

Future Classroom Ambassadors

ACTIVITY DIGEST

Issue #18, July 2022

We are happy to share with you the latest FCL Ambassadors Digest. Enjoy reading the news items about past and upcoming activities, taking place in the different countries of the network

The FCL Ambassadors wish everyone a relaxing summer break!



BELGIUM

Visit to a STEM Lab for Preschool Education

On April 20, Stephanie De Clercq (FCL ambassador), along with colleagues from the Knowledge Center Digisprong, visited the STEM lab for pre-schoolers in the Sint-Jozefschool in Berchem. This visit was part of the establishment of a learning network on innovative preschool education. Since September a teacher with a passion for STEM had the opportunity to furnish a classroom from scratch. However, this initiative was on a tight budget: existing materials available in the school and donations from colleagues and parents were used.

The classroom is divided into different zones. There is room for discovery, experimentation, research and so much more. By using different zones, it is very clear to the pre-schoolers where they need to go for certain learning activities. The toddlers (aged 4-6 years) visit the lab every time they explore a certain theme. For the youngest students, the lab is very overwhelming, instead they get the STEM lessons in their own classroom. The focus is on educational goals and skills around computational thinking, research and the use of ICT.

The goal for the future is to use this lab as an inspiration to other schools as a way to integrate STEM into the educational curriculum at an early age. The STEM lab is in constant evolution and many changes are still on the roadmap. The lab staff are planning to expand the space with QR codes that lead to tutorial videos so that pre-schoolers can work even more independently.



CZECH REPUBLIC

Teachers Meeting and 3D-Printing Workshop

On April 22, a meeting of 30 teachers from all over Czech Republic took place at the Dr. E. Beneš School in Prague-Cakovice. They were mainly teachers involved in the [MenSI project](#). They had the opportunity to visit the aquaponic farm that the school uses for teaching job-related activities. Then, the teachers visited the Future Classroom Lab, where they attended a workshop on 3D printing led by a school teacher. During the break, they tasted cucumbers grown in the aquaponic farm and took their 3D printing creations at home.



DENMARK

Makerspace in Primary and Lower-Secondary Schools

Danish municipalities and foundations are investing massively in establishing new innovative learning opportunities for pupils, especially in primary and lower-secondary schools. For some time now, the establishment of makerspaces in schools has been a big focus for many municipalities. Right now, over 60% of schools have access to a makerspace and the number is rising. The urgent question for the Danish schools is what a makerspace in a school context is and how do we ensure that working with innovative learning practices will focus on different experimental learning and teaching practices. Future Classroom Lab Denmark collaborates with 3 large municipalities on improving the competences of pedagogical staff in these new innovative learning spaces. The focus is student-centred, creating innovative learning practices where we, together with teachers, managers and policymakers, develop learning understandings in interaction with technology in these new participation opportunities for students.



FINLAND

Seminar in Tallinn, Estonia

In April the Finnish FCLab Ambassadors had a seminar in Tallinn and visited Aivar Hiio who was the lead Ambassador of Estonia, at the Estonian Ministry of Education and Research.



Finnish FCL Labs Expansion

The Finnish FCLab network has expanded to a total of ten FCLabs during this school year. In Finland, all labs are located in teacher training schools and they are parts of the university. In addition to the expansion, we are really pleased with the fourth funding cycle of the project and the fact that the activities have spread to upper-secondary schools in addition to primary school. We look forward to developing and trying out our new pedagogical innovations during the next academic school year.

Piloting an Escape Room and Digital Collaborative Evaluation Tools

FCLab Helsinki Normal Lyceum has been testing newly created tools for keeping track of pupils' learning and for enhancing evaluation. Our teachers created two different types of Excel sheets that aim to help pupils monitor their own advancement, encourage them to do homework and give them both formative evaluation or guidance and more information about their assessment by the teacher. New tools were integrated into our school's Teams system but could be easily used in any virtual learning environment. We piloted these tools this spring in mathematics and wish to expand their use to other school subjects next semester.

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Planning of a multi-level escape room has also started. Firstly, we are creating an escape room for 8th graders to solve. The goal is to make it easily movable, so it is focused on theme, story, puzzles and tools that are adaptable and their setup is easy. Part of the escape room will be physical and some parts digital. The second part of the project is to give the pupils guidance to create an escape room themselves. Their task will be to make an escape room story and puzzles for our elementary school pupils, especially 2nd and 3rd graders. Creating an escape room for younger pupils will hopefully utilize different learning zones in an efficient and fun way.

