

Online Twinning Agreement



The logo for netbox, featuring the word "netbox" in a dark blue, sans-serif font. Above the text are several thin, curved lines in a lighter blue color, suggesting a network or digital theme. The text is flanked by two vertical bars, one on the left and one on the right, also in dark blue.

NetBox Online Twinning Agreement

NetBox Online Twinning is a voluntary and reciprocal agreement between members of the Netbox Local Management Groups across the six pilot communities of:

- Oldcastle, Meath, Ireland
- Wiveliscombe, Somerset, United Kingdom
- Vale de Figueira and São Vicente do Paúl, Portugal
- Gina, Ryki, Poland
- Stefan cel Mare, Romania
- Kulautuva, Lithuania

The aim of our twinning activities is to join NetBox communities across Europe to raise cultural understanding and achieve positive learning outcomes through collaboration and exchange.

Twinning opportunities presented and discussed at the NetBox Final Conference forged connections that provided a unique perspective on the increasing interconnectedness of Europe. These experiences produced a deeper understanding of the importance of intercultural diversity and cooperation.

Supporting the NetBox Twinning Experience

In 2013, members of the local communities involved in the NetBox Project were encouraged to review and research the activities, conversations and updates of the other pilot communities registered on www.netboxproject.eu in order to find a potential match.

Community members representing the NetBox Communities participated at the Project's Final Conference on 22nd and 23rd of January 2014 in Ryki, Poland affording them the opportunity to meet new people, discuss important issues and celebrate the uniqueness of their own community through a showcase of local foods and dance. Throughout the 2 day conference there were many opportunities for the community members to network, exchange and interact with each other, culminating in the "twinning of NetBox Communities". Agreement Certificates were signed and presented to each community representative at the Final Conference and a sample of the certificate is appended to this agreement.

The uniqueness of the NetBox community learning social networks allows and facilitates online exchanges and conversations through correspondence in an attempt to foster the development of twinning exchanges. It is the hope of the Project Consortium that the connections made at the NetBox Conference will encourage a commitment amongst community members to the twinning process and will open up possibilities of future mobilities between the twinned communities.

Continuing an Ongoing Partnership

Discussing the e-twinning possibilities within the context of NetBox is just the beginning of an impactful partnership between NetBox communities. To create lasting impact, it is hoped that NetBox twinned communities will work toward the creation of joint projects or activities. Based on the presentations made by the

communities involved at the final conference, some ideas and potential areas of collaboration were highlighted:

- Cultural Exchange and visits
- Community Development practices and experiences
- Business and Enterprise Support using local resources and assets
- Language Learning and intercultural awareness
- Local arts, crafts and food exchanges and demonstrations
- Online art exhibition and silent film festival
- Intergenerational projects and ideas for new ways of working and learning

Erasmus+ 2014 – 2020: Exploitation of NetBox

The Erasmus+ Programme offers possibilities for the NetBox Communities to continue in their twinning activities under Key Action 1: Learning Mobility for Individual Learners and Key Action 2: Strategic Partnership. For students, trainees, young people and volunteers – many of which are to be found on the NetBox Local Management Teams mobility activities that raise participant's awareness and understanding of other cultures and countries, offering them the opportunity to build networks of international contacts, and to actively participate in society in order to develop a sense of European citizenship and identity, are likely to attract support under the Programme. Additionally, under Key Action 2 support will be given to activities that strengthen the cooperation between organisations with a view to establishing exchanges of practices. It is the intention of the Project Consortium, specifically the acting partners, to explore this possibility to further develop and exploit our model for educationally self-sufficient rural communities where traditional consumers of educational services can become producers of educational services and content under the new Erasmus + Programme.



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