Future Classroom Lab

Rethinking teaching and learning

European Schoolnet

What is the Future Classroom Lab?

The Future Classroom Lab (FCL), created by European Schoolnet, is an inspirational learning environment, offering a platform where teachers, school leaders, teacher educators, policymakers and other stakeholders can explore innovative pedagogical practices, educational equipment, and technologies.

Take a look at the FCL in Brussels

Virtual 3D Tour

The FCL concept has been well-received and widely adopted as it taps into some of the key challenges, associated with:

- technology-rich learning environments;
- the growing interest in student-centric pedagogy (i.e., active learning);
- the shift from a subject-driven focus to competence-based learning;
- cross-curricular approaches, as well as with how best to modernise or transform physical learning environments.

What does the FCL offer?

The FCL allows visitors to explore a **wide range of technologies**, **classroom layouts, furniture, and challenges them to rethink their current educational practice.**

It also offers the chance to experiment with and test Educational Technology (EdTech) tools and solutions, before integrating them at whole-school level.

At the heart of the FCL is also the concept of **innovative and flexible learning spaces**. The FCL provides visitors with the opportunity to concretely visualise different classroom settings and to start thinking in practical terms about learning-space design and how it can support different elements of the active learning process:

YEARS OF
Future
Classroom Lab
by European Schoolnet

The FCL is an independently funded initiative endorsed and steered by the European Schoolnet' s member Ministries of Education and supported by prominent industry partners. At national level, several Ministries of Education have appointed Future Classroom Lead Ambassadors who encourage and promote the implementation of the FCL concept by providing training and advice to schools. The network of Lead Ambassadors has been expanded in some countries to include also Local Ambassadors who directly assist schools in developing their own FCL-inspired learning labs, tailored to their local contexts and needs.

Over the past decade, the FCL has welcomed over 7,000 individuals into its premises, either as visitors or participants in one of its courses and workshops. It has also been the umbrella initiative under which several projects and events have been conceived and implemented.

Currently, the FCL counts on 15 FCL Lead Ambassadors, about 30 industry partners, a network of more than 100 Innovative Learning Labs, and provides a validation programme, and a series of guidelines produced, published, and updated on a regular basis.

Beyond the physical space in Brussels, the FCL has become a flourishing network and an ecosystem that aims to promote innovation in teaching and learning practices, and exchange between the different stakeholders active in the field of education.

The Future Classroom Lab learning zones

The Future Classroom Lab is formed by six different learning zones. Each space highlights a specific area of learning and teaching and helps to rethink important aspects related to them: physical space and layout, resources, and tools, changing roles of student and teacher, and how to support different learning styles. The learning zones reflect the many ways in which flexible space design and educational technology can facilitate active learning pedagogy and contribute to the development of 21st century key competences.

Interact
This is the area where the teacher faces all the learners and leads them through all the steps of the learning scenario. However, that does not automatically imply that the role of the students is limited to being a passive audience as technology can enable each and every pupil to actively contribute.

