

Inter-Municipality Initiative: Cross-border eCollaboration in the Danube eRegion

<http://eLivingLab.org/CrossBorderereRegion/InterMunicipality>

Cross-border eSolution/eService Prototype Development Proposal

Presentation event: *3rd Danube eRegion Conference – DeRC 2013 in Ljubljana on September 23-24*

Prototype title: **Say Hello to the World** - teaching multiculturalism and informing the children about the safe use of ICT.

Short description of the prototype:

(problem to be solved, expected benefits, main stakeholders, expansion opportunities, related EU projects, references):

The project addresses the issues of intolerance, discrimination, racism, the lack of solidarity, irrational solving of conflicts and conflict prevention, discrimination towards other cultures and against foreign languages, inadequate measure of creativity and innovation regarding professional workers as well as children. It is necessary to inform the public that the problem of intolerance is present to the extent that it needs to be dealt with at all levels.

Educational institutions are not aware of the importance of intercultural dialogue and therefore do not seek appropriate solutions to such problems. The project is offering an integrated solution for teaching multiculturalism as well as promoting motivated learning of foreign languages and informing the children about the safe use of ICT.

The main purpose of the 'Say Hello to the World' project is connecting children in kindergartens and schools all around the world by video network, where they can see each other live and communicate in hundreds of languages, which only they know. Much attention is given to learning about different cultures, traditions and ways of living. Children can show each other how they play, what songs they sing, what environment they live in, what food they eat, what language they speak, etc.

By joining the 'Say Hello to the World' Project the school or kindergarten gains:

- Development of national and civil awareness.
- Awareness that people are different, that interests and needs of others must be considered.
- Building the positive self-image, self-esteem and dignity.
- Development of tolerance among children, education for peace and non-violent resolutions of conflicts.
- Direct contacts and connections with other kindergartens or schools abroad.
- Awareness that some days of the year are of special importance in a certain country.
- Developing skills of cooperation, communication, learning foreign languages.
- Connecting professional teams.
- Informing children about the first safe use of computers.
- Developing innovation, creativity, use of acquired information and knowledge.
- 'A Tolerant Kindergarten' title.

'My Hello' Web Application

The 'My Hello' web application, which is the key part of the implementation of the project, has already shown good results in the test version but needs an upgrade for further

implementation. Achieved results in the test period has shown that the project is feasible in practice, as well as all of the objectives. We have also received positive confirmations from all actively involved professional workers that the children have achieved great progress in learning and accepting of diversity

The purpose of the application is a smooth and safe interconnection of participating educational institutions. The application has many functional advantages, since it allows video calls, uploading images and documents.

Main stakeholders are kindergartens and schools around the world. The project is intended for educational institutions, mainly for the children from four to eight years of age.

As the first in the world we offer a tool to educational institutions that provides solutions for all of the above listed issues and thus achieve the priority guidelines of the EU. We have tested the project on the market and found that it is feasible in practice, as well as it is possible to achieve all of the objectives. Test implementation showed excellent results in a very short period of time, for both, the children as well as professional workers. Implementation of the project through the 'My Hello' web application represents a simple tool for use in Slovenian and foreign kindergartens. Already in the first year of operation, the educational institutions from 15 countries (Malta, Italy, Hungary, Norway, Sweden, Lithuania, Brazil, USA, Canada, Slovakia, Russia, Poland, Gambia, Tanzania and Croatia) have joined the project. Since the problems which the project addresses are not present only with children of lower age groups but also in later periods, we are planning to expand our project to primary schools and secondary schools as well.

We have discovered that there has not been a similar project to our own on the market so far, which would contain the solution to all these issues. The project has connected over 40 departments from 15 states in the test version but we are planning to expand the project to other markets in the future.

The innovation of the project has also been recognized by the Chamber of Commerce of Slovenia, as we were awarded with a silver recognition award for innovative project and won first place for an innovative idea at the INATRI tender, which we consider as a great confirmation of our work.

ICT requirements for the prototype deployment in another organization/country:

Computer, Internet, web cam.

Expected cross-border impacts:

- Cooperation and exchange of good practice between educational institutions
- Easier cooperation between educational institutions
- Better intercultural dialog
- Faster growth of the project
- New jobs

Proposer - contact person

Name & family name	Kaja Kink	Position	Director
Organization	FINI zavod Radeče	Location	Radeče
Mailing address	Kolenov graben 8, 1433 Radeče	Country	Slovenia
eAddress	kaja@sayhellototheworld.eu	Web address	www.sayhellototheworld.eu

Telephone

Mobile

070 460 080

Existing partners (name & family name, position, organization, country):

- **Astrid Estrellita Alsaker – Madsen**, Head of the Biskopshavn Kirkes Barnehage Kindergarten, Norway
- **Anita Slakonja**, Head of the Marjana Nemca Kindergarten, Radeče, Slovenia
- **Evgeniya Yudakova**, Head of the Magic World Kindergarten with UNESCO assistance, Russia
- **Kasia Statkiewicz-Zawadzka**, Head of the Baby City Nonpublic Multi-Language European Nursery & Kindergarten, Poland
- **Lidija Grobenški**, kindergarten teacher in Malešnica Kindergarten, Croatia
- **Anita Gomilšek**, Head of the Krško Kindergarten, Slovenia
- **Edita Gaižauskienė**, Nežiniukas Kindergarten, Lithuania
- **Anna Piorkowska**, Director, Teddy the Bear Kindergarten, Poland
- **Eglė Čepulienė, Panevėžys**, Head of the dist. Naujamiestis Kindergarten, Lithuania
- **Lorraine Camielli**, Director, Newark Kindergarten, Malta
- **Wilmer Armando Depablos**, Delegate of the Embassy of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela

What type of partners are we looking for?

- Educational institutions (schools, kindergartens)
- Companies that develop ICT
- Embassies
- Investors

Remark: I, the proposer of the prototype, do agree that my personal data is published.