

Best Practices in Europe:

Co-Design in Action

Several European schools have successfully integrated co-design into their educational practices, demonstrating its value in creating more engaging and effective learning environments. One notable example is the [Future Classroom Lab](#), an initiative launched by European Schoolnet, a network of European Ministries of Education. This project brings together students, teachers, and technology experts to co-design innovative classroom environments that incorporate digital tools and flexible learning spaces. By involving all stakeholders in the process, the initiative ensures that the learning environment is adaptable and suited to the evolving needs of modern education.

Another example is the [Living Schools Lab](#), a European initiative that encourages schools to co-design projects centered around the use of technology in education. Teachers and students collaborate to create learning scenarios that integrate digital tools, encouraging a hands-on, problem-solving approach to learning. This has not only improved students' engagement with digital literacy but has also helped teachers develop new teaching methods that incorporate technology in meaningful ways.

Finally, in Finland, co-design is at the heart of the country's innovative educational model. Finnish schools emphasize student participation in curriculum design, allowing students to help shape what and how they learn. This approach has been credited with fostering creativity and a high level of student motivation, contributing to Finland's reputation as one of the leading countries in educational innovation.

The Co.De. project builds upon these European best practices by developing and piloting 13 Learning Snacks—micro-learning modules designed to upskill and reskill educators in implementing co-design learning. These short, focused training units provide practical guidance on integrating co-design methodologies in classrooms, drawing inspiration from the successful European models.

The Learning Snacks address essential topics such as:

- Effective communication in co-design learning environments.
- Collaborative techniques and creative learning activities.
- Digital tools and gamification for engagement.
- Student-led problem-solving and experiential learning.
- Formative assessment strategies and inclusive learning environments.

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The **Co.De. project** aligns directly with European best practices by adopting a participatory approach **involving** teachers and students in shaping educational methodologies. Like the Future Classroom Lab, it emphasizes integrating technology and digital tools to support co-design learning. Similarly, its focus on student-centered problem-solving reflects the principles seen in Finland's education system.

Moreover, the project's upcoming **Co.De. Toolkit**, an online training space, will further consolidate co-design learning principles by providing structured digital education content for teachers and educational leaders. This initiative will strengthen the adoption of co-design methodologies across European schools, creating a more dynamic and inclusive learning experience.

Conclusion

The use of co-design in European schools offers significant benefits to both students and teachers. By fostering collaboration, creativity, and engagement, co-design empowers students to take an active role in their education while allowing teachers to explore innovative teaching methods. The success of projects like the Future Classroom Lab and Living Schools Lab highlights the potential for co-design to transform education, creating a more adaptable, inclusive, and forward-thinking learning environment for all. As European schools continue to embrace this approach, co-design will undoubtedly play a key role in shaping the future of education across the continent.