

Dear Mr Vretos,

My name is Maria Vasilopoulou, an English teacher in 3rd Junior High School of Acharnes, an active eTwinner for seven years and an eTwinning Ambassador for the years 2017-2019. As an Ambassador I am writing this letter because I would like to inform you about the eTwinning action and all the benefits that come along with it both for the school community (teachers and students) but also for the local community (parents , stakeholders)

According to a definition provided by the British Council “ eTwinning is a free online community for schools in Europe and some neighbouring countries, which allows you to find partners and collaborate on projects within a secure network and platform.” For us, European ambassadors eTwinning is a treasury of opportunities for collaboration, communication, interaction, innovation, sharing, professional and personal development, between schools of various countries. For all these reasons I would like to take the following action in order to promote it in our local community :

- Organize on site and on-line seminars to present it to teachers of neighbouring schools. My aim is to inform, inspire, support , clear any doubts, motivate them so as to join the eTwinning community as the benefits are multiple. As a simple example I could refer to the numerous opportunities for professional development offered on the eTwinning platform such as learning events, online courses, webinars, contact workshops just to mention some, at no cost. Strong desire for lifelong learning and knowledge for the latest pedagogies and teaching approaches is something lots of teachers feel. ETwinning offers them the opportunity to join a community where they will have the chance to learn, share, communicate, collaborate and develop themselves professionally. My role will be to guide them wherever they need my support.
- Organize on-site meetings with parents in order to explain the value behind collaborating with schools from other countries. As European citizens it is necessary to open our school doors to Europe and help our students become European citizens with whatever the term entails. The safe environment their children will work on will be highlighted as well as the need to hone their digital skills and technical expertise , develop their competences, foster their creativity and critical thinking, learn teamwork, respect the diversity, develop empathy ,become resilient, and wishfully love learning. Etwinning is one way to engage parents in the school community working along with their students.
- Engage stakeholders in eTwinning collaborations in any way a project finds it necessary. The dissemination of a successful project via the local news will shed light on the power of working along with our European colleagues.

- When teachers, students and stakeholders collaborate there is progress in the local community .Etwinning is the bond between them and their European partners. It helps students become European citizens from a very young age, teaches them about cultural diversity, respect, understanding, team spirit along with many other values they will need in their adult life.

For all these reasons I am available as an eTwinning ambassador to promote this European community in our local community and act as a mentor, guide, and supporter whenever this is necessary.

Please do not hesitate to inform me about any questions or doubts you may have and I am sure with the support of our NSS I will try to answer them all and clear your doubts.

Yours sincerely

Maria Vasilopoulou

eTwinning Ambassador of East Attica and B' Region of Attica