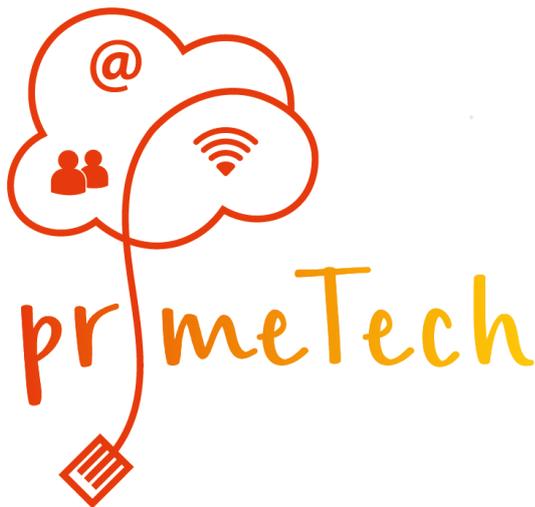# PrimeTech Newsletter №1

June 2017

Welcome to PrimeTech

PrimeTech is a two-year Erasmus+ KA2 Strategic Partnership project, which aims to promote Technology Enhanced Teaching in Primary Schools run by 6 partner organisations from 6 countries.

It also tackles the need to enhance the uptake of ICT in teaching and learning, to promote stronger coherence between different EU and national, transparency and recognition tools, and strengthen the professional profile of the teaching profession.

According, to the recent "Survey of Schools: ICT in Education" two-thirds of teachers in the EU learn about ICT in their own time, and almost all are positive about ICT impact on students. Despite this readiness, the Survey revealed that teachers' ICT use in lessons and confidence in their digital competency have to increase.

In this light the project aims to:
- create the Technology Enhanced Teaching Competence Code which will be used as the basis of the creation of the OPEN BADGES system to be used for the recognition and validation of teachers' practices, knowledge and skills acquired

- design and implement the PRIMETECH professional development programme for teachers with in-built ICT training offered both on-line and school-based, and constant monitoring and assessment procedures through a mentoring and peer assessment process offered in an open environment
- design a dynamic, interactive and powerful tool eco-system-open platform which will provide e-learning, e-connectivity and e-communication functionalities accompanied by learning modules, training material, guides etc.

Throughout the project 7 main Intellectual Outputs are planned to be produced ranging from a survey to e-platform, Digital Guides, assessment tools and use of OPEN BADGES system. A strong dissemination and exploitation strategy is planned during the 24 months targeting interested professionals at the organizational, local, regional, national and EU level.

The direct target group of teachers and the indirect group of primary students will benefit from the implementation of the project at a transnational level, as developing comprehensive professional programmes in the digital field cannot be achieved without the exchange of information, identification of good practices and complementarity of expertise.

Transnational implementation of the project will help partner countries towards utilizing EU tools such as the ECVET and mechanisms such as the OPEN BADGES for the recognition and validation of the digital skills acquired while ensuring transferability, credibility and, transparency. At the same time the project promotes various Erasmus+ priorities: such as strengthening educators' profiles by developing digital competences and by using open and innovative education embedded in the digital era through creating synergies, digitalizing learning and promoting the use of ICT as a driver for systemic change to increase the quality and relevance of education.

Partner Meetings

Partners at the Hannover meeting in January 2017

An initial <u>kick-off meeting</u>, attended by all partners was held in January 2017, hosted by the coordinating partner the Leibniz University in Hannover, Germany. An efficient and work-intensive meeting resulted in the creation of a very clear action plan with benchmarks and deadlines, which the partners found most useful and motivating.

After the meeting all partners worked hard to produce the first intellectual output of the project: the State of the Art analysis, which can be found on the project website. It provided us with a clear picture of the current situation, the challenges and needs present in primary schools and it provided us with a foundation for our next intellectual output: the Technology Enhanced Teaching Code of Competence.

Partners at the London meeting in May 2017

In May 2017 the UK partner edEUcation hosted <u>the second transnational project meeting</u> in London at the prestigious Europe House, the headquarters of the European Commission in the UK. The focus of this meeting was to agree on final versions of everything produced so far and define the structure of the TET Code of Competence. The partners decided to create 5 areas of competence on which to base the training modules:

1. *Information and Data Literacy*
2. *Communication and Collaboration*
3. *Digital Content Creation*
4. *Safety*
5. *Problem Solving in Pedagogy*

These areas are based on the outcomes of the State of the Art Analysis, as well as on the results of the survey among primary teachers conducted by the partners in their countries. They reflect the most relevant needs expressed by teachers in order to improve the provision of Technology Enhanced Teaching.

Open Badges System

Once primary teachers start using the learning modules, they will be earning Open Badges validating their learning outcomes. Unique Open Badges will be allocated to each Digital Competence. It is proposed that for each Digital Competence Open Badges will be earned at each level of knowledge. There will be three levels of expertise for each module: Bronze, Silver and Gold. A teacher could thus earn 15 Open Badges, one for each level of each competence and one additional Special Open Badge validating the completion of all five modules at all levels.

There will be a custom-built assessment system with specific criteria, assessment activities and evidence of achievement. The modules and the assessment system will be created on a Moodle platform dedicated to PrimeTech. Our Greek partner has significant experience in creating online training courses accompanied by a validation system. Our validation approach will include pre-training self-assessment, online training, self-evaluation and external validation. Details remain yet to be defined alongside the creation of the training modules.

Meet the Project Partners

The coordinating partner is The Institute of Civic Education, which is part of the Leibniz University Hannover, Germany. The overall aim of the institute is to enable both young people and adults to acquire key skills and competences necessary for active citizenship and participation at all levels of social and political life. IDD develops, tests and implements a wide range of training programs, all of which aim to improve the skills of trainee teachers and other education professionals.

NCSR "Demokritos" is the largest multidisciplinary research centre in Greece conducting world-class basic and applied research, for advancing scientific knowledge and promoting technological development in selected areas of national socioeconomic interest. It also plays a pivotal role in graduate education and professional training and its unique infrastructure is employed for high-technology services to the Industry and the Society.

Primary School and Kindergarten EuroEd in Iasi, Romania promotes the European dimension of education which has become part of the ethos and culture of the school and it encourages multiculturalism and multilingualism by providing education to children of different nationalities or belonging to different ethnic groups.

Biedrība Eurofortis is a dynamic Czech-Latvian centre based in Riga, Latvia working in the field of training and personal and professional competence development. It provides up-to-date educational and learning materials, tools and methods, as well as training within projects mostly aimed at identification, development and improvement of various competences and knowledge.

The Emphasys Centre is a successful ICT Educational and Vocational Centre and a European Research Centre, based in Nicosia, Cyprus, cooperating closely with various organisations in Europe for the implementation of EU projects. The Centre has great experience in the development of training courses for the professional development of educators across the sectors.

edEUcation is an education consultancy with expertise in working on international education programmes. The consultancy is led by a former UK secondary Principal who is an officially accredited EU expert in Erasmus+ assisted by highly qualified and experienced practitioners from all education sectors.

Learn more about the PrimeTech project activities

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- ➢ Follow us on Twitter: @primetecheu
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