

The Living Book – Augmenting Reading for Life



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NEWSLETTER n. 4

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**BE AN AUGMENTED
TEACHER**

Editorial

The Living Book is an Erasmus+ funded project that aims at the development of innovative tools that will enhance reading for young people in Europe.

Reading is a primary skill, the one that allows us to 'be' and live in a complex world, to make free and responsible choices as citizens, to work at a higher level, and to enjoy our lives more fully.

The project aims to tackle this with the development of the Living Book blended approach. That is a comprehensive framework for developing teachers' ability to support students in growing the reading skills and love for reading and to help parents back this strategy at home: Guidelines, TheLivingBook platform, Lesson Plans, Training pack for teachers.

During the pilot teaching experiment, four short-term exchanges of pupils in Romania (29th October – 2nd November 2018), Cyprus (January 2019), Portugal (March 2019) and Estonia (May 2019) take place, so as to deepen the cooperation among involved schools and to provide pupils with an engaging exchange revolving around reading and "augmented reading".

The exchanges aim to develop the participating students' reading skills as well as other key competencies such as digital skills, learning to learn, critical thinking, cooperative and collaborative skills.

The groups of pupils work collaboratively in engaging activities of book reading and virtual augmentation.

The use of "augmentation" techniques also help overcome language barriers.

This newsletter'd share the students mobility experience, starting the First exchange in Vaslui (Romania) from 29th October to 2nd November 2018.

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We hope you enjoy our 4th newsletter and...

**... we wish you
"augmented
reading"
new year!**

The Living Book team

- European University Cyprus
- Agrupamento de Escolas de Vila Nova de Paiva, Portugal
- Comune di Vicenza, Italy
- Forum del libro, Italy
- Dimotiko Scholeio Makedonitissas III-Stylianou Lena, Cyprus
- GRYD LTD, UK
- Scoala Gimnaziala "Constantin Parfene", Romania
- Tartu Kivilinna Kool, Esthonia
- Universidade Da Beira Interior, Portugal



1. The Living book Students Exchange

During the pilot teaching experiment, four short-term exchanges of pupils in Romani, Estonia, Portugal and Cyprus take place, so as to deepen the cooperation among involved schools and to provide pupils with an engaging exchange revolving around reading and “augmented reading”.

The exchanges are structurally embedded in the pilot experimentation and are an integral part of the Living Book paths students carry out in their schools. These mobility activities are important to foster the creation of an **EU community of Augmented Readers**.

In the weeks preceding the mobility, participants and involved schools jointly work on e-twinning to adequately prepare for the exchange.

Learning outcomes are shared with participants and learning agreements with each student are prepared.

The short term exchange of pupils aims to deepen the cooperation among involved schools and develop the participating students’ reading skills as well as other key competencies such as digital skills, learning to learn, critical thinking, cooperative and collaborative skills.

During mobility, the learning activities are focused on testing in international teams of students the didactical models proposed for the Multilingual set of practical lesson plans as well as the tools of the Living library and platform.

The learning programme include:

- Classroom collaborative and task-oriented activities promoting reading literacy using Living Library and the tools of the platform;
- Workshops for testing in international teams of students at least one didactic unit; conclusions will be analysed and will constitute a basis for improving and enriching proposed modules;

- Activities of peer learning, collaborative learning to develop their creativity, critical thinking, communication in English. They will revolve around the collaborative draft and animation of a “story” that will be uploaded in the Living Library platform as a collaborative story book created by students in mobility.

- Activities of socialization and personal development, helping students to better know each other and create and create links for further online collaboration.

- Cultural visits, visiting other schools and institutions to develop their cultural awareness and expression, learning to learn skills, understand multiculturalism and diversity.

Many activities are included in the host school curriculum, providing to the participating students a clearer image of other educational systems.

Self-evaluation and moments of discussion among students to assess their learning progresses are embedded in the programme of the exchange.

After mobility, the results are discussed and constitute a basis for further improvement and enrichment of the proposed lessons plans and tools.

The testing in international teams of students will add value to the product due to the complexity of situations and backgrounds put together, thus new unpredictable situations of learning can appear.

Online collaboration among students will continue and further strengthen the learning outcomes. The collaborative story, whose draft started during the exchange, in fact, will be further developed online in the months following the international experience.



2. First Students Exchange Journal (Romania)

(Vaslui, 29th October – 2nd November 2018)

The learning activities organized offered students the possibilities to work, interact and cooperate together using different approaches on augmented reading.



After the partners introduced themselves and all the invited participants were familiarized with the main aims of the project presented by Dorina Nemtanu, the teachers and students visited the school and assisted at an arts and craft class in which the Romanians students sewed and painted on glass cultural traditional elements.

Then, students and teachers participated at the activity called “The Birds” by Daphne du Maurier – an augmented reading approach` organised with the 7th graders and during which the guests observed how Romanian students worked on a fragment from the story using the apps Story Jumper, Pic Collage, HP Reveal and Pixton Story Maker while accomplishing some particular tasks given by the teacher in advance (an augmented reading approach).

Day 1, October 29th

For the welcoming guest, the Romanian students presented an artistic programme including traditional songs and dances.



In the afternoon all the students involved in the project activities participated at socializing and interacting games organized by Romanian teachers in order to know each other better.



Day 2, October 30th

The Romanian teachers organized with all students *free discussions on the first two chapters from the book 'Wonder' by R.J. Palacio* (the book we chose to work on, proposed by Romanian school on The Living Book Library) 'Ordinary' and 'Why I didn't go to school'.

The students were put into mixed groups and first they had to interact with the texts, discuss opinions, points of view as well as relate the discussions to their own experience. After the discussions, students had to work in multicultural groups on particular tasks given by the Romanian teacher using the apps Story Jumper, Pic Collage, HP Reveal.

