



**KULTUSMINISTER
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*Pädagogischer
Austauschdienst*



Empowering Students through Collaborative Projects: The Chances of eTwinning

**“Empowering Students in the Digital Age - with Erasmus+”
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Erasmus+
Enriching lives, opening minds.



Agenda

1. eTwinning: a Safe Digital Space in the European School Education Platform
2. eTwinning: a Method for Intercultural Digital Collaboration
3. eTwinning: a Community of Open-minded Teachers
4. eTwinning and Erasmus+ Synergies
5. Wrap up: Empowering the Learning Community with eTwinning!

The background features several thick, solid lines in blue and green. A blue line starts from the bottom left and extends towards the top center. A green line starts from the top center and extends towards the bottom right. Another green line starts from the top right and extends towards the bottom left, crossing the other green line. These lines create a dynamic, abstract geometric pattern.

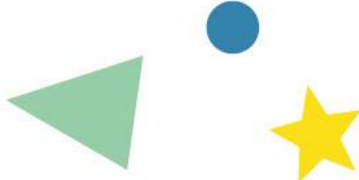
eTwinning: a Safe Digital Space in the European School Education Platform

European School Education Platform



- ▶ Meeting point for the school education community – school staff, researchers, and policymakers, ITE institutions – to share news, interviews, publications, practice examples, courses and partners for their Erasmus+ projects.
- ▶ EU-Login: Single point to access different IT Tools from the European Commission

Before the European School Education Platform



For schools, pre-school and initial teaching education institutions

For all stakeholders in the field of school education

Safe and free platform

Partner finding

Online projects with pupils

Seminars and conferences

Recognition

ICT tools



Resources & Materials for the classroom

Studies & Policy Papers

Professional development

eTwinning



- ▶ 27 EU member states
- ▶ 3 countries of the European Economic Area (Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway)
- ▶ 17 neighboring countries of the EU
- ▶ More than 1 million registered teachers
- ▶ 36 languages
- ▶ Free of charge!

What offers eTwinning?

eTwinning Projects

Take place in a safe virtual classroom: the TwinSpace

eTwinning Rooms

Micro Groups with videoconferencing system, forum and file archive

eTwinning Groups

Virtual places for discussion of specific subjects, topics, or other areas of interest

eTwinning Trainings

Special online offers for eTwinners - in addition to ESEP offers

For teachers & pupils

For teachers and school staff

TwinSpace

- ▶ It provides **built-in tools**
- ▶ In addition to the core tools, the system also allows to embed and link **external tools**
- ▶ This enables the **customization** of the **digital workspace** to meet the **specific needs** of each project and participating classes
- ▶ The design is intended to support and facilitate project-based **collaborative learning**



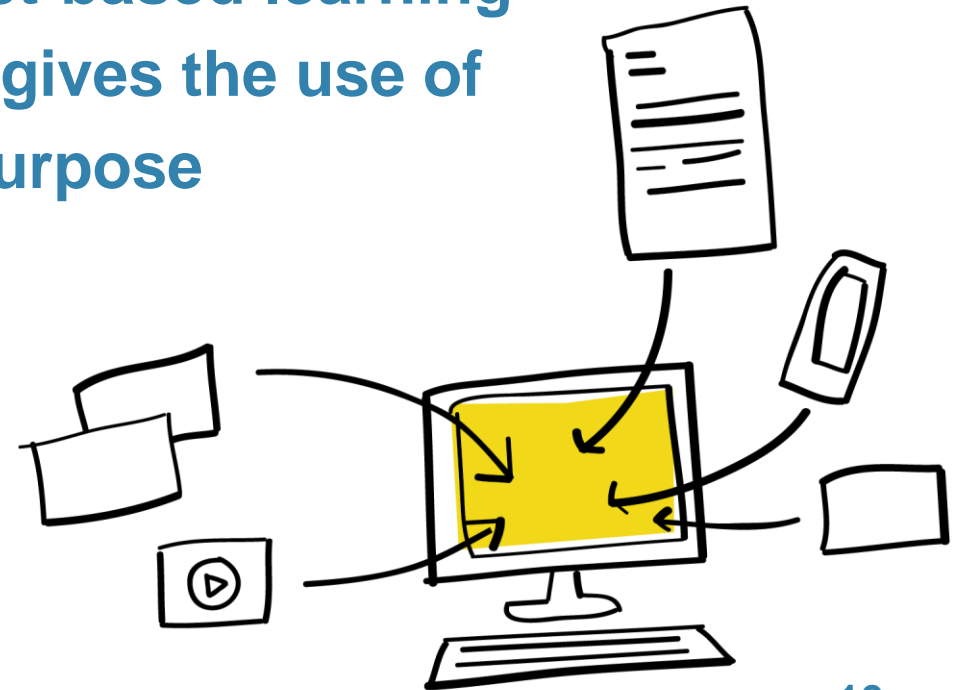
eTwinning: a Method for Intercultural Digital Collaboration

