

Future Classroom Ambassadors

ACTIVITY DIGEST

Issue #12, December 2020

The educational world has been forced to shift to a new paradigm. The way we organise learning in schools has changed drastically. The network of the FCL Ambassadors continues to support teachers and schools to preserve the quality of learning in these difficult circumstances. Simple solutions are not always easy to give. It is important that teachers learn from each other. The FCL Ambassadors and EUN organised the first FCL Learning community, a learning format with interactive webinars and discussions, where participants could share their best practices. This modal will be replicated in some countries of the network in the upcoming months.

Enjoy the winter break!



Info: [FCL Learning community](#)

BELGIUM

Take the Action!

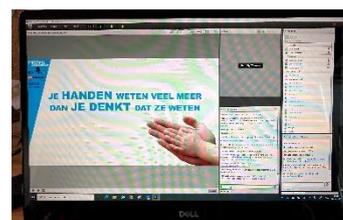
In Belgium the Take the Action! project focusses on 2 main targets: the use of LEGO® Spike Prime in the first 2 years of secondary education in Provil, Lommel and the training of primary school teachers of schools in the region on LEGO® WeDo 2.0.

For several years Provil provides primary schools in the area with LEGO® WeDo kits on loan. This allows the primary school to reach their curricular goals concerning STEM and at the same time they get the support of LEGO® and STEM professionals.

In September another training took place. The participants learned about the new mini robots as well how to manage a lesson using the LEGO® WeDo 2.0 kit.

Webinar Coding – 22 October 2020

The Flemish Ministry of Education, in cooperation with European Schoolnet, organised a webinar *How does a computer work? Coding in your classroom*. After an introduction on computational thinking, and a presentation on the possibilities of CodesCool (Jr), *Jasper Vandeweyer* (Provil, Lommel) presented the use of LEGO® Spike Prime as a tool to learn computational thinking and coding.



CZECH REPUBLIC

3-4 December 2020

The Czech National Agency for International Education organised an online edition of the *Schoolink* conference.

The SchoolLink conference aims at all organizations and individuals related to primary school education, i.e. teachers, school principals and other stakeholders. Also educational organizations and institutions that are active in the field of international cooperation of schools and teacher education in the Czech Republic and abroad, took part.

The conference offered a new space for sharing information and exchanging experiences. It focused on the impact of internationalisation on teaching in Czech



schools and on innovative trends in education. Presentations by keynote speakers were complemented by a series of practical workshops.

More info: <https://schoolink.cz>

DENMARK

Future Classroom DK 3.5

Over the last couple of months with Covid-19, FCL DK has spent time renewing agreements with new and existing industry partners, so that next spring a completely new interior in the Future Classroom Lab will be built. In collaboration with specialist and industry partners, the team of consultants in Future Classroom Lab DK have redesigned and rethought the model of learning zones, so it now fits the latest agendas in the Danish school system.

New initiatives will have an increased focus on:

- reinterpretation of the *FCL Zone Model* with new descriptions and didactic considerations;
- Makerspace in school with dedicated Breakerspace and Skramlotek (library of junk);
- e-sports and gaming in school and leisure;
- LEGO Makerspace - fast prototyping with Lego;
- new interpretation of presentation with less talk in plenary and more work in groups;
- dedicated area for blended, synchronous and asynchronous online teaching.

FCL.DK has now 34 industry partners. More info: [Suppliers FCL.DK](#).



ESTONIA

Estonian EdTech companies join forces - 1 December 2020

Local EdTech companies founded an NGO called EdTech Estonia. The organisation will collaborate closely with public authorities to increase the role of private companies at all levels of national education as well as exporting these services across the globe.

Estonia has a history of using EdTech products in education which has made the transition to distance learning during the COVID-19 pandemic smoother than in many other countries. The role of private solutions in education has undisputedly been positive and is set to increase significantly in the coming years. Public authorities are working together with local and foreign EdTech companies to create a national personalised learning infrastructure to increase step-by-step the independence of the student in their learning process.

