

# Ambassadors Digest



December 2023

## Welcome to Issue #24

In this last digest for the year 2023 the FCL Lead Ambassadors share with you the highlights of the activities of this period.

Have a nice winter break!

For further information on the Future Classroom Ambassadors, please contact Bart Verswijvel - [bart.verswijvel@eun.org](mailto:bart.verswijvel@eun.org)



# Webinars on Moodle and Xerte

Digisprong is a programme rolled out by the government in Flanders to support schools in their digital transformation. The Knowledge Center at the Ministry of Education supports schools with different ways to facilitate this transition.

Schools have created a policy and a strategy that aligns with their own context. One of the items schools need to decide on is the use of educational software. Schools pay for commercial licenses. The Knowledge Center also promotes the use of open source software to meet some of the needs of the schools.

Open source software is increasingly used within education but this still remains with a minority of schools. The freely available source code allows schools to modify and improve software. The schools don't have to pay licensing fees but open source isn't completely free. Instead of license fees, there is support and maintenance for the ICT team or an external partner.

The Knowledge Center Digisprong took the initiative to inform the Flemish schools about Moodle and Xerte. Moodle is a digital learning environment. Xerte is an open source authoring tool. There will be webinars and trainings to train schools that show interest.

Digisnap, the self-reflection tool to map ICT competencies in Flanders, was also created with open source software.





# Teacher Workshops on Artificial Intelligence

October in the Czech Republic was characterized by a focus on artificial intelligence. Various organizations hosted conferences, seminars featuring experts in the field of artificial intelligence, and workshops in different locations throughout the country. Participants had the opportunity to practically apply the knowledge gained from lectures.

One of the conferences for teaching staff from primary and secondary schools, took place at the Robotics Centre in Plzeň. The event included hands-on workshops where educators took the roles of students and engaged in various activities.





## Agile Edu

Future Classroom Lab DK will participate in the Erasmus Plus project Agile Edu for the next two years, collaborating with Spain, Norway, Sweden, Portugal, France, Slovenia, and Finland. The aim of the Agile EDU project is to identify key success factors for supporting the implementation, at scale, of digital education ecosystems that enable inclusive and high-quality digital education. The project also seeks to build expertise and a community for knowledge exchange on pedagogical use, trust and safety, and equity and inclusion.

In Denmark, we are exploring the question: How can Danish teachers work creatively with the assessment of students' digital playful learning processes to support a common learning environment in primary school teaching?

In September, we conducted our first dialog lab in Denmark, bringing together participating teachers from the country. You can follow the project [here](#).



## FCLAB.FI at SCHULBAU Fair in Berlin

The FCLab.fi team from Finland organized an excursion to SCHULBAU fair in Berlin, Germany. Thirteen FCL Ambassadors from Joensuu, Jyväskylä, Tampere, Oulu, and Helsinki participated in the event. SCHULBAU is an international trade fair for educational school planning and building, providing architects, designers, school leadership, and representatives of authorities and institutions a platform to exchange ideas and explore the products of exhibitors. The Finnish FCLab network gained visibility at the fair, thanks to Sampo Forsström's presentation on FCLab activities and the pedagogical development of school spaces.



The presentation generated significant interest among the audience and event organizers.

At the end of the second day of the fair we had the opportunity to visit the 13th Integrated Secondary School in Lichtenberg. The facility was partly a new construction and a recently renovated school. FCLab found itself to be a highly necessary and progressive initiative, guiding schools and school planning towards a more stimulating, adaptable, and diverse direction.

## The Finnish FCLab takes part in the DigiEduHack

The University of Eastern Finland's training schools' FCLab-crew organized a joint evening for teachers, students, guardians and teacher trainees on digital well-being and innovation. The event was part of the DigiEduHack project, an initiative organized by the European Commission. The event aimed to show how different actors can work together in school and generate new ideas and ways of collaboration. The event also emphasized the importance of innovation and collaboration in digital education and well-being.



The event fostered a culture of co-creation and co-learning among the participants, who shared their ideas, feedback and experiences with each other. The event was a fun and engaging way to promote digital literacy and competence in the 21st century.

FRANCE



## Restructuring 21 classrooms... A crazy challenge, or the necessary response to changing practices?

At the Lycée de la Venise Verte, the first reflections on school spaces started in 2014. Back then, the primary goal was to reimagine the library, transforming it into a hub of Knowledge and Culture. Gradually, the FCL philosophy entered the project, and this was very clear in the first realization. Over the years, these innovative teaching practices have become part of the daily working environment of the school's teachers, students and staff.



Naturally, the FCL methodology was implemented in 2019 as part of restructuring an entire floor of the school. This ambitious policy aimed to bring together all stakeholders—those currently using the spaces and those who would in the future. It was a logical step as teaching practices continued evolving within the school, making adaptive spaces necessary to meet user needs.

