

Future Classroom Ambassadors

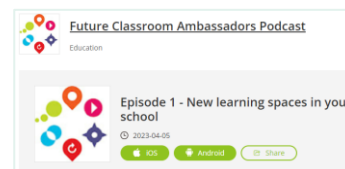
ACTIVITY DIGEST

Issue #21, April 2023

In this first issue of 2023 the network of FCL Ambassadors presents, as usual, some of the activities that took place during the past months in the countries of the members.

We are very happy to announce that the FCL Ambassadors launched a series of [podcasts](#). The first episode deals with the topic of having a Future Classroom Lab at school. More episodes will follow.

Enjoy reading...and listening.



bit.ly/fcl-ambassadors-podcast

BELGIUM

April 2023

ICT Competences for Teachers as a Priority

Over the past two school years, Flanders has been focusing on reinforcing schools' ICT infrastructure. It plays an important role and therefore it has been the primary focus of a large financial incentive which aims to give schools the means to take a leap forward and close the digital divide between them. Furthermore, a set of different actions have been set up aiming to aid schools in designing and establishing a well-considered ICT policy plan.

To ensure the roll-out of these plans, it is mandatory to keep professionalising teachers. This has been the goal of various actions which are now being implemented. One of these actions is the tool [DIGISNAP](#) which Flanders developed. This self-reflection tool aims to give teachers and school boards an insight into their ICT competences. The tool is based on the [DigCompEdu framework](#) and offers personalised advice and learning suggestions. A unique feature is the link to a training database which consists of 400 training courses from external partners. The tool has been operational for six months and 17% of Flemish teachers have already used it.



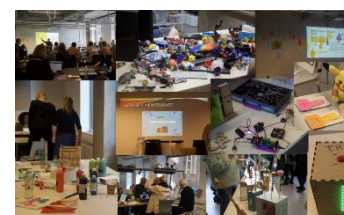
Recently, the Flemish government has also issued a contract which is better known as the ICT bootcamps. This contract aims to support schools by giving them the chance to register in two different ICT bootcamps. Schools can count on free guidance to increase the ICT competences of teacher teams in primary education and to enable ICT teams from all educational levels to develop their ICT policy plan. In total, almost 200 schools will be able to participate in the ICT bootcamps. In addition, all schools in Flanders received an extra budget intended for ICT training. The sum of all these actions should result in ICT-savvy teachers who can meaningfully implement ICT in their lessons.

DENMARK

March - April 2023

Maker's Day in the Future Classroom Lab

On Monday, 6 March the Future Classroom Lab in the University College Copenhagen held a full day conference and workshops that focused on makerspace and maker approaches in primary and lower secondary education. A full day of presentations, sharing sessions and workshops was organised for everyone interested. There were 200 participants and a long waiting list of people who wanted to participate. There



were presentations on technology understanding and digital education, as well as sharing sessions where teachers shared their experiences, and workshops focusing on different technologies and approaches in a makerspace.

FINLAND

April 2023

The First FCLab Inspired School

The Finnish FCLab, dedicated to improving learning environments, has inspired the creation of a new school in Pirkkala, Finland. The Kirkonkylä school is the first "FCLab-school" in Finland and has been designed using the learning zone model developed by the FCLab ideology. The school was co-designed with the participation of teachers, who took part in the decision process concerning the school's operating methods and needs. This resulted in a functional and stylish school that is entirely based on the learning zones from the Finnish National Curriculum.

The learning zone model was created by [FCLab.fi](https://www.fclab.fi) in the spring of 2019 and quickly generated interest, including Mikko Salkinoja, the principal of the Kirkonkylä school at the time. This interest led to a collaboration between FCLab and the school, which included visits by the school staff to FCLab's Tampere unit to consider the design of the premises, the cooperative model, co-teaching, and their future operating model. FCLab acted as an executive sparring partner for change processes, and the result was a school that is entirely based on the learning zone model.