Learning about media and digital technologies

- **Subjects such as safety, data protection, development of digital content, new technologies and well-being**

Learning different school subjects with the support of digital tools

- **The project-based learning approach gives the use of media a purpose**



eTwinning in the context of *DigComp 2.2: The Digital Competence Framework for Citizens.*

European Commission, Joint Research Centre, Vuorikari, R., Kluzer, S., Punie, Y., DigComp 2.2, The Digital Competence framework for citizens – With new examples of knowledge, skills and attitudes, Publications Office of the European Union, 2022, <https://data.europa.eu/doi/10.2760/15376>



Embracing the Transition to a New Educational Paradigm



„Pupils were considered as passive receptors of the knowledge, and the teacher as someone who transmitted that knowledge and was expected to reproduce it faithfully. [...] the role of education and training must change. It is critical to shift the purpose of education and effect a profound transformation of the status quo to address the challenges posed by the green and digital transitions successfully.“

(20, Sala, Arianna. European Commission, European Education and Culture Executive Agency, *eTwinning – Teaching, creating, innovating*, Publications Office of the European Union, 2023, <https://data.europa.eu/doi/10.2797/26092>)

LifeComp: The European Framework for Personal, Social and Learning to Learn Key Competence

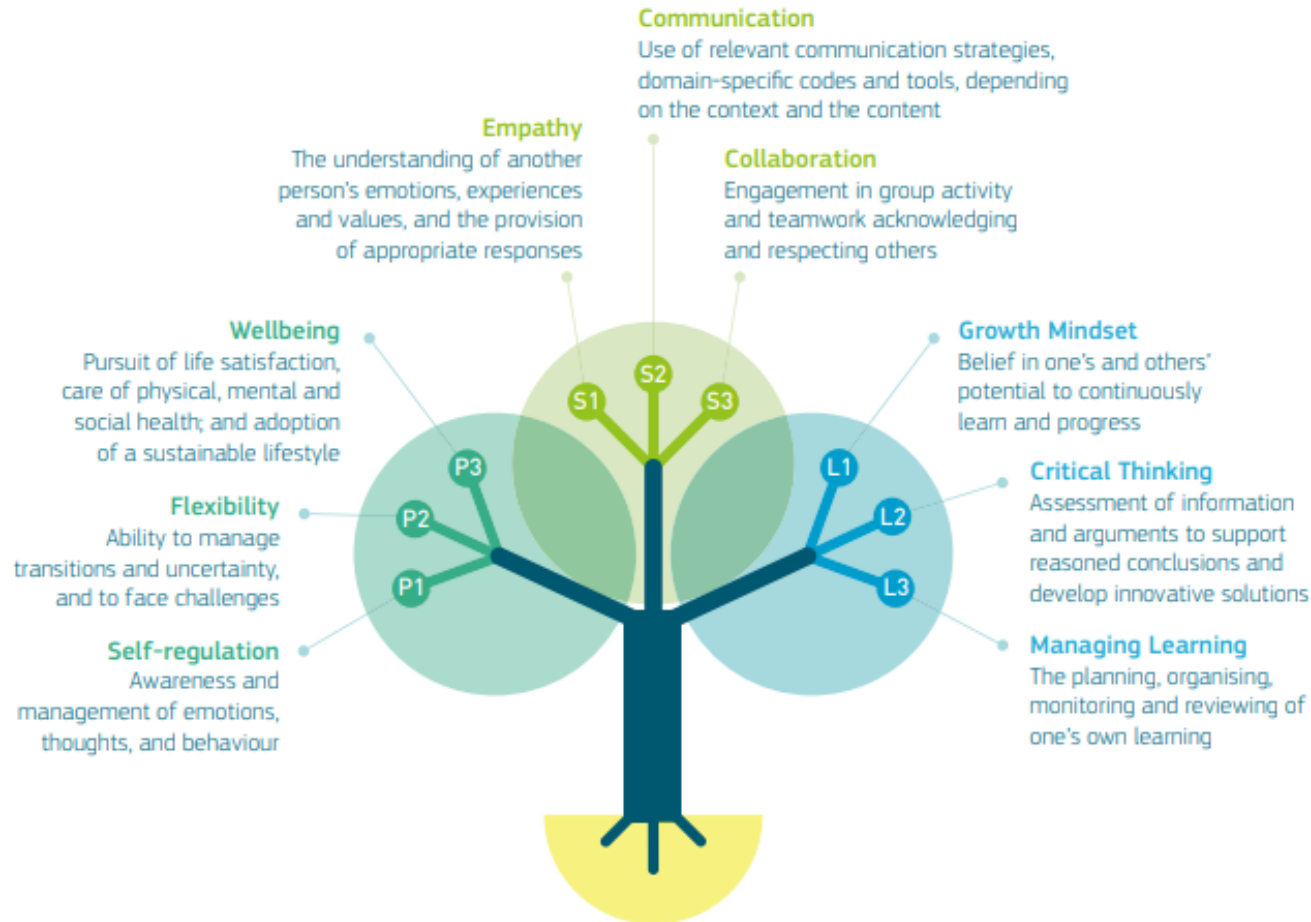


FIGURE 1. LIFECOMP AT A GLANCE

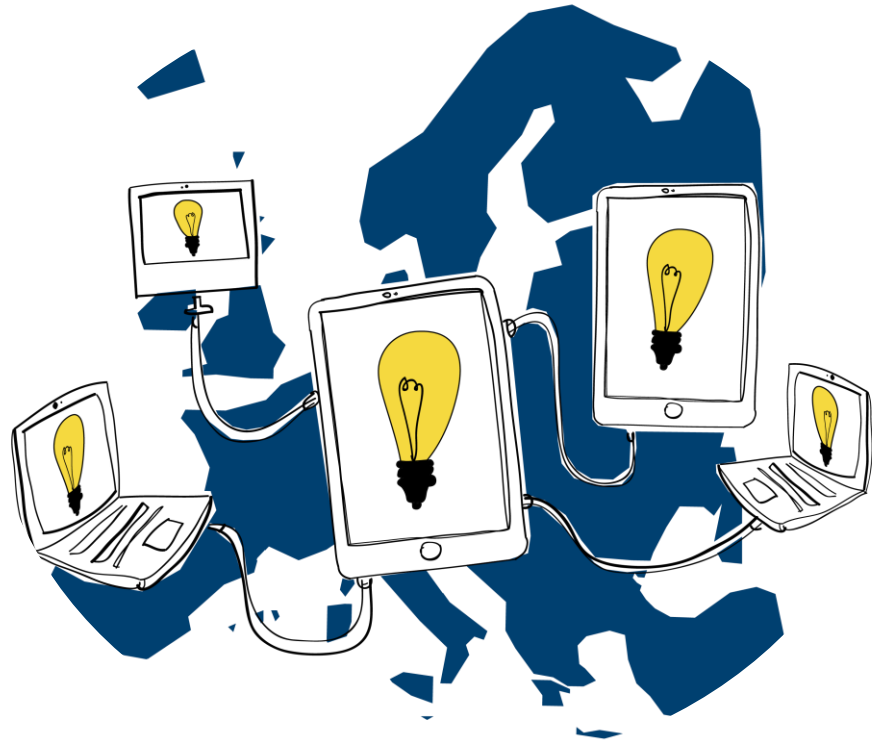
(9) Sala, A., Punie, Y., Garkov, V. and Cabrera Giraldez, M., LifeComp: The European Framework for Personal, Social and Learning to Learn Key Competence, EUR 30246 EN, Publications Office of the European Union, Luxembourg, 2020, ISBN 978-92-76-19418-7, doi:10.2760/302967, JRC120911.