A project of this dimension requires the collaboration of everyone involved, and solid project coordination. With the help of Pierre Castro, a local ambassador from the early days who led several workshops, the project is gradually taking shape. In the end, 21 classrooms and 3 shared spaces will be open by 2026.

**HUNGARY**



## Accredited CPD Courses for Teachers Available in Hungarian

The reruns of the TeachUP1, TeachUP2 and Scientix MOOCs to which participants applied through the Hungarian Pedagogical Educational Centres are still in progress in November and December 2023.

The first TeachUp1 autumn course, which started on 9 October has already ended with 53 participants successfully completing the course. Currently 77 teachers participate in a TeachUp 1, TeachUP 2 and a Scientix course. They all started on 6 November and they will be active in this online CPD course for about 6 weeks.



# Code Week Hungary Conference

Hungary celebrated the 11th anniversary of European Code Week with a conference organized by EU Code Week ambassadors. This event, held for the second time, took place on October 7th near the capital, in Biatorbágy.

The conference focused on the effective development of competences in young children, students, and adults related to algorithmic thinking, coding, and programming. Throughout the event, there were several presentations, mini-lectures sharing innovative practices, and workshops conducted in 4-5 parallel sections, providing practical knowledge about organizing coding activities. Participants had the opportunity to engage with various tools, methods, and gadgets through hands-on activities. Tech companies showcased their products at stands, and competitions were announced for participating schools and teachers in the Codeweek initiative, offering valuable prizes.

[More info](#)







# The Innovation House Opens its Doors



A transition and migration process of Future Classroom Lab Beta, that took more than a year, has come to an end. The process is complete, and we resume our activities with a renewed focus on Inspire - Empower – Create, emphasizing resilience in AI, Gaming, Immersive, Makers, and Coding for everyone.

On the morning of December 7th, it happened. In a modest and unique ceremony to light the first candle of Hanuka – the festival of light and miracles and in the presence of the city mayor, Dr. Rami Grinberg, we opened the Innovation House of Petah Tikva Municipality. A beacon of hope for all.

The Innovation House is a new ecosystem that combines industry, employment, and education with the aim of empowering human capital for a better future, while granting equal opportunities to all.

This inclusive ecosystem invites everyone, equipping them with the necessary tools and experiences to actively participate in the community and secure employment, both in the present and future.

The Innovation House prepares them not just for the now, but also for the future, anticipating trends and evolving needs.



## The FCL network is Growing in Italy

A new opportunity is emerging in Italy to expand the Future Classroom Lab (FCL) network EUN, thanks to the selection of new regional Polo schools within the Avanguardie Educative movement by Indire. The Italian National Institute for Educational Research and Documentation has initiated a procedure to select regional Polo schools for the coming years. Over 70 schools from nearly all regions of Italy have responded to the selection call, submitting their applications.

The selection process is close to completion, involving Researchers and Ambassadors from Avanguardie Educative Indire in various sessions to assess the quantity and quality of the received applications. The specially constituted committee has conducted thorough checks on the documentation produced to promote the best candidates for this important task.

The new regional Polo Schools will be a significant opportunity for the FCL network. In each of these Polo Schools, the implementation of both a physical and virtual FCL Corner is planned. This space will promote the Future Classroom Lab's activities and make available to teachers in the respective regions a variety of materials and continuous training opportunities produced and regularly updated by FCL.



We are confident that this new network covering the entire national territory will bring many opportunities for professional growth and European dimension for Italian school teachers, fostering innovation in teaching and learning.



## EMBED Workshops 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.

[More information](#)





# 'Learning in Digital Contexts' Annual Conference

On November 9th, 2023, the 'Learning in Digital Contexts' annual conference brought together approximately 200 teachers, educators, teacher students, and school management. The event centered on the revitalization of education and classroom didactics, exploring both traditional methods and those incorporating artificial intelligence.

On December 1st, 2023, we celebrated the anniversary of our Future Classroom Lab at Inland University of Applied Sciences, Campus Hamar. It has been a year since we first opened our doors, extending invitations to students and staff in our teacher education programs and development partners in EdTech.

This time, our focus in Norway was to showcase The University of Agder, highlighting their operations and utilization of "Undervisningsverkstedet," the FCL in Kristiansand, located in the south of Norway.

**iNN**  
Høgskolen  
i Innlandet

Vi feirer

## Future Classroom Lab 1 år!

1. desember er det et år siden vi åpnet dørene til vårt teknologirike læringsverksted i Midtbyen Park for første gang. Velkommen til markering 1.12. kl 14.00-16.00!