The Kirkonkylä school project demonstrates the benefits of involving teachers in the design and planning of schools. The principal of the school had a strong vision that teaching professionals would have a significant role in school decisions, and the involvement of teachers in the project was critical to its success. By creating a school entirely based on the learning zone model, FCLab and the Kirkonkylä school have shown the potential of this model to improve learning environments and create a new culture of co-teaching and comprehensive cooperation.



FRANCE

October 2022 – April 2023

Our School, Let's Do it Together!

Since October 2022, the French MOE has been offering schools the opportunity to hold discussions within a territory in order to design the school of the future. These local consultations involve all partners: teachers, administrative staff, local authorities and students, in the perspective of highlighting the particularities of each school and, if necessary, developing a pedagogical project to address three priorities: *student success, reducing inequalities and well-being*.

The following possible areas of work are discovered: student and staff time, work spaces, cultural activities, sports, etc. Three steps are suggested to the teams: firstly, an initial consultation of all the actors, secondly the design of an educational project including the priorities of the educational community and lastly an action plan for the school.

If the educational project requires it, a request for financial assistance should be made. Within each academy, support teams have been set up to provide the working groups with technical assistance in monitoring the project.

At the national level, support tools have been proposed and working aids have been designed: to identify the stakeholders, plan consultations, choose facilitation methods, and draw up a portrait of one's school through its specific characteristics, projects and actions implemented. In this context, the expertise of the FCL ambassadors is essential to support local consultations and projects.



HUNGARY

October 2022 - April 2023

Science Teachmeets: Inspiration for STEM Classes

Since October 2022, the Hungarian Scientix NCP launched and moderated 10 Scientix courses. The aim of the training is to enable participants (primary and secondary school teachers) to deliver motivating lessons at high scientific quality, and to stimulate students' interest in STEM careers.

The total number of teachers participating in the Scientix CPD courses in the 2022/2023 school year was 516.

Main topics covered during the 6-module course:

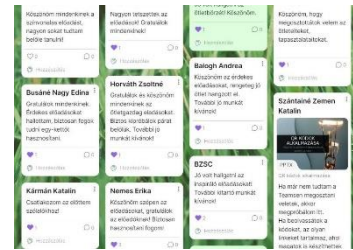
- Introductory inspirations
- Real problems, complex problems
- Research methods in the classroom
- Methods of development in the classroom
- Partnerships in STEM Education
- Collaborations beyond the school world

In order to earn a course certificate, participants need to submit their idea in the form of a scenario inspired by the course content that will be implemented in their own school practice.

The course moderators held 53 Teachmeets during the 10 courses and received a lot of positive feedback from the participants.

Main topics and ideas covered during the Teachmeets:

- interdisciplinary approaches
- robotics and coding
- open schooling
- astronomy
- simulations
- QR codes



ITALY

The National Recovery and Resilience Plan (PNRR)

The PNRR is a strategic plan that aims to modernize and improve the Italian economy, making it more sustainable, innovative, and competitive. The PNRR includes investments in various sectors, such as healthcare, education, research and innovation, digitalization, and infrastructure. One of the top priorities of PNRR is to improve the quality of education in Italy. This is particularly important given the disruptions caused by the pandemic, which have affected students' learning outcomes and widened existing educational disparities. The Italian government plans to allocate approximately 10% of the PNRR budget to education, with a focus on digitalization and modernization of schools, and strengthening the skills and competencies of teachers. The funding will be used to provide schools with access to digital learning tools, such as laptops and tablets, and to enhance infrastructure to support e-learning. Additionally, the plan will provide resources to support teacher training and professional development initiatives, such as seminars and workshops.

In summary, PNRR offers an opportunity for the Italian government to invest in the future of the country's education system. By modernizing schools and empowering teachers, Italy can better prepare its students to compete in the global economy and achieve long-term economic growth.



PNRR

ISRAEL

April 2023

ESPORTS PT

For several years, Petah Tikva has been incorporating Minecraft Education Edition into the classroom. In 2018, the MPTX2 game was created in honour of the 70th birthday of the State of Israel and the 140th anniversary of Petah Tikva. In 2019, a professional development course was created to train teachers to integrate Minecraft in core subjects, and a year ago, a mathematical Olympic game in which students competed in solving mathematical puzzles with the goal of passing an educational Minecraft Education Edition world built for the competition.