FRANCE

FCL and Erasmus +

This year, teachers from the primary school S. Le Prestre in Neuf-Brisach, put their school's FCL at the crossroads of two Erasmus+ projects. The first partnership was built with three European FCLs (in Finland, Portugal and the Czech Republic). French teachers were able to meet their European colleagues in their schools to observe and share their visions of an FCL zone. The second partnership made it possible to welcome two Spanish colleagues into the French FCL in order to build a similar approach. The mutualisation of the various uses, expectations, questions and difficulties of an FCL space allows a strong dynamic of exchanges and mutual reflections to make our pedagogies and objectives evolve and to create a direct and active network between our different FCL spaces throughout Europe. The aim is to create links, but also to share in a document the result of this experience with all the members of the programme in order to encourage similar exchanges and reinforce the value of networking.



HUNGARY

The Last F2F Hub Meeting - MenSI Schools of the Green Hub, Hungary

On 2nd June 2022, in the beautiful city of Kaposvár the teachers from the MenSI Green School Hub gathered for the last time to share their knowledge, ideas, good practices and reflect on their mentoring activities, experiences in peer-to-peer learning and evaluate their collaboration as a MenSI team. The hosting primary school was Kaposvári Kodály Zoltán Központi Általános Iskola.

During the meeting the participants discovered lots of innovative programmes and tools for developing pupils' logical and creative thinking like [Sakkpalota](#) (Chess Palace) or a complex movement and personality development method like [Mozgáskotta](#) (Movement scores).

More info about the event on [MenSI blog](#).



ISRAEL

The Biannual Meeting of the FCL Ambassadors

After a break of three years, the FCL lead ambassadors met again in the prototype FCL in Brussels. The meeting took place on the 8th of June and included an introductory round where each ambassador was asked to share the new projects or developments that his/her team is working on. The following ambassadors were present at the meeting: Denmark, France, Norway, Spain, Flanders, Portugal, Malta, Finland, and Israel. The meeting closed with an informal dinner.

The second day began with a session about the importance of acoustics in the classroom given by Douglas MacCutcheon from Ecophon. After a coffee break, we met with Anneke Verbeeck from i3-Technologies who led a workshop on how to incorporate IMO-LEARN flexible furniture into the classroom.



MALTA

New VR in Schools

As part of the One Tablet Per Child scheme, the Directorate for Digital Literacy and Transversal Skills introduced Virtual Reality (VRs) sets in schools. Each cluster of schools has 24 VR headsets (3 sets of 8 headsets) to be used from early years up to secondary schools. This technology aims to provide an immersive experience to students and educators to engage in experiential learning across subjects. This initiative is partly financed by EU Funds under the One Tablet Per Child scheme. Training sessions for educators were held at the Future Classroom Labs in Hamrun in



order to familiarize teachers with this new digital technology and provide innovative experiences in teaching and learning.

Family Coding at the DDLTS Centre

The Directorate for Digital Literacy and Transversal Skills once again embarked on the Family Coding initiative during Term 2 of this scholastic year. The aim of the Family Coding initiative is to encourage parents and children to collaborate in order to solve a number of coding challenges while making creative use of the school tablet as part of the One Tablet Per Child initiative. This year, Family Coding sessions were held online.



NORWAY

The Arctic University of Norway – Conference in Tromsø.

The Arctic University of Norway organises a conference in Tromsø that will take place on the 24th and 25th of November. The topic to be addressed is *Using Computer and Videogames in Teaching and Learning*. The Norwegian FCL team will be actively involved.

PORTUGAL

Matatalab in Action

On the 17th of May, an online presentation of the Matatalab pilot project took place including the dissemination of its programming tools. As part of this project, coordinated by the Educational Resources and Technologies Team of the Directorate-General for Education (ERTE/DGE), a team of teachers from the School Cluster Luísa Todi, in Setúbal, designed lesson plans and tested them in five classes during the 1st cycle and one in preschool. The aim of this initiative was to get students to explore the innovative Matatalab robotics kits - Tale Bot and Coding Set - and to promote the pedagogical use of these programable learning tools. The online session, available in Portuguese [here](#), features the presentation of the project and the activities developed within its scope, with a display of the Tale Bot and Coding Set kits along with the presentation of the corresponding lesson plans and classroom implementation experiences.



SLOVAKIA

Grand Opening of Ceremony of Future Classroom Lab BESST

With the participation of invited guests, we ceremoniously opened the spaces of the Future Classroom Lab BESST in Trnava. The invitation was accepted by practitioners, city representatives, as well as pedagogical experts. After the presentations, the guests could also try various interactive activities prepared by teachers and pupils. We believe that the Future Classroom Lab BESST is a place where the experience of an innovative teaching process is stimulating and developing for children and teachers, and that will be an inspiration for others.