Vi tar et tilbakeblikk på året som har gått og et framoverblikk på planlagte aktiviteter. Vi viser eksempler på undervisning og forskning, med mulighet for utprøving av ulike typer spill og VR-baserte læringsverktøy. Enkel bevertning og mingling.

## **Fall 2023**

25th September - The Erasmus+ project ValiDE visited the lab with their international students. Explored different technologies, i.e. Podcast, VR etc.

8th November - Teachmeet at a local upper secondary school, in collaboration with the local Municipalities and others. About 85 participants, including student teachers, teachers at university and teachers from local kindergartens and schools.

5th December - Workshop for teacher educators at the University. Topic: Artificial Intelligence in teaching. The workshop is organized in collaboration between teacher educators at University and teacher educators in schools. There were four different stations; practical work with chatbots, Teachable machines, creating AI-photos in Arts and crafts, Curipod.

## **Spring 2024**

- January (monthly)- Inspirational lunches for Teacher Educators at University. One Institute at a time. Teacher Educators share experiences and ideas with their colleagues. Topic: student active learning, with examples from using the lab.
- April - Professional Digital Competence workshops for 150 ITE students; planned and executed by teachers from schools in collaboration with student employees in the lab and Teacher Educators at the University.

## **Ongoing**

- Centre for Vocational Training with focus on how technology can help facilitate training for bilingual apprentices.
- Pilot project in Early Childhood Teacher Education to enhance students' professional digital competence.

- Morning coffee meetings with key staff from largest partner Municipalities. Informal meeting for sharing ideas and staying in touch. This group is in charge of the Teachmeet amongst other things.

All of our Teacher Education programs are active in the lab and most subjects are represented: pedagogy, maths, natural science, social science, religion, history, foreign languages, arts and crafts, music and drama, Norwegian, food and health.

SLOVAKIA



## Application of Future Classroom Lab Principles in the Educational Process CPD for Teachers

Primary and Secondary school BESST in Trnava launched an innovative teacher training – "Application of Future Classroom Lab principles in the educational process" for primary and secondary school teachers. This national training is certified by the Ministry of Education. 25 teachers from all over Slovakia are currently involved in the program. Part of the training is held online with a lecturer and a part takes place in person in the model Future Classroom Lab BESST.



The goal of this course is the expansion and innovation of professional competences necessary for the performance of work of pedagogical employee and the application of the latest knowledge or practical experience in education and training. The full program takes 50 hours. It is completed with a final exam and participants receive a certificate.



# Toledo Adds a New FCL in the Spanish FCL Network for Teacher Training

The establishment of a nationwide network of Future Classroom Labs for training purposes in Spain represents an important achievement in the progression of innovative education. This initiative is part of a larger effort by the National Institute of Education and Technologies, in partnership with autonomous communities, private enterprises, and institutions.

Currently, nine of these classrooms have been launched, with the latest addition in Toledo last November. This classroom becomes part of the existing network of labs in the country.



# Promotion and Dissemination Events

In November, IFEMA organized the prestigious International Exhibition of Educational Technology and Innovation, SIMO Educación 2023, in Madrid. As part of this groundbreaking event, a presentation and a workshop, centered around the FCL project in Spain, were delivered on the 15th of November under the title "Sumérgete en el Aula del Futuro y vive la experiencia".

The session aimed to showcase and engage the attendees with the innovative aspects of the FCL project, providing valuable insights into its applications and contributions to educational technology and innovation within the Spanish context. There was also a hands-on activity in which participants designed their own laboratory, made decisions regarding pedagogical aspects, methodologies, and the technologies incorporated within the learning scenarios they were required to plan and experiment with.

## Future Classroom Mixed Modality Training Courses for Trainers, INTEF

As our training initiative unfolds, we introduced a new set of courses in September. These programs have been tailored to empower trainers with the essential skills and knowledge required to effectively conduct FCL training sessions in diverse autonomous regions nationwide.



"Los entornos digitales y los espacios físicos para la educación inclusiva" Curso 2023 para formadores



"Robótica para el aprendizaje activo en el Aula del Futuro" Curso 2023 para formadores





These are 3 of the courses planned for this season:

- Digital environments and physical spaces for inclusive teaching methods.
- Active learning and robotics in the Future Classroom Lab zones.
- Advance digital competences for the Future Classroom Lab, computational thinking strategies.

## “Aula del Futuro” Online Training



The third edition of the Aula del Futuro NOOC (Nano Open Online Course), titled “Crea actividades para el Aula del Futuro” (FCL Activities), took place from the 8th to the 17th of November. This session marked a significant milestone in this ongoing training initiative, attracting 955 participants who delved into the crafting of learner-centric activities.

