

1.2. Improving learning in technological-advanced societies

SP - (18816) - DIGITAL CITIZENSHIP EDUCATION AND FOREIGN LANGUAGES: THE EXAMPLE OF A FREE ONLINE TRAINING COURSE

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Short Abstract

The DICE.Lang project (2020-1-DE01-KA203-005712;10/2020-09/2023) aims to strengthen the profile of Digital Citizenship Education (DCE) within Foreign Language Education (FLE), namely by providing novel pathways into educational resources, professional development, and policy updates. Hence, work has to be done concerning this issue, since there is a "lack of awareness among educators of the importance of digital citizenship competence development for the well-being of young people growing up in today's highly digitalized world" (Council of Europe, 2017, p. 9).

This three-year Erasmus+ KA203 project involves 5 European universities and it's intended to undertake innovative practices in a digital era, according to the recommendations of the Digital Education Plan, since it is essential to develop digital competences and skills needed for living and working in an age of digital transformation, and exercising one's democratic rights in a digital society, since "digital citizenship is seen as an indicator of political participation, and social media promotes citizens' digital civic participation and engagement in several communities" (MINDTheGaps, 2019, p. 7). Namely, it is important for language teachers to address these issues in their own teacher education process and in their practices in schools.

It is a core component of DCE to promote democratic competences, including critical reflection, the development of social and intercultural competences, critical thinking and media literacy. The project consortium will support (pre and in-service) teachers in the process of acquiring the skills and willingness to actively engage in digital societal processes, in order to become responsible global citizens and, then, learn about implementing these aims in their classrooms.

In this communication we intend to present the Teacher Training Package created within this project, which comprises: (i) a Teacher Education Module available for Curricular Integration at University level (addressed to pre-service teachers in training courses and aiming to provide them with knowledge and tools related to DCE in FL) and ii) a Free Online Training Course for Self-guided Professional Development. This online self-study course will take place from April onwards and it aims to introduce teachers to the concept of DCE and its policy framework, and to promote the development of methodologies and practices related to the digital literacy of teachers, as well as to qualify them in this area. This Free Online Training Course is an opportunity for teachers to reflect about these issues and think about possibilities of how to adapt and apply them in view of local curricular requirements, using Open Educational Resources. To conclude the training course, teachers will design a teaching unit suitable for their own context. The course will then be available online, so everyone who is interested can complete it by themselves in the future.

In the conference we intend to present the final version of the course, as well as the data related to its impact as far as the teachers' their professional and personal development are concerned. These data will emerge from the analysis of the questionnaires filled in by the teachers of their final reflection and of the unit plan they will create.

References

Council of Europe. (2017). *Digital citizenship education. Overview and new perspectives*.

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