

## Using an E-journal: Students (aged 11 to 20) from 7 European Countries Write a "Novel by Chapters"

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### **Abstract**

In the Comenius project ETM (Exploring Innovative and Creative Ways of Teaching Using New Tools and Methods) schools from Spain, Germany, Italy, Romania, Greece, Poland, and England develop and implement creative/innovative ICT-based content and new pedagogies designed to strengthen students' learning skills.

Apart from the teachers sharing/developing knowledge, skills and expertise regarding e-learning materials/methodologies the students engage in a collaborative project. In Year One it was a "Novel By Chapters". This means that based on a general storyline groups of students of each country wrote a chapter of the novel in English, including links to pictures, films, etc. from the internet. The general instructions and the chapters were published on the e-journal ipm713, so that the students could follow online how the story was developing and get the necessary cues for their parts. At a project meeting in Naples in April 2010 students met and together they wrote the final chapter of the novel.

The objective of this approach was to strengthen students' acquisition of learning skills. It was designed to increase students' motivation and to improve their learning at various levels, as it provided a wide range of learning opportunities, catered for different learning styles, and was suited to a variety of abilities and individual needs. It was meant to help to facilitate a user-friendly approach to ICT and language learning. The students were to acquire social competences by supporting each other during the project work. Furthermore, they were supposed to gain an insight into cultural similarities as well as differences, thus accepting and understanding the diverse cultures represented in European society.

Although the students were aged 11 to 20, they all could engage in this project, as the 11-year-olds were primary school children from England, having the advantage of writing the novel in their mother tongue.

In the oral presentation, above mentioned points will be explained and elaborated, advantages and disadvantages will be discussed and concrete examples will be shown.