More info: [Edtech Estonia - Distance Learning in Estonia](#)

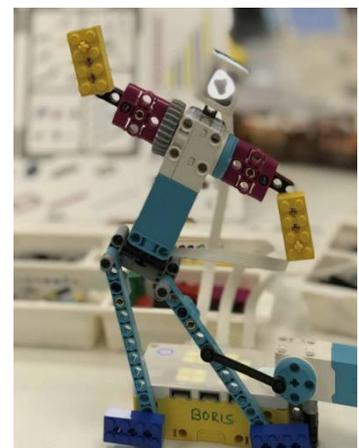


FINLAND

Autumn – winter 2020

FCLab of the Helsinki Normal Lyceum Teacher training schools of Helsinki have begun their work on innovating learning spaces and pedagogical approaches linked to the network of innovative labs.

Jani Kiviharju, FCLab Ambassador Helsinki and his colleagues experimented with different solutions on combining face-to-face and online teaching methods and hybrid teaching practices. Pupils physically absent from classroom, have participated via online streams and they have been able to collaborate with their peers through Microsoft Teams. Online streams have included webcam audio and video and screen sharing of OneNote-notes on smartboard as well as electronic assignments.



During the fall of 2020, the Helsinki team created new interdisciplinary learning modules aided with phenomenon-based learning to increase pupils' transversal competences. The modules include a STEAM project combining Lego programming, electronics, engineering, and a written science project combining physical education and biology.

FRANCE

LEGO and eTwinning

Three primary schools taking part in the *Take the Action!* project (EUN) have set up the eTwinning project *Go Lego!* The students will use *Lego We Do* and *Spike* kits and will cooperate to learn about programming and robotics. Teachers will try out scenarios using inquiry-based learning they will produce training materials. Next to programming the students will communicate and discuss with project partners in multiple ways.



HUNGARY

December 2020

A new publication *COVID-MARATHON: Guidelines for Planning Education* will appear mid-December. The aim of the booklet is to help headmasters organizing hybrid or online learning in their schools. The Future Classroom Toolkit is one of the tools that is recommended by the authors for planning strategies and innovative learning practices during the time of Corona.



ISRAEL

Hour of Code – 6-10 December 2020

Tel Aviv District and Beta School celebrate the *Hour of Code*. One of the activities is a hackathon about saving the world: the SDGsCraftHack. The Hackathon combines the Sustainable Development Goals with coding on the popular game platform Minecraft. The Hackathon is open for students from 8 to 18 who will collaborate in groups. The hackathon promotes creativity, collaboration, and problem solving and raises awareness about environmental issues.



DigiEduHack 12-13 November 2020

For a second year in a row Beta School, the Tel Aviv District innovation Lab, was a local host of the DigiEduHack challenging participants to redefine learning. The DigiEduHack is a global hackathon, part of the EU action plan to support the education in a digital age.



Due to the corona virus, most events were online, some blended and a few off-line. This year more than 60 events in 25 countries took part, involving 2200 participants.

The main event was held in Berlin, Germany and was organized by the Hochschulforum Digitalisierung (HFD), the German Academy of Exchange (DAAD) and the Technical University of Berlin (TU Berlin). The teams with the best solutions will win 5,000 euros.

The teams of the Tel Aviv District worked on the challenge of Professional Development in the New Normal. In the hackathon teams from four PD Centers in the district and one from the Open University participated.

The Petah Tikva PD Center team won the local competition with the solution Edufy, a hybrid application for personal and collaborative professional development.

More info: [Pitch Edufy](#)

ITALY

Take the Action!

