



4th Newsletter, June 2023

Enhancing Pupils' Social Skills and Enriching Teaching Methods through Storytelling and Virtual Reality

About the project

Story Changers is a European project (Erasmus+, Key Action 2) coordinated by M.M.C Management Center Ltd, Cyprus.

Launched in December 2020 and ending in March 2023, the project aims at enhancing primary school pupils' social skills through an innovative teaching method which seeks to build a bridge between storytelling and virtual reality.

Target groups and objectives

The project's direct beneficiaries are represented by both the pupils and their teachers. In terms of objectives, these are:

PUPILS

- To enhance their social skills, such as empathy, critical thinking, problem solving, accepting diversity, self-consciousness, etc.
- To help them discover the power of storytelling and be inspired to use it in their everyday life as well as in their future life (studies, professional career)
- To help them appreciate and acquaint themselves with new and innovative technologies, upgrading their digital/ICT skills

TEACHERS

- To help them upgrade their teaching skills through integrating the concept of storytelling into their teaching
- To help them appreciate and acquaint themselves with new and innovative teaching methods which combine storytelling and interactive VR scenarios, hence upgrading their digital/ICT skills
- To help them enhance skills such as creativity and flexibility and integrate them in their daily classroom practice
- To help them build on common experiences with their pupils, thus strengthening the professional, but also, above all, personal relationships with them. The "You Tell" stories concept gives teachers the opportunity to give the floor to their pupils, thus showing them that they respect and appreciate their intellectual and creative capacities
- To help them see beyond the given, structured and daily routine and experience a part of education that they may have never had the chance to experience

Expected results

- Best Practices Report on Storytelling and VR Technology in Primary Education
- 10 "You Tell" Stories and Relevant Guide
- 5 "You Tell" Virtual Reality Scenarios and Relevant Guide
- "Change the Story" Teaching Package for Pupils

Current Phase

Multiplier Events

In the last part of the project, all the partners have done one multiplier event, explaining all the phases and the main objectives of our project, Story Changers.

In general, all the multiplier events have been a resounding success.

All of them have highlighted how the integration of storytelling and virtual reality in the classroom can capture the attention of primary school students and foster more meaningful and participatory learning. Teachers have been able to appreciate how these technologies allow children to be immersed in immersive virtual experiences, which increases their interest and commitment to curricular content.

The conferences have been a space for the exchange of ideas and good practices between participating teachers and experts in storytelling and virtual reality. Teachers have shared their experiences when implementing these tools in the classroom, which has enriched collective knowledge and has generated new pedagogical strategies.

Also, they have highlighted how storytelling in the context of virtual reality can be a powerful tool to develop cognitive and emotional skills in students. The ability to go on virtual adventures and experience diverse situations has been shown to promote critical thinking, empathy, and creativity in children.

Another key aspect that has been addressed is how storytelling and virtual reality can be adapted to different areas of the school curriculum, from science and mathematics to literature and history. This shows that these technologies are not only relevant to a specific area, but have the potential to enrich teaching in multiple disciplines.

Finally, the conferences have generated great enthusiasm among teachers, who have expressed their willingness to implement virtual reality storytelling in their teaching practices. The training received during the European project has given them the confidence and skills to integrate these tools into their classes effectively and responsibly.



Meeting in Cyprus

In June we had the last meeting of the project that took place in Cyprus, which have left a positive mark on the local community and international participants.

The event began with a warm and welcoming introduction by Apostolos Varnavas Primary School, which opened its doors to welcome visitors and guests. This Cypriot hospitality was evident in every detail, allowing attendees to feel immediately welcome and connected to the local community.

During the tour of the facilities of the Apostolos Varnavas Elementary School, the commitment and passion of the educators and school staff could be appreciated. The modern and well-equipped facilities are a reflection of the school's dedication to providing its students with an environment conducive to learning and growth. In addition, this tour provided a valuable opportunity for the exchange of ideas and good educational practices among the participants.

We also debate about some important aspects of the project such as the financial part, the dissemination, the progress of the activities or the illustrations of the stories.

It was so nice to meet all the partners again!



Upcoming activities

Final pending tasks and reports

To finalize the project, we have to finish uploading all the pending tasks, in order to have everything ready to do the final project report.

Overall, taking in account that the Erasmus Projects needs to be shared with all the European community, the dissemination part has to be constantly although the project has finished

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