Collaborative Learning is at the Heart of eTwinning Projects



- ▶ Focus on joint work process
- ▶ Problem solving via communication between all team members
- ▶ All team members know and understand the task and have the same level of knowledge
- ▶ Personal responsibility
- ▶ Willingness to discuss, offer mutual support, learn to compromise
- ▶ Communicate, structure and advocate own ideas

and also...



- ▶ Takes place in an **intercultural context**
- ▶ Participants **face and navigate diverse multicultural and multilingual constellations**
- ▶ Can present **additional challenges**
- ▶ Can also **enrich the collaborative process** for a more **impactful** experience

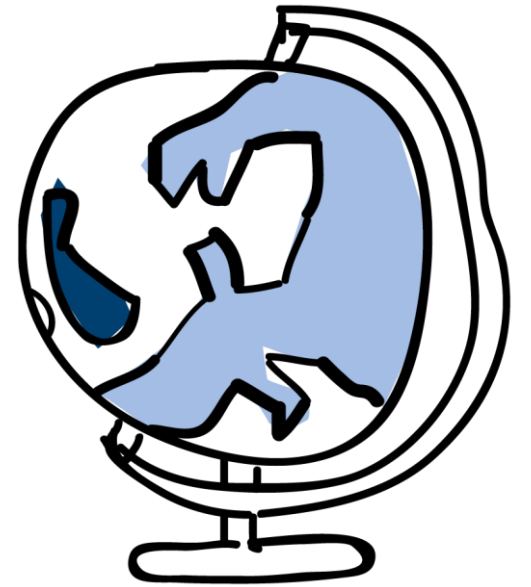
Interculturality



- ▶ **“Interculturality”** refers to the existence and equitable interaction of diverse cultures and the possibility of generating shared cultural expressions through dialogue and mutual respect. (5, Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions, Paris, 20 oct 2005 <https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000142919>)
- ▶ **Intercultural Education** aims to go beyond passive coexistence, to achieve a developing and sustainable way of living together in multicultural societies through the creation of *understanding of, respect for and dialogue* between the different cultural groups (18, UNESCO guidelines on intercultural education ED.2006/WS/59. <https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000147878>)
- ▶ **Intercultural understanding (ICU)** is defined here as the ability to empathise, to recognise our own values and biases, to recognise what shapes our opinions, to avoid labelling others and making assumptions about their views and to value a variety of **opinions** (9, Fielding, Ruth. Multilingualism, Identity and Interculturality in Education, Springer Nature Singapore Pte Ltd. 2022. <https://doi.org/10.1007/978-981-19-5848-9>)

Intercultural Collaboration with eTwinning

- ▶ Draws attention to the **multicultural and multilingual diversity** already present in classrooms
- ▶ Opportunity to approach and engage with the **diversity** in new ways
- ▶ Possibility to foster greater **intercultural understanding, empathy, collaboration** and strengthening the group.
- ▶ can provide pupils with **cross-cultural identities and experiences** the opportunity to **play different roles, be seen in a new light** by both themselves and others - and through this, **feel empowered**.



eTwinning: a Community of Open-Minded Teachers



“The eTwinning community is made up of thousands of teachers and educators who share a vision of inclusive schools, using information and communication technology in a meaningful way, and making the most of 21st-century skills.”

(<https://school-education.ec.europa.eu/en/etwinning>)