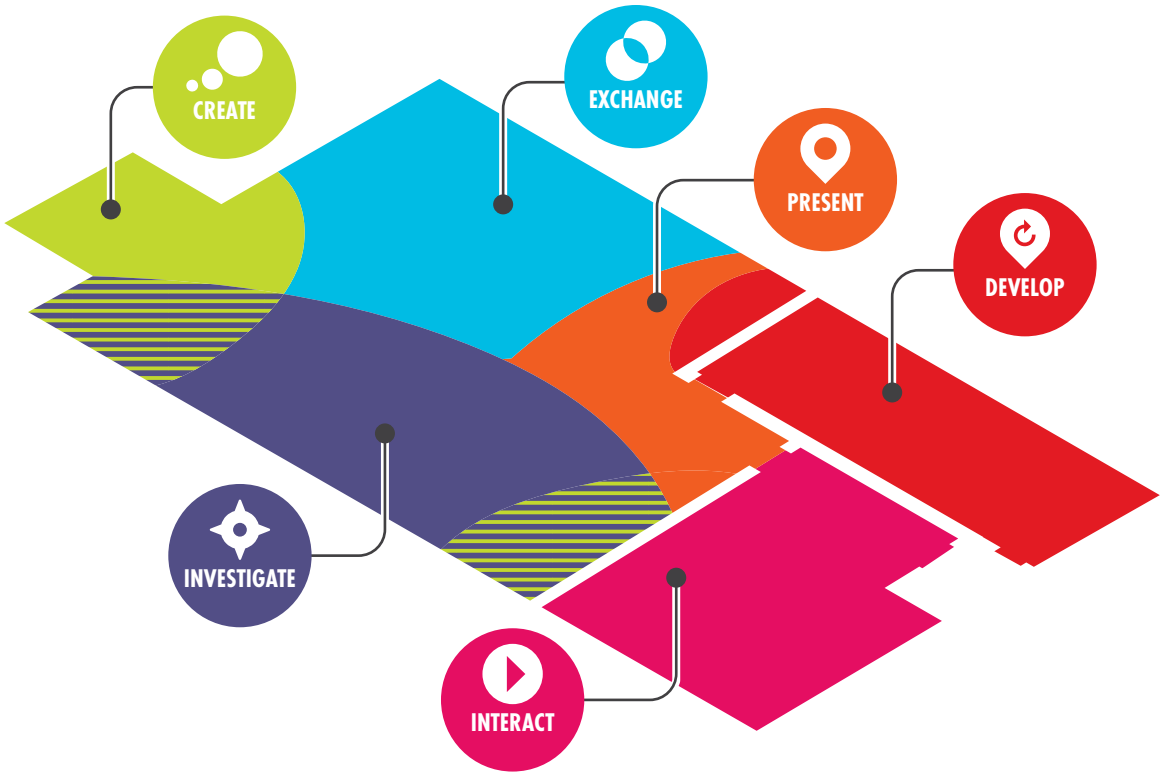
Exchange
In the Exchange zone, collaboration with others is highlighted as a key aspect of learning. The quality of collaboration is composed of ownership, shared responsibility, and decision-making process within groups. Technology can foster richer communication and more dynamic collaboration both online and in asynchronous environments.

Investigate
In the Investigate zone, students are encouraged to discover for themselves. They are given the opportunity to be active researchers, learning by doing rather than by listening. In this zone, teachers can promote inquiry- and project-based learning to enhance students' analytical and critical thinking skills.

Create
This area provides materials and equipment for students to create their own products as a way of showcasing their learning. Instead of just being content consumers, learners get the opportunity to be content creators. In this zone, students transfer the acquired knowledge to a new piece of content or artifact as a result of analysis, synthesis and evaluation.

Present
In the Present zone, students get the opportunity to share what they have created. The process goes beyond a simple presentation of the finished product to include also delivering and obtaining feedback. Online publication and sharing are also encouraged to familiarise students with the use of online resources and the principles of e-safety.

Develop
The Develop zone is a space for informal learning and self-reflection. Learning must not be limited to the time spent under the direct supervision of a teacher and here students can carry out schoolwork independently at their own pace, learn informally, and focus on their own interests. They can engage in self-directed learning, self-reflection, and meta-cognition skills development.



What does the FCL offer to different actors?

School staff

- Professional development opportunities including workshops and courses at the FCL in Brussels, and online events developed within European Schoolnet projects.
- The concept of learning zones and examples of technology, providing inspiration to rethink teaching practice, embrace active learning philosophy and focus on 21st century key competences.
- Directory of classroom practices and learning activities available on the FCL website: explore these resources or submit your own classroom examples to inspire others!
- The network of Future Classroom Ambassadors welcomes innovative teachers who have been active in European Schoolnet projects and who are interested in being involved in future validation pilots.
- Network of learning labs, established by teachers and teacher-training institutions across Europe that have been inspired by the FCL model, can act as an example and inspiration so others can create their own learning lab.

