

Virtual collaboration with pupils and student teachers

Example:

Kenya & Finland collaboration

Sari Muhonen, University of Helsinki,
Viikki Teacher Training School, 2023



Successful virtual online collaboration

Good preparation is often the key to success.

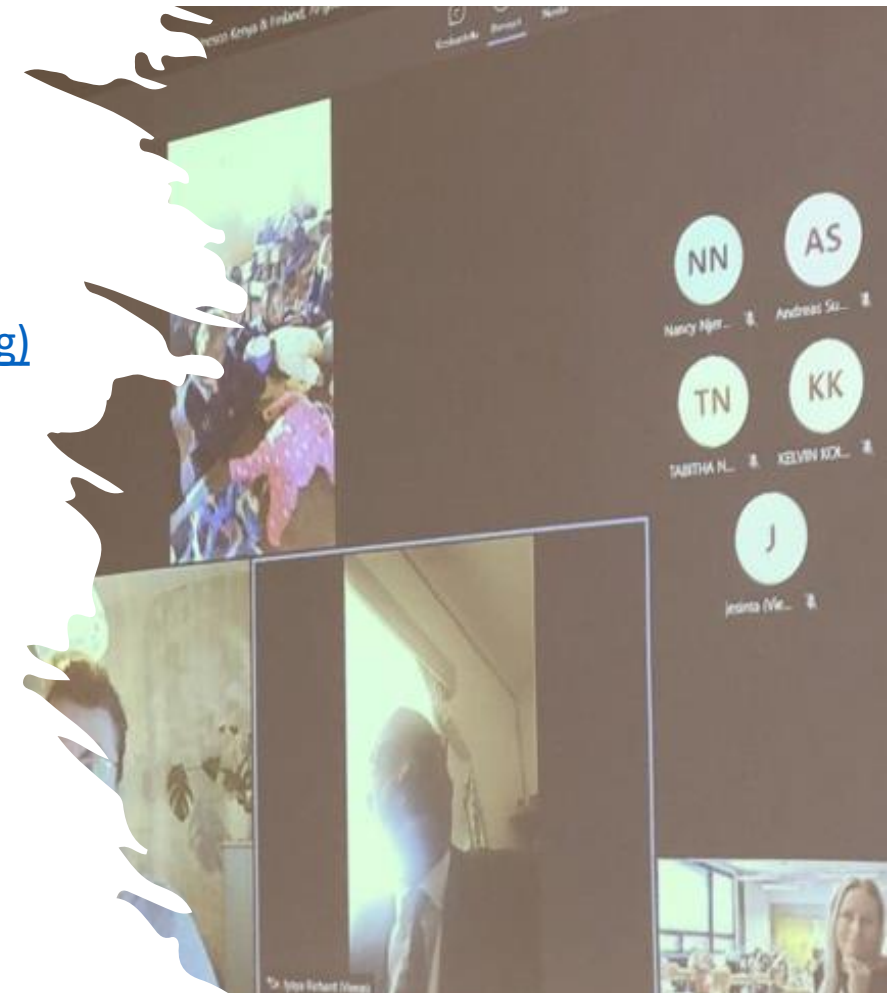
How to find a partner?

- ask a friend, or a friend's friend
- make a google search of schools
- contact Uneso ASPnet national coordinators [Coordinators List \(unesco.org\)](https://unesco.org)

Taking contact, knowing the contexts of the collaborative countries

- in Kenya & Finland collaboration the main teacher educator collaborators knew each other beforehand
- looking at each other's curricula, finding themes for collaborating
- Finding the schedule for collaboration

Building trust takes time.





Try different online situations, e.g.

A) Class vs. Class meeting

-greetings

-songs

-showing the classroom

B) Groups of 4 in each country

at their time to discuss with each other on a chosen theme in a smaller space near the classroom, others working on a writing task in the classroom

Planning meeting(s) with the teachers, teacher students and with the students

- Organizing teacher & student teacher online meeting(s):
 - What are the main goals under the chosen theme?
 - How do they relate to the curriculum?
 - How do they interest the pupils?
- Inviting pupils and teacher students to take part to planning in their home classes
 - What kind of questions do pupils have to the chosen theme, what do they want to know?
 - What kind of ideas can pupils invent to inquire the chosen theme, writing & commenting them online
- Using online meetings (e.g. Teams meeting) and online platforms (e.g. OneDrive Word document) for collaborative planning and for documentation

Organizing the online meeting for sharing the results

- Testing the equipment beforehand
- Organizing a rehearsal with pupils in own classrooms
- Having the needed support for online meeting in both countries (e.g. teacher educator, 2 student teachers in every class, one to organize and to guide the pupils to perform, one to see the devises and technical issues)
- Being in agreed time in the meeting.

Enjoying the collaboration online and agreeing on next steps for virtual collaboration.