In the afternoon the guest students and teachers participated at a *short drama staged by the Romanian students*, an activity with positive messages such as tolerance, acceptance, inclusion, friendship, kindness. Then, students and teachers had the opportunity to see some elements of local tradition and history at the *local museum*.



Day 3, October 31st

On the 3rd day, the Romanian teachers organized with all students *free discussions on other two chapters from the book 'Wonder' by R.J. Palacio 'A simple thing' and 'Awards'*. The working groups had to use a different app than the previous day so that all students had to use the three apps eventually: Story Jumper, Pic Collage, HP Reveal.

All students then drew together with the 7th A students *'A collage of ideas and feelings'* related to the messages from the book 'Wonder' by R.J. Palacio.



In the evening, a *traditional dinner* at the restaurant was organised with traditional music, dances, food. The guests had the opportunity to familiarize themselves with different aspects of Romanian culture and cuisine. Students and teachers got the certificate of attendance and the mobility pass in a festive atmosphere.



Day 4, November 1st

The guest students and teachers accompanied by Romanian teachers and students visited *important sights from Moldavia County, representative for the Romanian culture*. They had the chance to learn different elements of local geography, religion, history and tradition.



Day 5, November 2nd

The guest students and teachers accompanied by Romanian teachers and students had another chance of discovering new elements of Romanian culture by visiting a *famous orthodox cathedral and the Museum of Science* within the Palace of Culture from Iasi, a city which used to be the capital of Moldavia region in the past.

For the meeting evaluation, *the international groups of students presented their works* (more Romanian students and teachers being invited).

Students freely expressed opinions on all the activities they had been involved in and they even offered solutions on how to better integrate the used apps and the Living Book Library into the teaching process, in order to stimulate and increase their motivation to get involved more in the reading activities at classes as well as outside them.

We really think that the meeting was a success!



We do hope that the cooperation and friendship among students that started in Romania will continue and be enriched in the following meetings in Cyprus (January 2019), Portugal (March 2019) and Estonia (May 2019).



3. Augmenting the reading experience with The LIVING LIBRARY

The Living Library is an online platform with a collection of book titles, suggested by educators from around Europe. Within each book title children can add media which they have created, based on that book. The media could be a video recreation of a scene, an audio retelling or critique of the book, stop-motion animation, user-created images inspired by the book, a Scratch coded animation or game, a 3D model of an artefact or scene in a book, or almost any type of media that pupils and teachers can think of!

The Living Library is also social!

Users can become friends, create reading groups, events, post updates, send messages and more. Members will be updated in their profile when other members post comments to their content and they can follow any of their favourite book titles in the Library to see what other users are posting.

The ability to create online reading groups is one of the unique features of the platform. Teachers can create private reading groups for their pupils, using the social platform to interact, share and comment on the book they are reading together. Or members can create public reading groups to allow anybody who is reading that book to join the group and share their experience.

We are excited to offer this feature to the education community and look forward to pupils and schools from across Europe interacting with their experiences of popular books.

The platform is available in 6 languages – English, Italian, Greek, Romanian, Portuguese and Estonian. Each language version has its own library of

book titles. So users can search for and add content in their own language, or the platform could also be used in language lessons by viewing, sharing and creating content in other languages. Many book titles are available in more than one language. On the book title page you can see the other language versions available and click to see the content that members are posting in each of the other languages.

The Living Library is not only a hub for creating and sharing media content from a book it is also the home for the other resources produced by the project:

- Lesson Plans
- E-learning
- Toolkits
- Publications

We are currently in the testing phase of The Living Library and we would like your help to test it.

Teachers can sign up to the platform as **'Librarians'**, which will allow them to add new books to the platform.

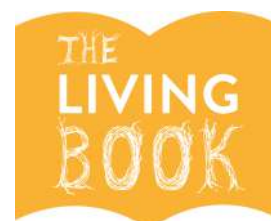
You can also ask your **pupils** to sign up as **'Members'**, either using their email address or a registration code available from us (no email required).

To register simply follow this link:
www.thelivinglibrary.eu/register



Figure – The Living Library Homepage

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4. SAVE THE DATE: The Living book Final Meeting (Rome - Italy, 6-7th June 2019)

Forum del Libro is organizing the final Living Book meeting that will take place in Rome on the 6-7th June 2019.

In this occasion, every partner will share its experience and the achievements of the project will be presented. Teachers and general public (including experts from the publishing industry) will attend the meeting: therefore, it will be a great opportunity to do communication and dissemination about the project.

If you are interested in participating, follow the newsletter for further updates.

See you in Rome!



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BE AN AUGMENTED TEACHER

The Living Book needs teachers from different disciplines (Humanities, ICT and Technology) to test our resources!

We need you!

WHY SHOULD YOU ENGAGE WITH US?

- To experiment a new model in your classroom to convince the most reluctant students to start reading while strengthening their digital skills and creativity
- To join flexible and high quality training opportunities and courses for your professional development
- To get a Certification as Augmented Teacher and support us in disseminating the model and resources in your territory
- To strengthen your European profile and boost the internationalisation of your school by joining a local team of highly qualified teachers

GET INVOLVED!

<http://thelivingbook.eu>

FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK!

[https://www.facebook.com
/TheLivingBookProject](https://www.facebook.com/TheLivingBookProject)

REGISTER TO THE LIVING LIBRARY!

We are currently in the testing phase of The Living Library and we would like your help to test it.

Teachers can sign up to the platform as 'Librarians', which will allow them to add new books to the platform.

You can also ask your pupils to sign up as 'Members', either using their email address or a registration code available from us (no email required).

To register simply follow this link:

[www.thelivinglibrary.eu/re
gister](http://www.thelivinglibrary.eu/register)

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