

EU RURAL VIRTUAL CLASSROOM PLATFORM IT'S READY

Rural Virtual Classroom platform is ready for his usage. The goal is to be a rural community-driven area that enables teachers and their pupils in rural areas to connect and share resources and collaborate on educational initiatives all over the world.

The main things that can be done within the **platform are:**

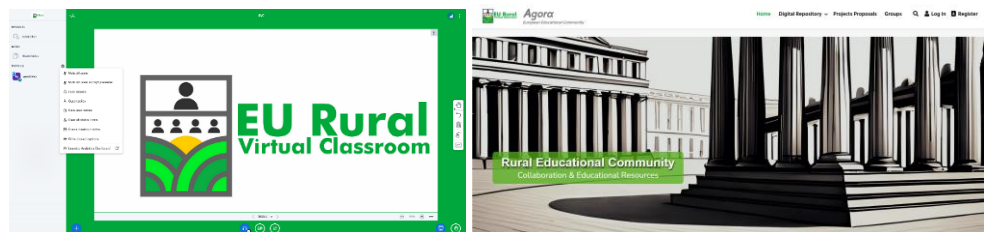
Virtual Classrooms: Online space to deliver classes, workshops, meetings or any kind of real time activities among groups with no geographic limitations. Full range of online features available: break out rooms, upload and share materials, share screen and multimedia materials, to interactive blackboard, online polls etc.

Digital Repository: Pool of resources that may include lesson plans, multimedia content, teaching aids, and other materials that are relevant to rural students and teachers.

Projects proposals: here you can find and join projects created by the Community.

Groups: You can join groups of your interest, to work together with people from the platform.

Exchange: you can find all the members in the platform and get in contact with all of them.



The platform is characterized by being a safe space:

- It is an EU funded platform with all EU GDPR guarantees.
- Members fully identified: only schools and official institutions can register and allow their teachers/professionals to be registered
- Students are never alone: they enter only by direct invitation of their teacher for specific activities

PILOT TESTS

Between October and November, pilot tests were carried out in 6 rural schools in 4 different countries (Ireland, Lithuania, Italy and Spain). A total of 67 students and 8 teachers participated during the pilot tests.

To evaluate the platform, in all the pilot tests that have been developed, a total of 9 experts have participated and observed how the platform works. These expert observers had the opportunity to give us his opinion about the platform.

100% Teachers and observers think this platform can be useful to put EU rural schools in direct contact. Between 90% - 100% Teachers and observers would recommend the use of this platform in EU rural contexts.

It is noted that the technological level is very variable and mostly limited. Rural schools need technological solutions that can provide tailored responses. Due to the need for technology, such as computers and a good connection, it may not facilitate the participation of schools in this project.

In this sense, RVC Rural Classroom proved to be very adaptable and easy to access and use, being able to overcome the technological differences between the participating schools.

Anyone interested in using this platform can contact us via the following email: agora@ruralvirtualclassroom.eu

COORDINATION AND EVALUATION

Last September 20 and October 16, the partners of the "EU Rural Virtual Classroom" project met in Ireland and Italy.

The meeting in Ireland was used to finish designing the virtual platform planned for the project, to be able to start the pilot tests.

The meeting in Italy was used to evaluate the pilot tests. The project partners size the pilot tests up positively. Input from teachers and observers was reviewed to see how the platform could be improved to fit the specifications they provided.

During these meetings, attendees were able to visit different schools that participate in the project. We had the opportunity to see how different rural schools in Europe work.

For more information: www.ruralvirtualclassroom.eu

E+ VIRTUAL CLASSROOM

The EU Rural Virtual Classroom project, strongly anchored in ICT, has an innovative approach to face educational deficiencies in rural areas: a collaborative virtual space in real time where rural schools can support each other, filling their deficiencies in teachers shortage, content and activities immediately.

PARTNERSHIP: Estela Cántabra, Istituto Omnicomprensivo Di Bobbio, Associació D'Iniciatives Rurals De Catalunya, Universidad De Deusto, Roscommon LEADER Partnership and Vytauto Didziojo Universitetas.