Newsletter 2

Activities in the project from May to December 2023

WP1 Project Management

PROGRESS MEETING IN PORTUGAL

The second meeting of the "Digital Stories" project was held on November 9-10, 2023, at the Virtual Campus in Porto (Portugal).

The partners were informed that the progress report was prepared and submitted to the Turkish Erasmus+ National Agency.

Afterwards, the partners discussed the training modules "Digital Storytelling Techniques" and agreed to start the evaluation once all modules are uploaded. The partners also agreed that the guides for students and teachers should be separate documents as they are different in content. The guides for teachers contain all the information prepared in the modules, while the guides for students should be kept simple and focus only on the steps that students

need to follow. It was decided that YTU will prepare a template for the student guide and that the deadline for finalising the student and teacher guides and the respective translations is February 2024.

YTU presented the details of how the modules will be assessed and highlighted some important points for authors to consider both when creating their own modules and when assessing other partners' modules.

The session continued with a discussion on work package 3, in which an interactive online learning and teaching platform will be developed. EU-Track has already started preparing the platform, which will be hosted in Moodle. Access to the platform will require registration and will be available in all partners' languages. There will be one national tutor per partner country who will act as a point of contact for users of the national versions of the training courses.

The partners then discussed teacher training. This activity will be divided into two parts. The training of trainers will take place in Ljubljana between 18 and 22 April 2024 in Ljubljana and will be organised by Bafra Bafra İlçe Milli Eğitim Müdürlüğü and the University of Ljubljana. Each partner institution will send 3 teachers to this

training. The budget for travel costs is EUR 1000 per participant. Subsequently, national teacher training will be organised in all partner countries by the participants of the training in Ljubljana.

YTU then presented work package 4, which focuses on the Recommendation Programme. It will combine a more theoretical part focusing on digital storytelling with its application in education. Feedback will be gathered from policy makers, educational institutions and other

stakeholders.

Finally, the consortium set the date for the next transnational project meeting, which will be hosted by Bafra İlçe Milli Eğitim Müdürlüğü. It will take place in Bafra on July 4 and 5, 2024. The team was advised to buy flight tickets to Samsun. A complete information package will be prepared by the host shortly.

WP2 *Digital Storytelling Techniques* Training Programme

As part of work package 2, the project partners have developed 10 learning modules based on the multimedia learning model and the storytelling technique. The modules include activities that require students to use all five senses to strengthen four very important basic skills: listening, speaking, reading and writing. By reducing the learning difficulties caused by a lack of these skills, we want to help prevent students from dropping out of school. Each module has a specific theme, and the main activity of each module is the creation and presentation of the students' own digital stories.

The theme of the **first module** is **fear**. The students will identify and discuss their fears. They will pay particular attention to the fears they face at school and realise that these are usually the result of their own bad decisions and can therefore influence them.

In the **second module**, which deals with **honesty**, students discuss the characteristics of honest and dishonest people. They will be put in different hypothetical situations where they have to decide between right (honest) and wrong (dishonest) behaviour. They will also reflect on what honesty brings them in their interpersonal relationships.

"School is my second home" is the title of the **third module**, which aims to **improve the relationship** between teachers and students. Students will realise that life (including school life) is full of contrasts that affect their feelings.

The topic of the **fourth module** is **prejudices**. The students will recognise their own prejudices, think about the connection between prejudice and courage and look for suggestions on how to overcome

prejudice.

The **fifth module**, which is about **friendship**, will encourage students to think about what friendship is and the qualities of true and false friends. They will consider different aspects of friendship, share their positive and negative experiences with friends, and try to improve classroom relationships.

In the **sixth module**, *Sharing and Caring*, students will reflect on how they share their belongings with others and care for others and the feelings they experience when doing so.

The title of the **seventh module** is *Everything has an end*. Students will reflect on fables as a form of literature that conveys a moral message through a simple story. They will discuss the characteristics of the fable, its history and cultural differences.

Module eight is entitled "Ignorance is not bliss". Students will learn that our **ignorance** can lead to negative consequences and that seeking knowledge is essential to making informed decisions. They will study the causes and effects of real situations.

Module nine deals with **green skills** and will raise students' awareness of environmental issues and the impact of pollution and waste on the environment. Students will be encouraged to take responsibility for positive change in the environment and in their communities.

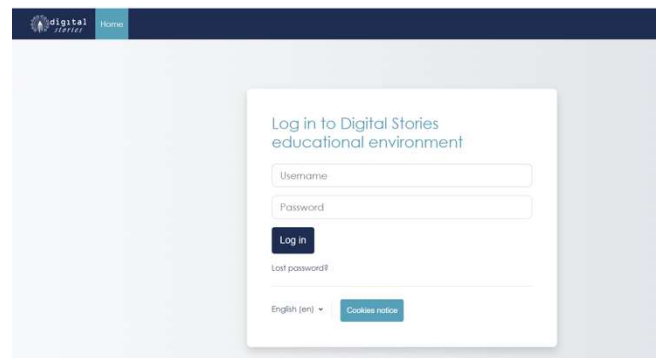## *WP3:* Online interactive learning and teaching platform

The online educational platform, the main output of work package n°3 of the project, is a flexible and dynamic environment designed to facilitate the learning and teaching activities of teachers, educators, and trainers dealing with school drop-outs due to students' learning difficulties.

This platform hosts a customised training course based on the innovative interactive approach of storytelling. The aim is to help teachers, educators, and trainers improve their professional skills in the field of storytelling.

The training consists of ten modules structured on the basis of the 5E model to promote the learning process and the competencies development. In this way, teachers can help students overcome their difficulties and thus create a more positive school environment by reducing the dropout rate.

The platform is available in the project site <https://www.digitalstories-project.eu) in English, Turkish, Italian, Slovenian and Portuguese. It is currently still under construction.

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SOCIAL MEDIA ACCOUNTS

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