**"EcoCitizens: Empowering Active Citizenship for a Sustainable Future"**

**Project Description:**

*EcoCitizens* is an eTwinning project that aims to inspire students to become responsible, active citizens who contribute meaningfully to their communities and the environment. The project combines environmental action, digital literacy, and democratic participation to address pressing global issues such as climate change, intellectual property rights, and the responsible use of digital information. Students will form Environmental Councils to identify local challenges, design sustainable solutions, and engage in monthly thematic activities. Through collaboration and innovation, the project empowers students to act locally while thinking globally, fostering leadership and global citizenship.

**Objectives:**

1. **Promote Active Citizenship:** Develop students’ sense of responsibility and ability to participate in democratic processes.
2. **Foster Environmental Awareness:** Encourage students to identify and tackle environmental challenges through hands-on projects.
3. **Enhance Digital Literacy:** Teach students how to access reliable digital information, share knowledge responsibly, and respect intellectual property rights.
4. **Encourage Cross-Cultural Collaboration:** Build bridges between students from different countries through shared goals and projects.
5. **Strengthen Critical Thinking:** Enable students to analyze problems, create innovative solutions, and implement effective action plans.
6. **Support Personal Growth:** Develop leadership, teamwork, and communication skills through collaborative activities.

**Target Group:**

* **Age Range:** 14-18 years old.
* **Participants:** High school students and teachers from partner schools.
* **Additional Stakeholders:** Local community members and experts in sustainability and citizenship education.

**Project Activities:**

**Month 1: Introduction and Foundations**

* **Teacher Kickoff Meeting:** Virtual coordination meeting to assign roles and finalize plans.
* **Student-Teacher Meet and Greet:** Interactive virtual session with icebreakers and a shared discussion on global citizenship and sustainability goals.
* **Formation of Environmental Councils:** Students establish councils and create the *EcoCitizens Charter* to guide their work.

**Month 2: Responsibility and Environmental Action**

* **Theme:** *Active Citizenship and Environmental Challenges*
* Students explore their role in combating climate change and develop small-scale local projects ,school recycling programs, energy-saving campaigns.
* Virtual workshops on sustainable practices and democratic decision-making are conducted.
* **Creative Task:** Students design posters or videos promoting active citizenship for the environment.

**Month 3: Digital Responsibility and Intellectual Property**

* **Theme:** *Accessing Accurate Digital Information and Protecting Ideas*
* Interactive webinars teach students how to critically evaluate digital content and understand intellectual property rights.
* Students work in teams to create infographics or blog posts highlighting the importance of accurate information and respecting creative ownership.
* **Challenge:** Design an app prototype or digital tool to support sustainable living practices.

**Month 4: Cultural and Global Collaboration**

* **Theme:** *EcoCitizenship Beyond Borders*
* Students collaborate across countries to host a *Global Green Forum,* sharing the outcomes of their projects and engaging in discussions about global challenges.
* **Community Engagement:** Public consultation events allow students to gather feedback on their initiatives.
* **Shared Performance:** Students prepare and present a joint dance or music performance reflecting themes of unity, culture, and sustainability.

**Expected Outcomes:**

1. **EcoCitizens Charter:** A foundational document outlining the principles, goals, and initiatives of the Environmental Councils.
2. **Sustainability Projects:** Tangible actions such as school recycling programs, digital campaigns, or eco-friendly community initiatives.
3. **Digital Literacy Tools:** Infographics, blog posts, and app prototypes that promote responsible digital use and intellectual property awareness.
4. **Creative Outputs:** Artistic works, including posters, videos, and cultural performances, that emphasize active citizenship and sustainability.
5. **Global Collaboration:** A network of students and teachers working together to address environmental and social challenges.
6. **Improved Skills:** Enhanced leadership, critical thinking, teamwork, and digital literacy among students.

**Evaluation:**

* **Monthly Feedback:** Surveys and reflections from students and teachers after each thematic activity.
* **Project Logs:** Progress tracking through regular reports from Environmental Councils.
* **Community Feedback:** Input from local stakeholders on the impact of student initiatives.
* **Final Reflection:** A virtual showcase where students present their experiences, results, and ideas for future projects.

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**1st Month: Introduction and Foundations**
**Theme: Exploring Citizenship and Sustainability**

**Teacher Introduction Meeting:**
Teachers involved in the project meet online to plan task assignments, the event calendar, and collaboration methods.

**Student-Teacher Introduction Activity:**
Students and teachers meet in a virtual session for introductions. Fun ice-breaker games and interactive sustainability-themed activities are held to kick off the project.

**Establishment of Environmental Councils:**
Students establish "EcoCitizen Environmental Councils" at their schools. These councils create an "EcoCitizen Declaration," outlining responsibilities and environmental goals.

**Creative Task:**
Each group designs the logo and slogan for their environmental councils. The designs are shared in a digital exhibition.

**2nd Month: Responsibility and STEM Activities**
**Theme: Protecting the Environment with STEM**

**STEM Workshop:**
Students develop STEM projects focused on energy conservation and recycling.
Groups design a small device powered by solar energy or create a product from recyclable materials.
The processes and results are shared digitally.

**Zero Waste Competition:**
Each school participates in a competition to reduce waste over the course of a week. The process is shared on social media with videos, photos, and project hashtags.

**Community Involvement:**
A solution to local environmental issues is developed and integrated into STEM projects.

**3rd Month: Digital Responsibility and Creativity**
**Theme: Digital Literacy and Eco-Innovation**

**Webinar:**
A session titled "Accessing Accurate Digital Information" is held. Students are educated on evaluating online content and intellectual property rights.

**Digital Campaign Competition:**
Groups design digital campaigns promoting ecological living (such as infographics, blog posts, or app designs).

**Eco-Art Workshop:**
Using recyclable materials, students create artistic works on themes of global citizenship and the environment.

**4th Month: Collaboration, Celebration, and Eco Citizen Cards**
**Theme: EcoCitizens Unite!**

**Cultural Sharing Event:**
Students share traditional dances, music, and eco-friendly customs from their countries in a virtual cultural festival.

**Global Green Forum:**
In this online event, the Environmental Councils present their projects and the results they’ve achieved.

* Interviews with environmental experts.
* Exhibition of posters, videos, and eco-art projects.

**Eco Citizen Cards:**
All students and teachers participating in the project receive an Eco Citizen Card in recognition of their contributions to environmental awareness. These cards are designed as a "certificate of environmental consciousness" and distributed in digital or certificate format.

**EcoCitizens Award Ceremony:**
Digital certificates are awarded to participants. Prizes are given in categories such as “Most Creative Solution” and “Best STEM Project.”