



# EUROPEAN ANNUAL CONFERENCE CANNES, OCTOBER 2019.

## TEACHERS BLOG

**Steven Hales is a cover teacher, adviser, retired primary school head teacher, retired part-time teacher and eTwinning ambassador.**

Teachers who attend eTwinning professional development events are given the opportunity to write a short blog about the event in their own words. If you are or have been a teacher who has attended an eTwinning professional development event and would like to contribute, please contact [eTwinning@britishcouncil.org](mailto:eTwinning@britishcouncil.org).

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Thursdays 24th October  
From 17.45 CEST

#eTwconf19

It was a privilege to be part of the UK eTwinning delegation that travelled to Cannes, France for this stimulating conference.

It was attended by 600 educators from across Europe and beyond. The range of



[presentations and workshops](#) enabled one's own philosophy to be reflected upon and, where appropriate, to be developed.



eTwinning Conference 2019 - Plenary Session II

630 views • Streamed live on Oct 24, 2019

Isabel Menezes, University of Porto, set the scene when asking the questions –

- What kind of society will our children live in tomorrow?
- How can they fully participate in the society of the future?

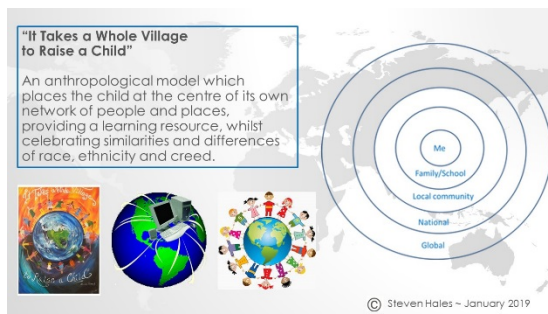
Delegates, whilst networking, agreed that the answer lies to a large extent in education. Education plays a crucial role in shaping the world and its citizens. Schools must be places where pupils are educated to have an active role in their society and be prepared for democratic participation.

As the conference progressed, I was impressed by the [2019 Prize Winners](#), particularly a pre-school project from France and Malta using 'Beebots' and 'Scratch Jr'. I also liked the Upper Primary project, 'The €1 Coin'. Contextually, both projects encouraged democratic participation amongst the students and their teachers locally and internationally.



Keeping projects simple was an important message. Colette Cotton with the adventures of 'Travelling Ted' across world in all projects exemplifies this and can be easily developed to support global awareness.

Above all, the conference helped me reflect on my own work based on 'It takes a whole village to raise a child'.



I have liked this communitarian approach to democratic participation and will continue to maximise the opportunities it brings within my own eTwinning activities.