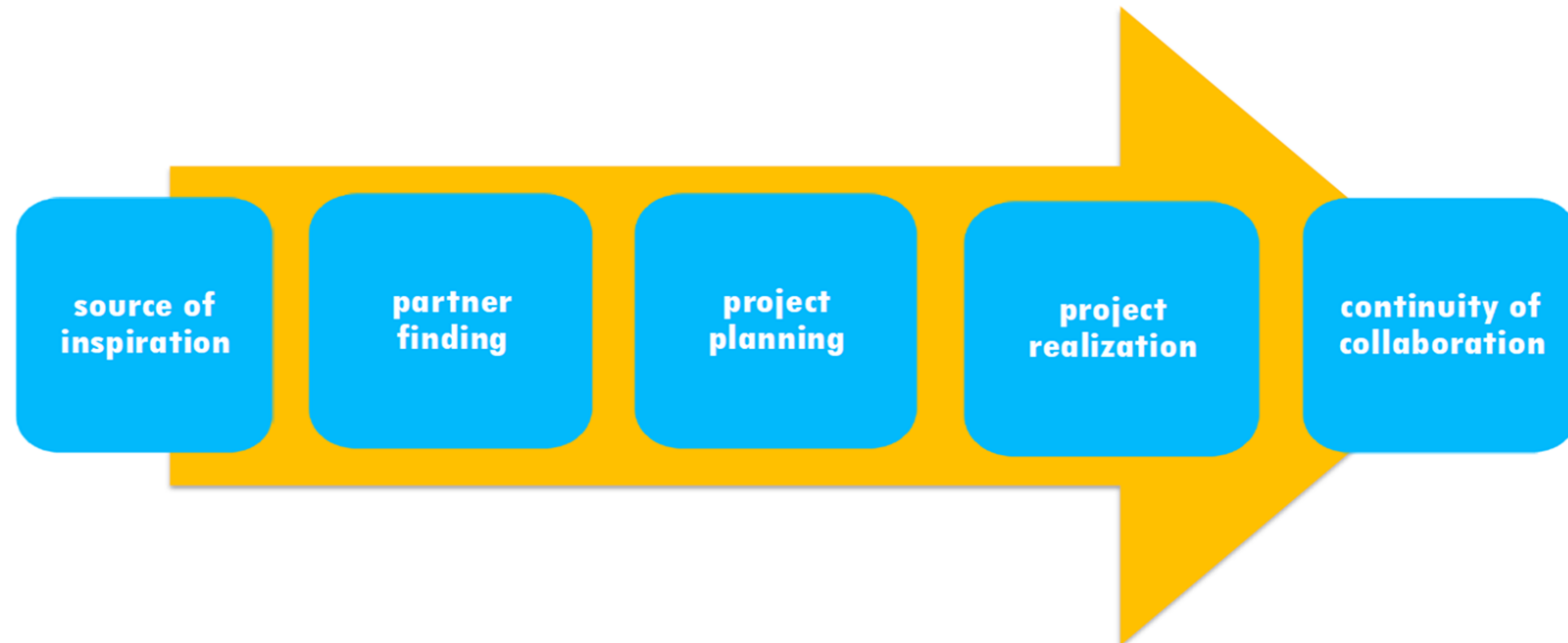


- ▶ Through the different **networking possibilities** and several **channels of communication** that the European School Education Platform offers teachers can meet to **exchange ideas** and **work together** with an **action-oriented** approach to innovate in their teaching practices through eTwinning projects.
- ▶ eTwinners explore and create ways to address the challenges of teaching and learning in the 21st century.
- ▶ Attend conferences, events, partner finding fairs.
- ▶ Teachers collaboratively design the project, create and moderate activities, customize the TwinSpace, and guide pupils' collaborative work
- ▶ Shared ownership and joint decision-making by teachers models effective collaboration in pupils!

eTwinning and Erasmus+ Synergies



- ▶ eTwinning is the offer from the Erasmus+ program for virtual exchange.
- ▶ eTwinning complements Erasmus+ partnerships and projects: It can be used for preparation, documentation and much more!
- ▶ eTwinning as part of the European School Education Platform makes the relationship and synergy with Erasmus+ and other EU initiatives more clear