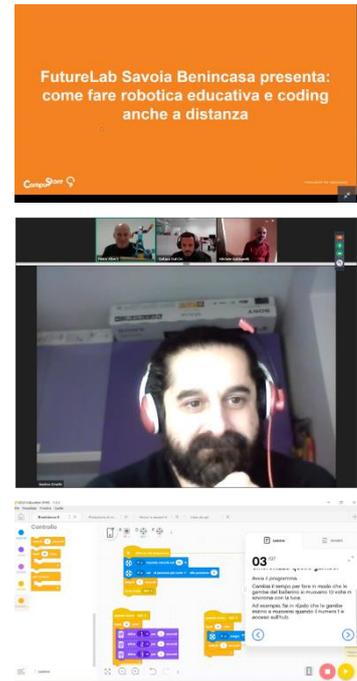
The first Italian dissemination event of the *Take the Action!* project around the LEGO Education SPIKE Prime set, took place.

In collaboration with *Campustore*, our local LEGO partner, *Andrea Cesetti*, project leader and Robotics expert at *IIS Savoia-Benincasa* together with *Piero Alberti*, automation expert, introduced LEGO Education SPIKE Prime to the literally hundreds of people connected online. The speakers explained the pedagogical opportunities of the tool.

This set of educational robotics, in-between WeDo 2.0 and EV3, is meant to involve both boys and girls in STEAM subjects. Coding and Robotics have recently proved smart means to develop critical thinking and problem solving skills.

The use of robots in education has indeed been spreading all through the Italian curriculum as well as through the different school subjects, well beyond the limits of mere technology. In addition to that, the hands-on approach is particularly attractive to pupils of all ages as this makes them the very centre of their own learning and, at the same time, rooted into reality.

A second dissemination event is scheduled for mid December 2020.



MALTA

Professional Development for educators

The FCL Lead Ambassador and colleagues within the Directorate for Digital Literacy & Transversal Skills have launched an asynchronous 6-week online course designed on the FCL pedagogy of active learning in the hybrid classroom. This course focuses on the educational benefits and pedagogical opportunities of using tablets in a creative way to engage students in the current 'distanced' classroom and at home during online learning.

Coding initiatives

The Directorate will organise a Coding Celebration in conjunction with this year's EU Code Week where learners who are in the Junior years are encouraged to participate in a coding task.

There will also be a Coding Dance Party. Early Years educators are encouraged to dedicate one hour to a fun coding and dancing activity with their students. Through the Dance Party *unplugged* activity, no devices are needed, and students can learn coding concepts to choreograph a dance party together whilst keeping physically distant.

In-Class virtual sessions

To support students and educators during this extraordinary time, the Digital Literacy Team of educators deliver *in-class* virtual sessions from our Digital Literacy hub. The sessions include help and support with the use of programmes and software used for literacy and Web 2.0 tools which promote technology-enhanced learning.



NORWAY

eTwinning Annual Conference

The FCL Lead Ambassadors of Norway held an interactive prototyping workshop at the online eTwinning conference, where participants from different countries collaborated to create a prototype invention to solve a problem related to climate change.

Meeting network of local ambassadors

The local FCL ambassadors met to discuss the future of the network for higher education. Actions were planned to make the network grow and be of value for the sector of higher education.

Hour of Code

Hour of Code is a yearly event and is coordinated by the volunteer organisation *Lær Kidsa Koding* - LKK (Teach the Kids to Code). LKK offers a wide range of teaching material and translates Hour of Code materials into Norwegian.

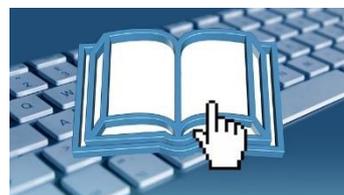
Around 120000 students from more than 1600 already registered for the upcoming edition.

PORTUGAL

Professional Development

The team of FCL ambassadors has designed a teachers' training course on the implementation of digital textbooks and other relevant digital resources in 9 school clusters this academic year. Its main focus is on student-centred pedagogies as well as on active teaching methodologies.

Teachers' student centred teaching and learning approaches will help students to create daily effective learning routines. This training will not focus exclusively on the scope of digital skills and the use of resource platforms, but it will mainly address the subject of teaching methodologies, pedagogies and innovative practices in the classroom. This is a new challenge the team has set and will endeavour to achieve successfully.