Now is the turn of Esports.

Esports competitions have increased in popularity over the last two decades and now begun to find their place in educational settings. At the same time, the American Psychology Association stated in lately research that video-games provide the same opportunities to develop complex cognitive, social and emotional skills as those provided by and explored through children's play, including opportunities to explore and resolve issues of dominance, anxiety, growth and so on. So, why not trying?

Thus, at the beginning of 2023, the Israeli FCL decided to launch a call for schools to participate in Esports PT competition by Minecraft Education edition, a familiar game, specially designed for learning and the best tool to develop creativity. Esports PT is a competition that consist of 3 rounds, each with 3 one-and-a-half online sessions. In each session a new challenge is revealed to the teams. The teams plan, assign roles, build, and submit a product at a predetermined time.

The winning submission is determined according to criteria known in advance. From the second challenge, the winning submission is determined by voting (in one day 520 votes were received). After 2 rounds of this competition, almost hundred students were involved, from the 5th – 7th grade. There will be another round and a final session that will include a challenge between the winners. After 2 rounds of Esports, sessions full of positive impact related to cognitive function (like attention and focus), motivation, social and emotional (such as induce positive mood states, and help students/players develop effective responses to failure, problem solving and teamwork) were observed. Stay tuned!



MALTA

January – March 2023

EMBED 2023

The Directorate for Digital Literacy & Transversal Skills organized EMBED 2023 – a weeklong event with digital workshops for Year 3 students. These workshops were held in the Future Classroom Labs at the Digital Literacy Centre in Hamrun, Malta. During this event, a number of different hands-on workshops focusing on computational thinking took place.

The Primary Digital Literacy Team of educators developed six different workshops engaging students and creating opportunities for them to learn coding skills, problem-solving techniques, and critical thinking. The educators attending also benefitted from hands-on practical applications of technology in the classroom.

Short video on Day 1 of the event [here](#).



NORWAY

April – May 2023

Expansion of FCL

On Tuesday the 11th of April, the [Didactic Digital Lab/Didaktisk digitalt verksted \(DDV\)](#) at the University of Stavanger will officially open and expand their FCL into a new zone.

FCL Ambassador Meeting

From the 12th of April until the 14th of April, the Norwegian FCL-team and ambassadors will be hosting the FCL Ambassador Meeting for all lead and co-lead ambassadors in Europe. The event will take place in Halden, on the southeast of Norway and will be arranged by [Østfold University College](#)

Participation in NKUL

From the 10th of May until the 12th of May, the FCL team and the FCL advisory committee will participate in [NKUL](#), the largest ICT Conference in Norway. This conference gathers teachers and teacher educators from all over Norway. All our FCL-members will also join. The Norwegian FCL-team will make decisions and plans at NKUL for upcoming events after the summer break.

Participation in SpillExpo

From the 12th of May until the 14th of May The Didactic Digital Lab / Didaktisk digitalt verksted (DDV) will participate in [SpillExpo](#) in Stavanger. Spillexpo is a broad, unifying game fair for everything game-related in Norway. The fair is inspired by similar fairs in other countries, such as Gamescom in Germany, Gamex in Sweden and the E3 fair in Los Angeles.

PORTUGAL

April 2023

MOOC "Active Learning and Innovative Teaching in Flexible Learning Spaces" in Portuguese

The FCL ambassadors' team has adapted to the Portuguese educational context, translated, and fostered the Portuguese version of the EUN MOOC "Active Learning and Innovative Teaching in Flexible Learning Spaces", organized and launched in 2022 by the European Schoolnet Academy, within the NOVIGADO project.

Entitled "*Aprendizagem Ativa e Ensino Inovador em Espaços Flexíveis de Aprendizagem*", this MOOC's (Massive Open Online Course) main goal was to provide an effective and practical support to Portuguese schools in what concerns the process implementing of active learning scenarios, in dynamic environments empowered by Information and Communication Technologies (ICT).