Policy and decision makers

- Visits providing an overview of the FCL pedagogical concepts and hands-on activities with different technologies.
- Strategic seminars with industry partners on key topics such as flexible learning environments and emerging EdTech.
- Recommendations and guidelines stemming from European Schoolnet projects that help policymakers to take informed decisions on developing learning spaces and deploying EdTech in schools.
- Future Classroom Ambassadors, a network of innovative teachers who can support the mainstreaming of innovative teaching and learning approaches at national level.
- A network of learning labs established across Europe that have been inspired by the FCL model and that can act as an example and inspiration so other organisations can create their own labs.

Companies

Companies that wish to join the FCL community of Industry Partners can benefit from a range of opportunities such as:

- European-wide visibility: companies that join Future Classroom Lab Partners can use the FCL logo on their own products and have their logo on FCL materials. The FCL can be used as a venue by partners for their own events.
- Networking with education professionals and policymakers. Partners are invited every year to two events organised by European Schoolnet. European Schoolnet's EMINENT Conference and the School Innovation Forum are annual events attended by senior education policymakers in national and regional governments, researchers, pedagogical experts and other stakeholders and strategic partners.
- Educational technology and equipment provided by the partners are integrated in the FCL and used in regular workshops and training courses with teachers, school leaders, and policymakers.
- Validation service: Partners also have access to the FCL Validation Service which offers the possibility to run pan-European school pilots and to test their solutions involving a pan-European network of selected schools.

Guidelines for school leaders, teachers, and decision makers

1. **Future Classroom Toolkit**: Find out how to create and implement your own Future Classroom Scenarios and learning activities and develop a clear vision of innovative teaching and learning practices. The toolkit is available in various languages.

2. **Novigado Scenario Tool**: The Novigado Scenario Tool guides teachers in building learning scenarios and practical lesson plans that support active learning pedagogy. The tool offers ready-made activities to build your lesson plan, as well as some adjustable examples of full scenarios.

Other Publications to explore:

Guidelines for Creating a Learning Lab (2019)
Bring Your Own Device guidelines (2015 & 2017)
Guidelines on Exploring and Adapting Learning Spaces in Schools (2017)
Guidelines on Building Learning Labs and Innovative Learning Spaces (2019)
Practical guidelines on Makerspaces in schools (2020)
Teaching and Learning Online Guidelines (2022)

Mentoring and Peer Learning

MenSI
Mentoring for School Innovation

The Mentoring for School Improvement (MenSI) project is a 28-month Coordination and Support Action (November 2021 – February 2023) funded by the European Commission H2020 programme. The project is carrying out a pan-European investigation into how different approaches to mentoring can support the mainstreaming of innovative digital teaching practices in primary and secondary schools. It builds on the outcomes and lessons learnt from the earlier EU-FP7 Living Schools Lab project (2012-2014), which provided support to school clusters via 'regional hubs' and involves the network of FCL learning labs.

The project includes a network of 24 mentor schools (4 per country) and 96 mentee schools (16 per country) and continues engaging teachers through open CPD events (MOOCs, webinars, small training events, online discussions, etc.) which are promoted through the MenSI public website.

Key audiences

Primary audience	**Education policymakers** **Primary and secondary level schools, school leaders and teachers.**
Secondary audience	**Various other stakeholder groups (teacher educators, EdTech companies, researchers, related EC-funded projects)** **General public**

Outreach targets

Metrics: Year 1	**Involvement of at least 10 ministries as project Advisory Members** **120 schools across 6 countries (as Mentor and Mentee schools).**
Metrics: Year 2	**At least 1,000 teachers, school leaders, ICT coordinators and advisers exchanging best practices** **Schools to be reached (e.g. receiving project outputs) through project dissemination activities described in WP6: 5,000**

As part of project's experimentation with different whole school mentoring approaches, **9 FCL learning labs** have been invited to work with MenSI school clusters and/or schools within other EU countries in order to accelerate the adoption of the FCL model and the innovative pedagogical practices involving ICT that are available in these labs.

