

## MEMORY OF EUROPE

### Pedagogical value

This project aims at leading young people to understand similarities and differences between the past in their country and the past in their partners' country. It should build bridges between generations. Pupils will practice a foreign language and get familiar with web-based communication and collaboration tools.

**Age group:** 10 – 20 years old

**Duration:** about 6 sessions per topic

**ICT tools:** emails, instant messaging, discussion forums, video-conferencing, word files, pdf, power point presentations, audios, videos, pictures, web sites,...

**Subject:** Europe, History/Traditions, Geography, Informatics/ICT, Language and Literature, Foreign Language, history of science

### Process

#### 1. Getting started:

Pupils in both partner schools have to agree on:

- a communication language
- the period covered (which depends on the grandparents' age)
- a theme, such as music, wars, literature, discoveries, inventions, fashion, manners, etc.
- ICT tools they will use for the project

In order to agree the pupils can use various ICT communication tools, such as e-mail, discussion forum, instant messaging or video-conferencing. They can store the questions in a shared workspace (called the Twinspace in eTwinning – available from 1st April 2005).

#### 2. Preparing questions:

Pupils prepare questions for their grandparents on the chosen topic and agree on the same questions with their partners.

#### 3. Interviewing grandparents:

Pupils interview their grandparents. To make the results livelier, they can record the interview with a camera or a voice recorder. They can also ask for pictures/objects from the chosen period and/or on the chosen theme. They scan them or take digital photos.

#### 4. Collecting and sorting information:

To get deeper and beyond the experience of their grandparents, pupils search for the information on the Internet and/or in the school library. They learn to select, process and edit information relevant for the chosen theme.

#### 5. Exchanging information:

If necessary, they translate the interviews and information into the language of the project with the help of language teachers and/or assistants and swap it with partners.

Pupils translate the information and the interviews they collected into the common language of the project. They share it in a shared workspace (Twin space) in the form of word/pdf files, pictures, audio and/or video files.

#### 6. Learning with and from others:

Each class looks at the partner's information.

They discuss the partner's information and learn about similarities and differences in two countries in the past.

At this stage, pupils from both countries put the gathered material together into a final product. According to your time possibilities and/or ICT skills, you can choose and/or adapt any of the following options.

### Outcomes

- A word document / pdf / power point presentation or a web site in their communication and/or native languages with the interviews and other digital materials (pictures, audio/video files, if possible)
- An exhibition with objects from the chosen period where the pupils invite their grandparents and have a debate with them. The pupils can tell them about what they learnt from partners abroad and show some pictures and videos
- Interesting testimonies of their grandparents can also be made into documentaries (written or videos) or published on their school web site

### Options

- Pupils can interview other people who have interesting memories, not just grandparents
- Pupils can also compare the information they collected with a famous film or book that deals with the same period or theme
- The class can be divided into several groups. Each group focuses on a different theme and presents a different outcome
- Focus on the end of WWII. It was a moving period, which young people are still interested in, and there are people who remember it. In this case, pupils can also interview WWII veterans
- It is also possible to explore remote memories. Grandparents or other elderly people can tell children about what they heard from their grandparents. It would be interesting to compare these memories with historical facts
- Younger children can draw pictures or make digital illustrations based on their grandparents' stories

### Similar projects (mainly on WWII)

- <http://atschool.eduweb.co.uk/chatback/english/memories/memories.html> or <http://timewitnesses.org/> (Tom Holloway, moderator of these two web sites, inspired this project a lot)
- The BBC runs a similar project on <http://www.bbc.co.uk/dna/ww2/>
- There is a very nice web site in Czech on people lost during WWII, where pupils can also contribute: [www.zmizeli-sousedede.cz](http://www.zmizeli-sousedede.cz)

Katerina Bavorova elaborated this project idea.