Accessible in Portuguese and as a reference practice, this MOOC is mainly aimed at all teachers, school leaders and other professionals with educational functions, however it was open to all of those interested in the subject.

The course ran from February the 8th to March the 24th, 2023, with 2470 registrations.

In addition, this online course had an asynchronous online session. This session was organized by the team of FCL ambassadors (trainers of this course). The main goal of this session was to share, in a very straight forward way experiences of implementing strategies addressed throughout the various MOOC modules.

The launching of a 2nd edition of this MOOC will take place in the autumn of 2023.

SLOVAKIA

December 2022 - April 2023

Participation in the eTwinning Conference

In December 2022, an eTwinning conference entitled "*How do we imagine education in the future?*" took place. It was addressed to leaders of all types of schools: kindergarten, primary and secondary, but also to other teachers interested in the topic. The conference also featured a presentation by a FCL ambassador on "*How to create the school of the future and teach differently*". In particular, the presentation focused on how schools should be a place where children feel good, experience the joy of knowledge and at the same time acquire skills important for life. Participants were also introduced to the concept of the Future Classroom Lab, discovered the magic of creative learning environments and were inspired by the Future Classroom Lab BESST.

FCL Lead Ambassador Seminar, April 12-14, 2023

Faculty of Teacher Education and Languages, Østfold University College (ØUC)
The Department of Pedagogy, ICT and Learning

Contacts: Marianne Høgseth (+47 909 60 118) and Øive Brønckens (+47 900 36 312)

Wednesday - Welcome and Meet & greet.

Where: Campus Kvernberget 3B & A, veien A, 1707 Halden. We will meet you at the main entrance

| | |
|-------------|---|
| 17:00-19:30 | Welcome! |
| | • Presentations (ØUC, our own, FCL, arrangements etc.) |
| | • Programming activity at our FCL |
| 19:30 | Meet transport to the city centre |
| 20:00 | Joint dinner at Bragde 196 & Mathias (food is covered, drinks must be bought individually). |

Thursday - Teachers' Professional Digital Competence (PDC) in Practice

NOTE: The bus will pick you up at your hotel at 08:00. Please be ready outside the hotel on time.

| | |
|-------------|---|
| 08:00 | Bus to Fredrikstad |
| 09:00-10:00 | School visit at Storvika International High School |
| 10:45-11:30 | Marijanna Kalliterna's presentation: The Norwegian Professional Digital Competence Framework for Teachers |



SPAIN

February - April 2023

New Future Classrooms Lab Launch

The latest launch of Future Classroom Labs in Spain makes a significant milestone in the evolution of modern education as part of a larger initiative supported by the National Institute of Education and Technologies in collaboration with the autonomous communities, private companies and institutions. The new labs are located in four different regions of Spain, and provide teachers and students with a range of advanced tools and technologies.

New lab expansions have continued across the country throughout March, with several new spaces being revealed. [Ceuta](#) unveiled a new lab on March 2nd, followed by [Zaragoza](#) (Aragón) on March 8th. . On March 17th, a third lab was launched in [Sevilla](#) (Andalucía), followed by a fourth in [Tenerife](#) (Islas Canarias). In total, eight out of the 20 planned labs have been successfully launched in Spain, providing robust support for this project.

Future Classroom Mixed Modality Training Courses for Trainers

Throughout the year, a total of 12 mixed-modality courses are planned. They have been designed to provide trainers with the necessary skills and knowledge to deliver effective training programs.

Training courses for trainers are essential for professionals who wish to improve their skills and knowledge in facilitating learning and development.

We are happy to inform that the last two of those training courses were a success, and the attendees gained valuable insights and practical skills related to the implementation and design of Future Classroom Labs in schools.

Teacher Training

Numerous Autonomous Communities are presently providing teacher training. At this moment, Extremadura Autonomous Community is conducting training for Future Classroom Lab coordinators as part of the INNOVATED program's specific training program. Simultaneously, until the end of April 2023, a hybrid training program on "*Chroma, Robotics, Augmented Reality, and 3D Printing*" for teachers is underway. Furthermore, they recently completed a two-week training program on "*PBL in Future Classroom Lab*".

