

Coordinating Institution

University College of Teacher Education in Lower Austria

Partner Institutions

Free University of Bolzano

NILE Norwich

University College of Teacher Education Burgenland

University Cyprus

University Pécs

Partner Schools

Academic Secondary School Stainach

Bilingual Junior High School Wiener Neustadt

Istituto Comprensivo Bolzano 1 Centro Storico

Vienna International School, Primary Section

Associated Schools

Catton Grove Primary School, Norwich

Junior High School Carlberggasse, Vienna

La Scuola Primaria Rosmini

Practice School of the University College of Teacher Education in Lower Austria,
Primary & Secondary Section

Primary School Pefikos Georgiades, Nicosia

PTE-IGY Gyakorlóiskola, Pécs

Scuola bilingue MILE, Milano

Open Academy, Norwich

Who we are....

In this European project, schools collaborate closely with higher education institutions.

PALM exists through and for 6-14 year-old learners who are authors and consumers of a platform that is developed in the context of an Erasmus+ Action 2 project coordinated by the University College of Teacher Education in Lower Austria.

The pupils in this project speak English, French, German, Greek, Hungarian, Italian, Latin and/or Spanish and attend schools in Austria, Cyprus, Hungary, Italy and in the UK. Their teachers do not only supervise them in text production and selection in PALM boards, they are also the link to universities and colleges of teacher education where the learning materials for the platform are generated.

Four partner schools, nine associated schools and six higher education institutions create PALM in a three-year collaboration between 2015 and 2018.

What we aim for....

The Erasmus+ Project PALM aims to encourage 6-14 year-old speakers of English, French, German, Greek, Hungarian, Italian, Latin and Spanish to produce authentic texts in their coursework or free-time. The texts, videos and audios are hoped to be interesting reading and listening input for learners of the same age who want to

study these languages. Sharing written or spoken texts produced by pupils in their first and additional languages with learners of these languages at the same age through new media is expected to increase motivation and to develop transversal skills and multilingualism.

Writing for the platform provides reasons and situations for text production inside and outside school. Through writing and speaking about activities such as science experiments, presentations of the pupils' artistic or academic work, sports reports, film reviews etc. and about topics that are of strong personal interest and important for the learners, pupils are expected to transfer skills which have been acquired in informal and authentic contexts to situations and tasks at school and the other way around.

Enhancing digital integration in learning, teaching, and training at various levels is a priority of the Erasmus+ Project PALM. Therefore, it aims at the strategic use of open educational resources, virtual and blended mobility through the PALM platform, which will serve as a virtual learning space for the pupils.

What we do....

Teachers in the partner schools and in the associated schools initiate text production across the curriculum during regular course work imposing as little influence as possible on the originality and authenticity of text production. Goals and content areas comply with the schools' curricula.

Editorial Boards at the schools consisting of pupils and teachers select texts that are published at the schools and eventually uploaded to the PALM platform. Teacher trainees produce listening and reading tasks, learning materials and gamified on-line activities to accompany these texts. The platform provides immediate feedback on listening and reading competence while on-line activities encourage self- and peer assessment.

Teachers find learning and teaching materials and assessment tools to go with the authentic input texts on the platform. All tasks and materials are piloted and quality assured with the help of our partner and associated schools.

In a controlled chat forum, users can comment on texts and tasks and give stars to show how popular texts are. An international meeting and a junior symposium for pupils provide opportunities for plurilingual and intercultural exchange between language ambassadors. Teachers, experts and researchers share their experience in training sessions and in two international conferences.

Why we do what we do

In times of globalisation and increasing migration, cultural and linguistic diversity are characteristics of any society. Supporting multilingualism and making use of all linguistic to learn whenever and wherever they are ready to learn with the help of open-source materials motivate us to develop the PALM platform.

The background for this project derives from research into multilingualism and the participants' experience in teaching first and additional languages in multilingual settings. Linking theoretical knowledge with hands-on experience transforms theory into practice and puts practice at the heart of the new theories this project may create.

