUT this was the weakest link in our project



Experience and outcomes

Reflections. Lessons learnt. Our tips to you in the audience

- Integrate your eTwinning project to curriculum. For example in Finland we have MOK (Multidisciplinary learning module).
- There's no limits - join everything people create together
- Be merciful and realistic, you don't have time to do everything
- Give frames where the pupils can create their own
- If you give pupils responsibility, they are able to exceed themselves
- Usually the hardest thing is to start - one have to be a starter/manager/leader of the project team
- eTwinning project is usually one of the best ways to get to know pupils strength of talent

Contact us!

More information/ looking for eTwinning-partner

Please contact us:

lea.smolander@edu.lahti.fi

esa.liukkonen@edu.lahti.fi

We are looking for eTwinning partners this year 2023-2024:

Theme: Wellbeing, taking care of oneself and managing daily life, co-operation with community.