Simultaneously, a new iteration of the Aula del Futuro online tutored course was conducted from September to November as part of INTEF's training program. This initiative extended an enriching learning opportunity to 412 participants, guiding them through the exploration of the FCL toolkit. This toolkit comprises an array of tools, guidance, and resources tailored for designing futuristic classroom learning scenarios. Participants were empowered to implement these strategies, fostering advanced, innovative approaches to both teaching and learning within their schools and classrooms.

# Teacher Training Across the Autonomous Communities

The training on the subject matter represented by the Future Classroom project is a constant in the various autonomous communities. Below, we mention some of the different initiatives that have taken place during the last few months in some of these mentioned autonomous communities.

## Andalucía

In Andalusia, at the Future Classroom Lab belonging to the national network, a series of semi-presential training activities make up the training offered under the title "Design your future classroom lab and join the challenge!" This training will unfold in several editions.

In addition to this, a different set of training activities will take place by the end of this year such as: "Future Classroom Lab as Didactic Space" and "Creative Writing in the Future Classroom Lab." Alongside these training activities, various groups of teachers from different educational centers in this region have visited the classroom and participated in workshops introducing them to the project.

## Castilla la Mancha

The national network of Future Classroom Labs for training purposes continues its expansion with the creation of a new facility at the Centro Tecnológico de la Madera in Toledo on 6th of November. This innovative space provides teachers with the opportunity to explore a diverse array of technologies and classroom layouts, along with challenging them to reconsider their current teaching practices.

On the 29th of the same month, the second edition of the "Jornada Aula del Futuro" took place. This event served as a platform to present a theoretical and legislative framework for the project and offered hands-on activities for exploring and experiencing various learning and teaching scenarios. Moreover, the autonomous community has recently announced an invitation for schools to join the training and innovation project of Castilla La-Mancha. Several schools have been chosen to partake in this initiative, contributing to the innovation project.

## Ceuta

Over the past few months, a sequence of training sessions has occurred in the Future Classroom Lab, covering a variety of topics. These sessions include "Future Classroom Lab: Design and Implementation," "Future Classroom Lab: Educative Resources Edition I," "Improvement in Learning Processes Through Digital Competences in Primary Education," and "Digicraft Project in Your School."

# Ambassadors Network

The Ambassadors Network's influence is steadily growing across the country, also thanks to the regular organization of virtual meetings by INTEF. These meetings ensure continuous connectivity among all members. In our regular online sessions, updates on various training events are provided, fostering an environment where the entire community can exchange insights and expertise in diverse fields relevant to the project. This collaborative effort underscores the network's dedication to shared learning and collaboration.

TÜRKİYE



## LEGO Education Teacher Conference at ETKİM

On October 16, 2023, the Directorate General for Innovation and Educational Technologies organized the LEGO Education Teacher Conference at the Professional Learning Lab in ETKİM, which operates as a digital education and innovation hub. The conference was held with the theme 'Towards the Future of Education with Innovative Teachers' to support innovative approaches in education and enhance teachers' digital skills. 120 teachers from Ankara, specialized in primary school teaching, information technologies, technology and design, as well as mathematics and science attended the conference. The one-day event featured simultaneous workshops in the fields of STEM, coding, and robotics. Practical applications were carried out during the workshops.



# Innovative Learning Practices Workshop

As part of the 100th Anniversary celebrations of the Turkish Republic, the DG for Innovation and Educational Technologies organized a workshop that took place on October 25, 2023. The Deputy Minister of National Education, Ms. Celile Eren Ökten, Director General Mustafa Canlı, and other Ministry representatives also attended the event which took place in ETKIM, the Professional Learning Lab. The workshop focused on technology-enhanced active learning scenarios and was conducted by teachers and students. With the aim of developing 21st-century skills, teachers and students experienced a learning scenario by using technology for collaboration, interaction, research, and production. In this event, students showcased products and outputs on the specified theme using digital technologies and online learning tools.



# Policy Priority: Renovation in IT Labs

The Ministry of National Education initiates an action focusing on the renovation and innovative design of IT laboratories in approximately 2500 schools according to the innovative learning spaces model. It aims to create more flexible digital classrooms using new technologies such as robotics and coding, compared to traditional classrooms. At the core of this initiative, in addition to setting up classrooms, is the enhancement of teachers' capacities. This includes how they can conduct lessons in such learning environments, implement learning scenarios, and especially involve skill-based Learning Scenario Development and practices.

## New Members of FCL Network of Learning Labs



A Turkish school at primary level has been officially recognised as a member of the Network of Innovative Learning Labs and Spaces. Thus, the total number of accredited FCL (Future Classroom Lab) schools has reached the number of 32. The new school-based learning lab, FCL Imagine is located in the capital, Ankara.

[More information](#)