

Common mistakes when implementing an eTwinning project

As the number of applications grows year by year, so does the percentage of projects that achieve quality seal recognition. This indicates that the methodology based on eTwinning quality criteria is gaining ground among the teachers involved in the projects. The National Support Service congratulates all teachers who have achieved the quality seal for their good work.

On the other hand, after reviewing the comments made by the project evaluation team, the SNA has observed that there are repeated errors that are made during the projects, both in those that obtain the quality seal and those that do not.

Below, we highlight the most common mistakes, as well as ideas on how to remedy them. A *golden rule* to keep in mind is that **planning the project in advance guarantees a high likelihood of success**.

MISTAKE: Tasks/activities were not planned before the start of the project.

SOLUTION: Prepare a document in which the tasks/activities are designed (timing, work process, how students will be grouped, proposal for digital tools, etc.), and store it in the *TwinSpace* so that it is available to all partners. We also recommend using the calendar and/or timeline.

MISTAKE: The *TwinSpace* activity pages are disorganised.

SOLUTION: Plan the order of the activity pages so that any visitor viewing the *TwinSpace* can easily understand how the project has been carried out. Avoid a situation where the order is determined by individual countries' contributions.

MISTAKE: Students from partner schools do not interact.

SOLUTION: Develop a communication strategy, with the help of digital tools, according to the learners' degree of autonomy: interacting on profiles, reacting to the partner's work,

creating debates in forums, organising chat conversations, organising video-conference sessions, etc.

MISTAKE: The work of the partner schools runs in parallel. No collaborative results are presented.

SOLUTION: Establish a plan for online coordination meetings between partner teachers (use video conferencing tool).

Develop a collaboration strategy: organise students in mixed-nationality groups according to their autonomy, participate in collaborative documents, produce collective results in which students are co-authors, co-creators, etc.

MISTAKE: The work process is not documented.

Authorship of materials, texts, etc. is not identified.

SOLUTION: Provide graphic, documented evidence of the process: photos, videos, links, screenshots, images, insert digital products into the activity pages, etc.

Encourage students' autonomy to access the TwinSpace and complete their profile, upload materials, participate in forums, chats and videoconferences, publish on the homepage, sign their work, etc.

MISTAKE: A high number of images/photos and other documents irrelevant to the eTwinning project are published (very frequent in projects associated with mobilities).

SOLUTION: Record tasks and events by including only those images that are most significant.

MISTAKE: No project or student evaluation is presented.

SOLUTION: An evaluation of the project should be carried out, both by the partner teachers and the students.

A reflection on what has been done must lead to proposals for improvement, which will enable subsequent projects to evolve.

It is important to define the student assessment process in relation to achieving key competences and therefore to reflect its contribution to the final grade.

MISTAKE: The tangible results of the project are not well defined.


SOLUTION: Specify the results to be achieved before starting the project: a map, a magazine, a tourist guide, a mascot, a statistical study, a restaurant menu, a video, a photographic exhibition, etc.

MISTAKE: The tool used is not appropriate for the students' age.

SOLUTION: Ensure that the complexity of using the tool does not hinder the execution of a task or demotivate learners.

MISTAKE: The project is not publicised.

SOLUTION: Inform your school's educational community, present the experience of other schools, publish on the school's institutional website, on social media, in the local press, etc.

In order to avoid mistakes, be it the ones mentioned above or others, it is a good idea to keep the [quality seal's evaluation rubric](#)  in mind at all stages of the project

Talk to your partners, try to identify potential mistakes such as those outlined above together, and reflect on whether to change course.