Focus Areas of Erasmus+ and eTwinning



Inclusion
and diversity




Environment
and climate
goals



Digital
transformation



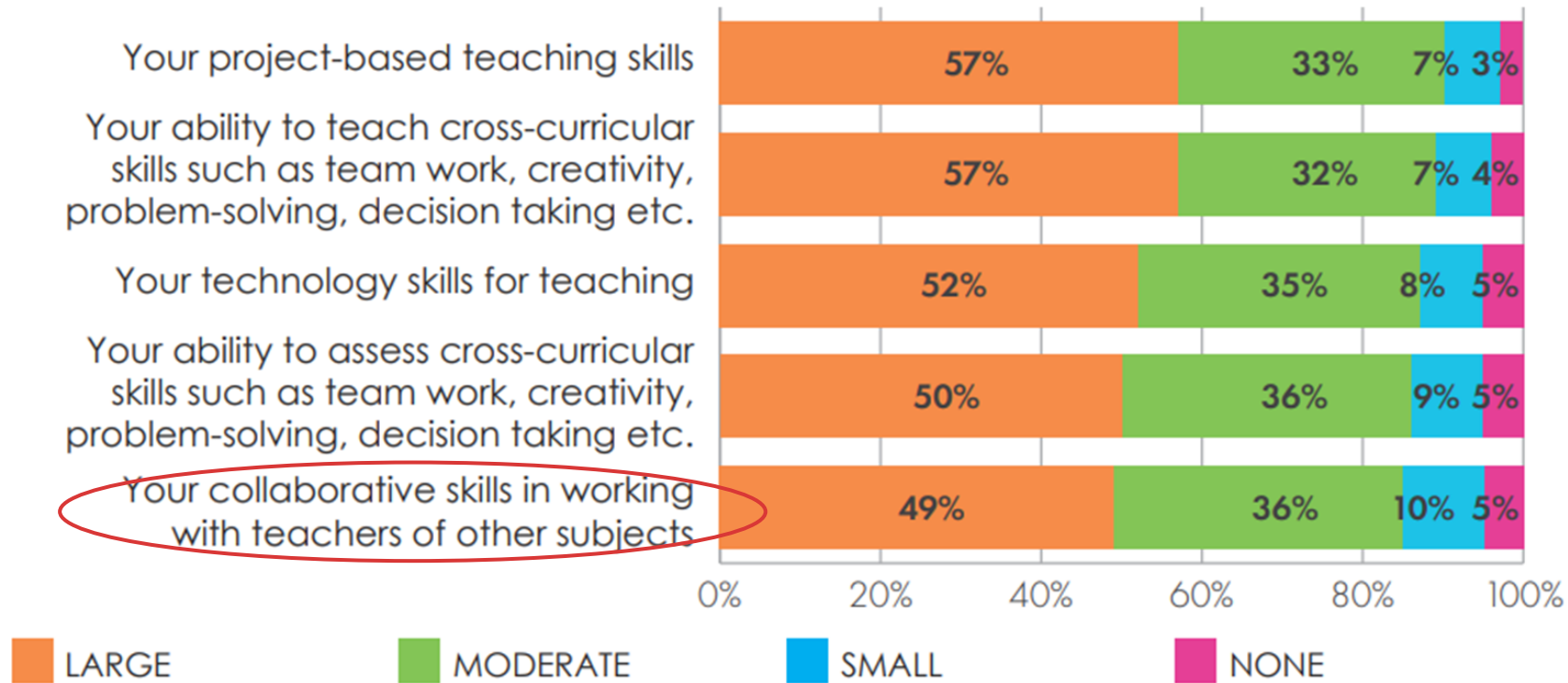
Democratic
participation

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Wrap up: Empowering the Learning Community with eTwinning!

