



## VIRTUAL CLASSROOMS AND COMMUNITIES

In Slovenian schools we use virtual classrooms for two different objectives: for collecting and sharing different learning or teaching materials or as learning environments for teachers and pupils.

There are mostly virtual classrooms for different school subjects, mostly for languages, maths and geography. They include different e-materials (ICT materials) for school work or homework like interactive exercises and games, presentations, handouts, lesson plans and materials that support flipped learning. In virtual classrooms there are also useful links to different educational web pages or different e-materials and educational games.

As an example we can mention a virtual classroom which is only aimed at providing material and information for different competitions and the results. In Slovenian and foreign languages virtual classrooms pupils can find information about competitions, reading badges, differentiated interactive exercises and extra materials with literature for gifted and talented pupils.

All Slovenian teachers have access to virtual classrooms of our National Institute of Education (<http://sio.si>). We can access and share in this way teaching materials, ideas, solutions and opinions connected with our work within different school subjects and other areas of education.

A lot of Slovenian teachers have been offered different trainings dealing with the use of ICT and creating materials for classroom use. The result is that some virtual classrooms have been created or for self-learning or as learning environment for teachers. In order to connect subject teachers, virtual communities have been created. These communities are also used for exchanging information, ideas, materials like literature, theory, activities, teaching and learning materials, ICT exercises, IWB materials. There are also different forums used for sharing information, opinions, etc.

All e-materials published on sio.si web page, under the creative commons license, can be freely used by all the teachers. All the exercises and other materials created for students can be freely used or at school or at home.

The different e-materials and e-contents that have been created include different teaching and learning methods and are appropriate for all learning styles, different special needs and for achieving different learning objectives (level of difficulty, different abilities).

Keywords: virtual classrooms, communities, ICT materials