



3rd Newsletter, March 2023

## Enhancing Pupils' Social Skills and Enriching Teaching Methods through Storytelling and Virtual Reality

### About the project

Story Changers is a European project (Erasmus+, Key Action 2) coordinated by M.M.C Management Center Ltd, Cyprus.

Launched in December 2020 and ending in March 2023, the project aims at enhancing primary school pupils' social skills through an innovative teaching method which seeks to build a bridge between storytelling and virtual reality.

### Target groups and objectives

The project's direct beneficiaries are represented by both the pupils and their teachers. In terms of objectives, these are:

#### PUPILS

- To enhance their social skills, such as empathy, critical thinking, problem solving, accepting diversity, self-consciousness, etc.
- To help them discover the power of storytelling and be inspired to use it in their everyday life as well as in their future life (studies, professional career)
- To help them appreciate and acquaint themselves with new and innovative technologies, upgrading their digital/ICT skills

#### TEACHERS

- To help them upgrade their teaching skills through integrating the concept of storytelling into their teaching
- To help them appreciate and acquaint themselves with new and innovative teaching methods which combine storytelling and interactive VR scenarios, hence upgrading their digital/ICT skills
- To help them enhance skills such as creativity and flexibility and integrate them in their daily classroom practice
- To help them build on common experiences with their pupils, thus strengthening the professional, but also, above all, personal relationships with them. The "You Tell" stories concept gives teachers the opportunity to give the floor to their pupils, thus showing them that they respect and appreciate their intellectual and creative capacities
- To help them see beyond the given, structured and daily routine and experience a part of education that they may have never had the chance to experience

# Expected results

- Best Practices Report on Storytelling and VR Technology in Primary Education
- 10 "You Tell" Stories and Relevant Guide
- 5 "You Tell" Virtual Reality Scenarios and Relevant Guide
- "Change the Story" Teaching Package for Pupils

## Current Phase

- Steering Committee Meetings

On Tuesday, 25th November 2022, a coordination online meeting was held to present the new project managers as well as to discuss the pending tasks and determine the next steps in the development of the project.

On the 20th February 2023, the steering committee of our project, Story Changers discussed, among others, the next steps which include the implementation phase of the Story Changers project.

- Train the Master Teachers Event

On the 20th February 2023 the Master Teachers Event took place online, via zoom, in order to train the teachers of the consortium on the use of the "Change the Story" Teaching Package. The "Change the Story" Teaching Package was presented by MMC. This was followed by the presentation, where the coordinators explained the pilot implementation of the "Change the Story" Teaching Package.

Moreover, Omegatech presented the VR scenarios and the guidelines for the use of the stories and the VR equipment. Subsequently, all partners actively participated in a simulation workshop in which a "Change the Story Teaching Event" was planned and presented.





# Project Results

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Five out of 10 “You Tell Stories” were converted into VR scenarios. Firstly, a template was generated so that the stories could be easily and effectively converted. Samples of the transformation of the first story, “The Carob Tree”, into VR scenario that were already presented in Marseille, July 2022, were also presented in an updated version.

The transformed stories into VR scenarios are the following:

1. The journey of the Animals
2. The girl with the enchanted voice
3. The Carob Tree
4. The Scary Dictionary
5. May it Shine on them all – the story of the missing moon

## “Change the Story” Teaching Package

During the last months, the coordinator developed the “Change the Story” Teaching Package, based on the brainstorming session that took place in the last face-to-face meeting in Marseille, July 2022.

The teaching package includes in addition to the “You Tell stories” and the interactive VR scenarios, general and story- specific activities, as well as instruction on how to use them in the class environment. The Teaching Package, is a sustainable deliverable, as it can be used by any teacher who wishes to introduce the “You Tell” stories and VR scenarios in their teaching curriculum.

# Upcoming activities

## Train the National Teachers

On Monday 20th February 2023 the partners met online for the Train the National Teachers, to discuss the teaching package and plan for the implementation of the stories in the various schools.

During the meeting the partners grouped up and discussed various plans how they would use teaching package to build up lesson plans to use the stories and then presented their ideas to all the partners.

## Pilot implementation at schools

Between March and May, the responsible partners will be piloting the “You Tell” stories, with the primary school pupils of the 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th Grades. The VR stories are to be piloted with the pupils of the 5th and 6th Grades. The results of the pilot implementation will be presented at the final conference that will take place in June 2023 in Cyprus.

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Co-funded by the  
Erasmus+ Programme  
of the European Union

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