Effects of eTwinning on Teachers' Skills

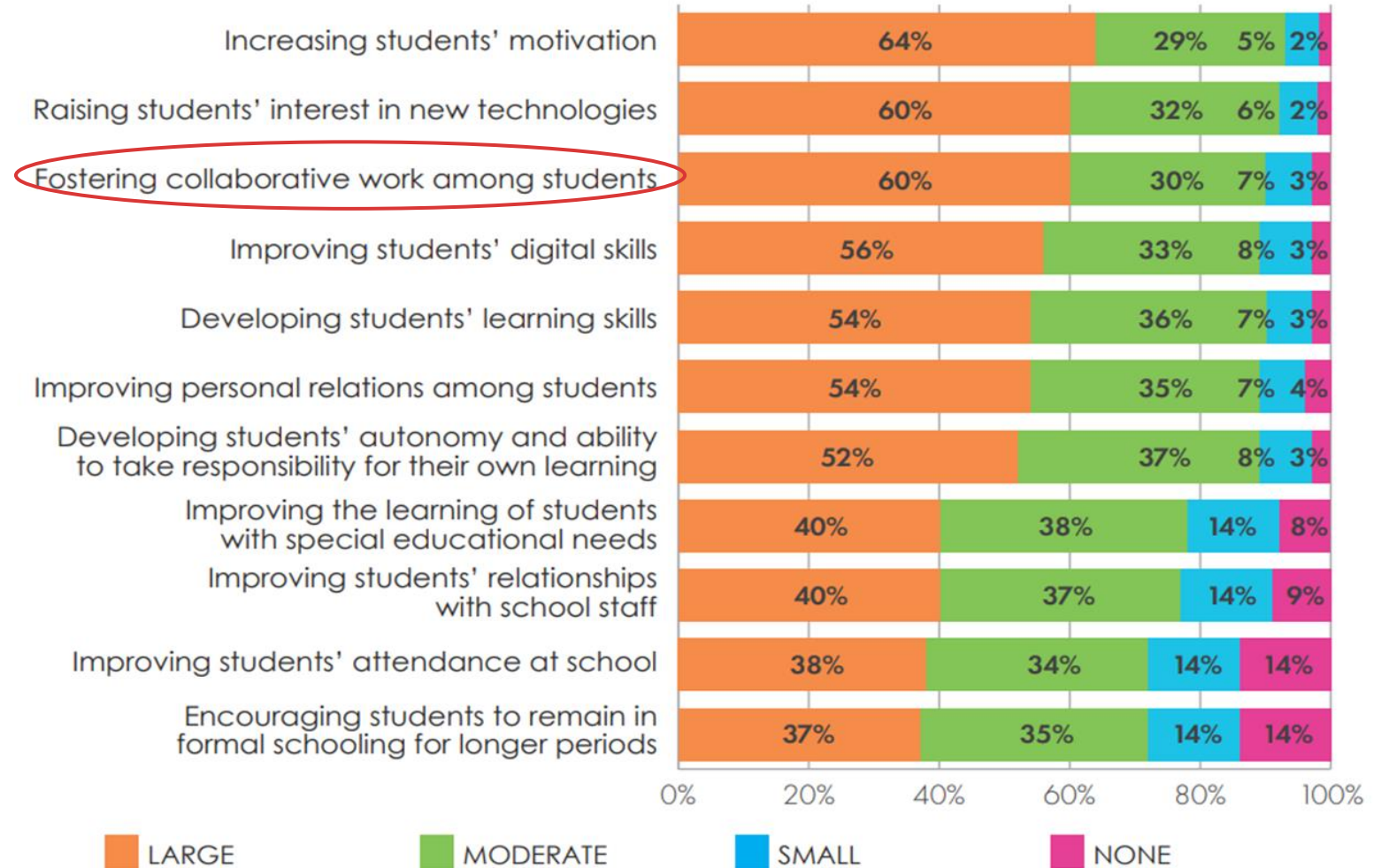
Figure 2: The top 5 areas where involvement in eTwinning has had the greatest effect



European Commission, European Education and Culture Executive Agency, Gilleran, A., "eTwinning in an era of change : impact on teachers' practice, skills, and professional development opportunities, as reported by eTwinners : summary report 2019", Scimeca, S.(editor), Wastiau, P.(editor), Publications Office, 2020, <https://data.europa.eu/doi/10.2797/773971>

Effects of eTwinning on Students' Work and Learning Practices

Figure 7: Perceived effects of involvement in eTwinning on students work and learning practices



European Commission, European Education and Culture Executive Agency, Gilleran, A., *eTwinning in an era of change : impact on teachers' practice, skills, and professional development opportunities, as reported by eTwinners : summary report 2019*, Scimeca, S.(editor), Wastiau, P.(editor), Publications Office, 2020, <https://data.europa.eu/doi/10.2797/773971>

"[...] the permanent changes developed through transformative experiences continue to impact how individuals navigate the world around them. By introducing experiences, such as study abroad and IVE [international virtual exchange], where those underlying values and beliefs that are typically taken for granted are challenged through their engagement with novel environments and others with differing values and beliefs, students are provided the opportunity for transformative learning" (82)

(Lee, Jonathan et al. "The Impact of International Virtual Exchange on Student Success" Journal of International Students Volume 12, Issue S3 (2022), pp. 77-95.
<https://www.ojed.org/index.php/jis/article/view/4593/2339>)



eTwinning provides a safe digital space and a collaborative method that fosters the empowerment of the learning community through project-based intercultural exchange!





Thank you!

<https://school-education.ec.europa.eu/>

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