Similarly, the Valencia Autonomous Community is nearing completion of a hybrid training program focused on "*Service-Learning Projects and the Design of Learning Scenarios*". Additionally, an online course titled "*Interdisciplinary STEM Projects for Secondary Schools*" is currently underway, while the "*STEM Learning Scenarios and Robotics*" training was recently concluded.

Castilla y León provides a distinctive chance to receive training on exemplary practices such as "*PBL in Flexible Spaces*", "*Transforming Spaces, Co-Teaching Practices for Inclusive Innovative Learning Environments*", and "*Challenges for Primary Education at Innovative Learning Environments*". Recently, the "*Flexible Learning Spaces, Innovation for our Schools*" training was conducted, which emphasized the significance of active learning methodologies as a cornerstone of innovation and education.

La Rioja has already finished a three weeks mixed-modality training in "*Developing Creativity Using Technologies in the Future Classroom Lab*".

Ambassadors Network

The reach of the Ambassadors Network is ever widening across the nation, with the INTEF regularly conducting virtual meetings to maintain connection among all its members. During our latest gathering on February 23rd, we provided updates on various training events and exchanged insights and proficiency in diverse fields of knowledge relevant to the project.



The following activities had to be postponed due to the earthquake that took place on the 6th of February, which directly affected more than 13 million people in 10 different provinces.

Capacity Building

The following face to face and online learning events were organised to promote the Future Classroom Lab pedagogy by Turkish local ambassadors in different provinces of Türkiye:

- Informative meeting in order to promote and disseminate the Future Classroom Lab and ESEP eTwinning for 64 administrators and teachers in Giresun.
- A meeting to introduce FCL pedagogy and technopedagogy for 80 teachers, a meeting on FCL and Vocational Education for 25 teachers, Metaverse training with 5 different groups of 150 teachers, a training on digital design for 50 teachers in Rize.
- A seminar for administrative staff and teachers in Balıkesir to clarify the steps for launching learning labs, grants, materials recommended and pedagogical processes.
- An informative meeting about FCL for around 20 teachers in Antalya.
- FCL (Future Classroom Project) for around 80 teachers working in different districts of Adana, and 45 teachers working in the same province were given 30-hour in-service trainings, each with the content of STEM Education and Active Learning Pedagogy.

More face-to-face trainings are planned in the upcoming months.

New members of FCL Network of Learning Labs

In the past months, 2 Turkish schools at social sciences high school and science high school level have been officially recognised as members of the Network of Innovative Learning Labs and Spaces. The school-based learning labs are located in the provinces of Isparta and Kütahya.

For more information: [FWM FCL](#), [Harmony FCL](#).

Updates from FCL Türkiye Team

The opening program of the "*Happy Children FCL*" learning environment, (which was established in line with the Future Classroom Lab model) was organized on January 11, 2023, in order to support students' development of 21st century skills through innovative technologies and active learning practices at Meram Telafer Primary School in Konya. After the opening program, the "*Designing Future Classroom*" training was organized by Büşra Söylemez, professional development officer of FCL Türkiye Team, and ZFCL coordinator Ünsal Saper from Tokat Zile Science High School, on 11-12 January 2023 to support the effective and efficient use of the newly established future classroom by teachers and students at school. In this capacity building activity, workshops and sessions were organized by the teachers at school to get to know the Future Classroom model, active learning, 21st century skills, the use of digital technologies in innovative learning areas and learning scenarios, and to realize learning designs and practices in this context.

Furthermore, as a part of the project carried out by the Ankara Governor's Office, a professional development workshop was organized for supporting the teachers active use of the learning lab, launched in Science and Art Centres. "*Designing the Future Classroom*" training was held on 18-19 January 2023 at Ankara Vocational and Technical Anatolian High School. Within the scope of the program, the "*FCL Model*" was presented by implementing innovative pedagogical approaches and technological practices for developing learning scenarios by scenario tool.



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