By adopting this approach, the project hopes to more systematically embed school-to-school mentoring activities in the FCL network while also encouraging a spill over effect within EUN's wider teacher and school community.

New projects under the FCL initiative

EmpowerED

(starting January 2023)

The EmpowerED project will establish a pan-European network for European providers of EdTech solutions (start-ups, SMEs), EdTech support organisations (incubators, accelerators, testbeds, investors), practitioners (teachers and educationalists in K12 schools, H.E., VET), policy makers (government ministries/agencies involved in educational innovation) as well as other key educational actors such as universities, researchers, NGOs and industry associations. More specifically, EmpowerED will aim to:

Enhance dialogue and strengthen partnerships between the teachers, academia, national and regional educational authorities, and the private sector

Enable the EdTech stakeholders and ecosystem to better understand the pedagogical and policy challenges the education sector is facing today and how they can better be solved by innovative EdTech solutions

Increase synergies between initiatives, boost cross-sectorial collaboration and exchanges at regional, national, and European levels in digital education

Foster the exchange of good practices at pan-European level, aiming at increased capacities of the national education systems and at distance, innovative, effective and inclusive learning.

Foster increased opportunities for the European EdTech workforce, while promoting European ethical values regarding the use of educational technologies and data shared in Europe

Accelerate innovation in digital education by: assist practitioners and boost dialogue among relevant stakeholders, support the creation of solutions for inclusive and effective digital education

Teach Europe

Teach Europe aims to strengthen the pedagogical offer on the topics of European citizenship and the European Union. The project will upskill teachers by providing them with innovative learning scenarios to implement an EU perspective across the curriculum. To achieve that, the initiative will establish a task force composed by teachers and will develop a series of pedagogical materials which will be leveraged further through a Massive Open Online Course (MOOC).

DIGI-LINGO

DIGI-LINGO is an initiative that aims to support the European Union's stated goal of enabling multilingualism and ensuring that every person speaks at least two foreign languages. The project aims to achieve that by exploring the capabilities of digital environments to unlock the potential of language learning. More specifically, its objectives include developing new teaching guidelines for digital language learning, designing easily accessible methods for virtual language exchange, and ensuring the sustainability of the model at regional levels. At present, the project involves partners from Denmark, Norway, Belgium and The Basque Country and is focused on upper-secondary students, but in time, it intends to become applicable across educational levels and countries.

Discover all FCL projects

Other Related initiatives

European Schoolnet has developed a family of related initiatives under the umbrella of the Future Classroom Lab that provide resources, training, networking opportunities and guidelines for teachers and school leaders.

The Interactive Classroom Working Group (ICWG) is one of the four European Schoolnet working groups. As members of the ICWG, seven Ministries of Education explore common areas of concern, share experience, and address policy challenges related to the integration of a wide range of technologies in classrooms and their impact on teaching and learning. *fcl.eun.org/icwg*

European Schoolnet Academy has been offering Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) specifically tailored for teachers and other school stakeholders since 2014. Over the years, it has offered over 75 courses for which over 100,000 people have registered, and from which around 40,000 people have obtained a certificate. *www.europeanschoolnetacademy.eu*

FCL Lead Ambassadors

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Belgium
Coordinator of the Future Classroom Ambassador network