SLOVAKIA

Professional Development for the Autumn-Winter Period

In the period from September to December 2020, MPC organized 329 events to support the professional development of teachers. The trainings covered a wide range of topics. Some examples:

- programming with Scratch and the Micro:Bit minicomputer;
- creating learning activities for mathematics using GeoGebra;
- basic skills of 3D modelling in Tinker CAD mastering;
- management of small projects to implement innovative ideas in the classrooms;
- development of educational units to support mathematical literacy;
- e-literacy, education in the digital world, cooperative teaching, multiple intelligences, students' self-evaluation, etc.

SPAIN

Professional Development

The second edition of the online course *Aula del Futuro* organized by INTEF comes to an end. More than 200 participants took 70 hours of training to get familiar with the FCL Toolkit.



The online phases of the 9 blended courses Aula del Futuro finished successfully with the participation of 144 teachers. The next face-to-face phases of these courses are expected to take place in March 2021.

Publication

The ambassadors of the Canary Islands published [Guía del Proyecto Espacios Creativos. Aulas del Futuro en Canarias](#), a practical guide to rethink and transform educational spaces.

Regional FCL training

Cataluña will develop two online courses. *Future Classroom Lab: espai, metodologia i tecnologia 2ª edició* (9 Feb. – 30 Aril) and *Future Classroom Lab: aprofundiment, 1ª edició* (16 Feb. – 30 April).

Castilla y León involves 57 teachers in an online working group under the name [Espacios flexibles de aprendizaje](#) (30 Oct-30 Mar).

Extremadura organised an online course (21 Oct – 21 Dec) to introduce the [Aula del Futuro](#) model.

El País Vasco organized a virtual meeting (15 Nov) with the title [El AdF ya es realidad en la Escuela Pública Vasca](#).

The *Canary Islands* organized a [meeting](#) with 65 participants to monitor the pilot projects *Espacios Creativos. Aulas del Futuro en Canarias* (1 Dec).

TURKEY

Professional Development Autumn-Winter

The FCL Ambassadors organised a series of webinars in the past months and shared best practices on how to design and how to teach in an innovative learning lab. FCL Pedagogy Officer *Ceyda Özdemir* and Scientix Coordinator *dr. Tunç Erdal Akdur* organized a professional development webinar on Active Learning and Learning Scenarios in Flexible Learning Zones.

Asuman Firat, one of the FCL local ambassadors, introduced the FCL in Adana Science and Art Center to teachers who participated in the in-service training programme focussing on Robotics and Coding. She further gave a similar training held at Seyhan Atatürk MTAL. In both events around 100 teachers took part.

Yasemin Altındal-Doğaner, FCL local ambassador, locally led a session on developing innovative lesson plans for teachers of Burdur Zübeyde Hanım Kindergarten.

New members of FCL Network of Learning Labs

Two schools from Turkey have been officially recognised as members of Network of Innovative Learning Labs. More info:

fcl.eun.org/kubilay-primary-school-tr

fcl.eun.org/we-are-ready-are-you-in-tr

Publications

The FCL Academic Working Group in Turkey conducts evidence-based studies on technology enhanced, flexible learning spaces. FCL Lead Ambassador *Sümeyye Hatice Eral* and FCL CPD officer, *dr. İpek Saralar Aras* recently published an article Key Skills in the Classrooms of the Future. Dr. İpek Saralar Aras also published the article STEAM Education in FCL Learning Spaces.

FCL Pedagogy Officer Ceyda ÖZDEMİR moderated the development of learning scenarios with a dedicated group of local ambassadors. The pedagogy group revised, adapted, and created innovative learning scenarios, now available on the FCL Turkey website, together with Guidelines on Developing Learning Scenarios.



For further information on the Future Classroom Ambassadors, please contact Bart Verswijvel - bart.verswijvel@eun.org