Matatalab Pilot Project

We have joined the Matatalab pilot project, which provides a solution for teaching programming to the youngest children aged 3-9 years. We try, test and learn with our Year 1 pupils through LEGO robotics lessons. The project allows children to use physical objects and through fun and engaging activities to create a program and observe its execution by a cute robot. This gives students the opportunity to practice their 21st century skills - critical thinking, collaboration, communication and creativity, which we perceive as extremely important for the success of our students in the future.



Aula del Futuro Ambassadors Activities

The [Aula del Futuro Ambassadors Meeting](#) was held in Alicante on the 27th and 28th of May in conjunction with the 1st Conference on Transforming Classrooms of Educational Spaces and Methodologies, organized by the Department of Education, Culture and Sport of the Valencian Community. It was of great interest to share the wide range of actions developed by the Regions, including calls for innovation projects, training plans, conferences, visits to schools and meetings aimed at promoting the Aula del Futuro methodology among teachers throughout this year.



Blended FCL Training

Between April and May, the attendance sessions of six of the twelve Aula del Futuro blended courses were held. The training started with an on-line preparatory phase. After that, the core of this training took place in the Aula del Futuro classroom at INTEF headquarters over three days. During these days, the participants designed a learning activity that they will have to develop with their students at their schools to complete the training. The remaining attendance sessions will take place in September and October.



Online FCL Training

INTEF has launched [the fourth edition of the online course Aula del Futuro](#). This training is open to 250 participants and is aimed at familiarizing them with the FCL Toolkit. INTEF has also developed the second edition of its NOOC "[Discover what is Aula del Futuro](#)" facilitated by Maria Castro, AdF ambassador. The live event was attended by ambassadors Francisco Masero and Francisco Aliaga. The second edition of this NOOC has been a great success of participation and results. Next autumn, INTEF will launch the second edition of the NOOC [#SituacionesAdF](#) and [#ActividadesAdF](#) dedicated respectively to the design of both FCL learning scenarios and activities- which will be facilitated by ambassadors Mari Carmen Montoya, and Lucía Álvarez.



Regional FCL Training

Comunidad de Madrid has developed the course "[Innovative learning spaces. Active methodologies and digitalization of centers](#)". This course will provide participating teachers with tools and work dynamics so that they will be able to create flexible and multipurpose classrooms that offer greater educational possibilities.

Castilla y León has developed the working group "[Creating projects in Aula del Futuro](#)". The activity aims to carry out a methodological transformation in the classroom using the means offered by this type of space.

Castilla y León has also launched the course "[In Pre-School Education, we experiment and create with robots, in the Classroom of the Future](#)" to promote teaching innovation through new tools that can awaken students' interest in technology.

Murcia has developed the online course "[DIGITALPROF: Educational spaces for methodological innovation](#)". The purpose of this course is to introduce the FCL Toolkit to participating teachers who are involved in Aula del Futuro projects.

Extremadura has launched "[Design of Learning Scenarios with active methodologies](#)". This course offers didactic and pedagogical guidelines necessary to develop key competencies with our students, through a real educational programming fitted to the needs of each classroom and the educational spaces available.

TURKEY

The International Design FILS Conference

The International Design FILS Conference was held in Istanbul. Within the scope of the Designing Future Innovative Learning Spaces (Design FILS) Project, an international conference took place in Istanbul on 20-21 June. The conference brought together a variety of education stakeholders, such as experts, researchers, academics, policy makers, educators and many teachers, with the aim of contributing to the field of building innovative learning environments at the policy, academy, school and classroom level. Through theoretical and hands-on sessions delivered by the education experts working across Europe and the world, participants had the opportunity to deepen, discuss and apply their knowledge on designing innovative learning environments, applying innovative pedagogical approaches in flexible learning spaces and integrating technology into education. The International Design FILS Conference contributed to improving the ideas of flexible learning space design, active learning, development of digital skills and the use of technology in education, as well as disseminating the project activities and outputs at an international level.



Design FILS Teacher Training Course

The Design FILS Teacher Training Course took place in April-May, 2022. Carried out together with the European Schoolnet and six project partners at the European level since 2019, the main purpose of the Design FILS project is to train educators and teachers in order to raise awareness and guide them to design innovative, multidisciplinary, technology-enhanced and flexible learning spaces. 13 Pan-European trainers and 71 national trainers from Austria, Czechia, Spain and Turkey received training throughout the 2021-2022 academic year first. During the third phase of the training process, these trainers delivered online and face-to-face training activities to approximately 2500 teachers from the project partner countries, besides the asynchronous learning content provided through an online learning platform developed as an output within the scope of the project. The training course helped support teachers in their professional development and promoted the transformation of traditional classrooms in schools into flexible and technology-enhanced learning spaces with active learning pedagogies.



For further information on the Future Classroom Ambassadors, please contact Bart Verswijvel - bart.verswijvel@eun.org