STÉPHANIE DE CLERCQ
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PETRA BOHACKOVA
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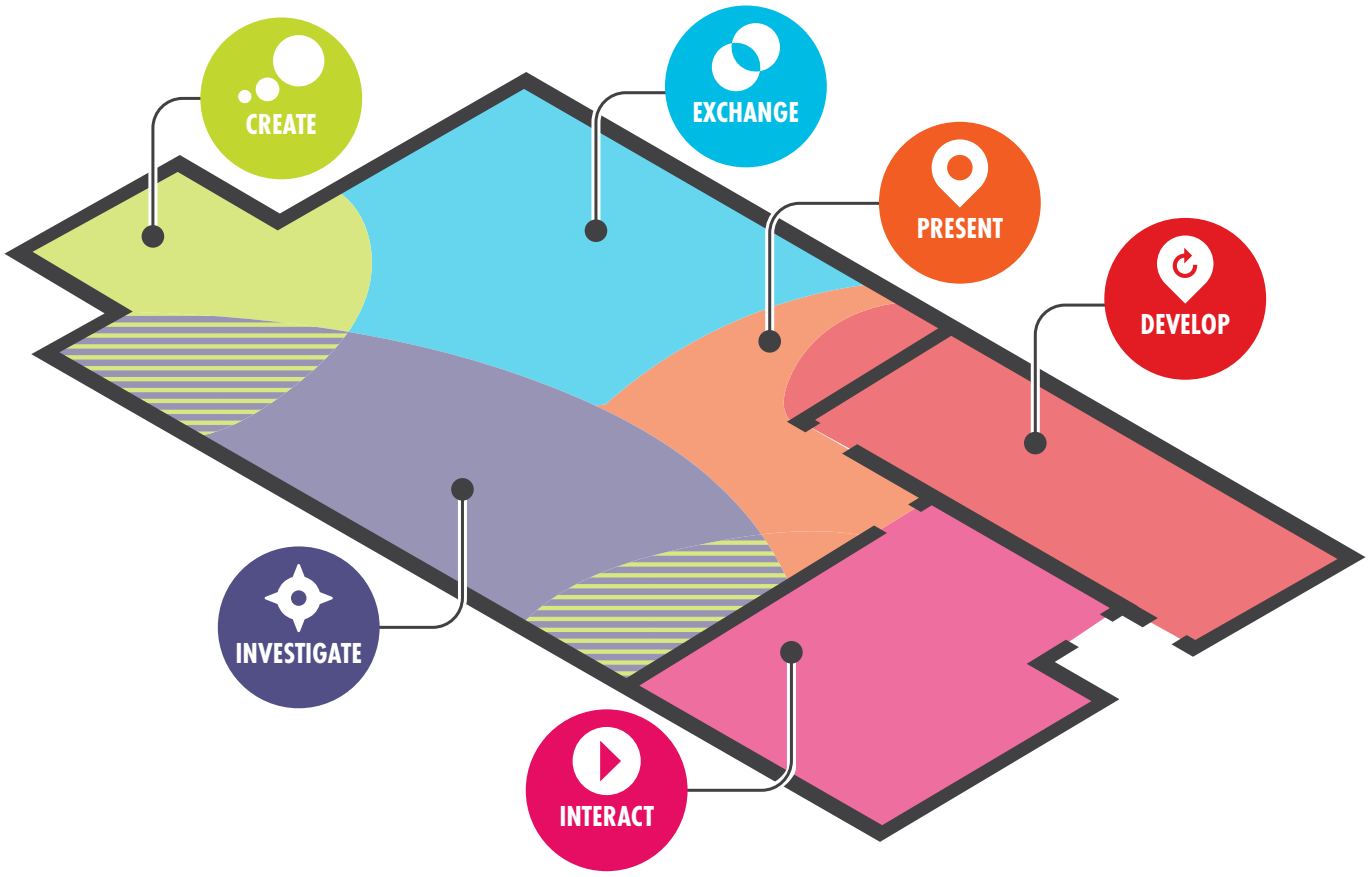
Learn more about the work of the FCL Lead Ambassadors

Future Classroom Lab partners

Learn more about the FCL Partners



What will your future classroom look like?

About European Schoolnet:

European Schoolnet is a network of 34 European Ministries of Education, based in Brussels, Belgium. As a not-for-profit organisation, we aim to bring innovation in teaching and learning to our key stakeholders: Ministries of Education, schools, teachers, researchers, and industry partners.

The Future Classroom Lab is an initiative by European Schoolnet. The projects mentioned in this publication have received funding from the European Union. The content of the brochure reflects only the views of the authors and not necessarily those of European Schoolnet's members, FCL industry partners or the European Commission, and they cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained herein.

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