

Learning@Europe



Testimonials

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Learning@Europe 2004 - 2007

Testimonials

What experts say:

From the statement of Learning@Europe Scientific Committee (June 2007):

“... We found the project very innovative in the teaching of history. We appreciated the project very much not only as an innovative form of learning, but also as an essay in self-reflexivity of both teachers and students, that can contribute to the growth of a common European identity.

Teaching and learning are innovated through electronic devices and systematic **interaction of classes of different European countries that stimulate the imagination and curiosity of the students and improve their cultural communication**. Students are engaged to define their own role and place in their cultural surrounding but also to confront other cultural realities and to **put their own cultural settings in comparative perspective**. The project is an invitation to cultural self-reflexivity as well as to cultural opening. [...]

The Program has contributed to **develop a European perspective to common problems, to foster a sense of community among students and teachers and to build a European identity based on authentic shared values.**”

Heinz-Gerhard Haupt

(Department of History and Civilization, European University Institute, Florence, Italy)

Alberto Martinelli

(Coordinator of the Scientific committee of L@E; professor of sociology, University of Milan)

Yves Mény

(President of the European University Institute, Florence, Italy)



From L@E expert review (June 2006):

I believe that the data you have already collected show Learning at Europe to be a powerful strategy to foster **multicultural understanding**, provide an authentic context for students to polish their English as a second language skills, and engage students in an exciting, history-based platform which stimulates problem-solving and **higher-level thinking**. I consider these to be powerful results because not only are students learning the intended content, but they are highly motivated to participate in the learning strategy.

Dr. Michael Orey (Department of Educational Psychology and Instructional Technology, University of Georgia, USA)

From L@E expert review (May 2005):

“Data concerning learning outcomes for students is quite impressive, especially with respect to the development of functional English language skills, **thinking like historians**, and **enhanced multi-cultural understanding**. The project also provides teachers with important professional development opportunities, especially with respect to technology integration.”

Dr. Thomas C. Reeves (Professor of Evaluation of Interactive Learning Systems, University of Georgia, USA)

What teachers say:

I have a very positive opinion about the whole project. It is an innovative approach towards teaching and learning history thanks to the access to original sources written by the best experts in their field. It is combined with the possibility of discussing various issues in 3D world with students from other countries, which is particularly attractive for young people. (L@E 2006-07)

“I think that contact with students from other countries increased my students interest in various cultures and motivated them to gain more knowledge about European history and feel respect to other nations.” (L@E 2006-07)

“The motivation was great, especially the curiosity for other cultures. All students, even the weak ones were involved in the event, they were especially good at moving avatars. They



discovered they were useful for the session and later on they felt more motivated and integrated in class.” (L@E 2005-06)

They were enthusiastic and they were also very interested in history, a subject that they don't study with much pleasure (L@E 2004-05)



“Studying L@E contents increased students' knowledge about some historical processes and made them view certain events from a different perspective (the European one). They also felt real Europeans. This experience taught them that critical thinking and some distance to our own history are really beneficial and crucial to its better understanding.” (a Polish teacher, L@E 2006-07)

“My impression is that students have acquired a new and deeper interest in history. They have seen from different perspectives some events of European history they had studied so far in a more 'detached' and 'mechanic' way. It was very interesting to talk about national identities taking into account specific interviews and other students' homework” (an Italian teacher, L@E 2005-06)

“For the first time I saw my students reading and above all, writing English on their own initiative!” (L@E 2004-05)

What students say:

“I really liked this experience because I have known other foreign students, I've studied in a funnier way using the computer, I've known more about other countries, about their cultures and their histories. I really enjoyed it!” (L@E 2006-07)

“Now I think that Europe is not only an idea but something concrete.” (L@E 2005-06)

“L@E has improved my curiosity for the other European cultures.” (L@E 2005-06)

“It helped me to get more involved at school, above all, as regards English and the history of the other nations.” (L@E 2005-06)

“I understood that all historical events are connected” (L@E 2006-07)

“It concerns not only great characters and phenomena, but also the identity of a country” (L@E 2006-07)

“I had fun learning History... and that's exceptional for me!” (L@E 2005-06)

“I feel the need to use English” (L@E 2005-06)

“It was a good chance to develop my language skills. Talking on L@E forum was something new for me, because it was a first time when I use English on the forum :)” (L@E 2005-06)

“I saw a different way to use computers” (L@E 2006-07)

“I would like to use computers at school for every subject!” (L@E 2006-07)

“In my opinion this project is good for us teenagers to almost touch other cultures and speak to someone in the other part of the world”. (L@E 2004-05)

