

YRE Twinning Guide

This document is designed to support educators, and youth leaders in forming international partnerships as part of the YRE programme. By collaborating with schools, scout groups, or youth clubs from different countries, young people can gain a global perspective on environmental issues while developing valuable leadership, organisational and communication skills. This guide will specifically focus on how young people can collaborate effectively through the four stages of the YRE programme: Investigate, Research Solutions, Report, and Disseminate.

The guide can be used to help regular YRE collaboration or for those wishing to submit YRE competition entries in the Twinning category.


What to keep in mind when initiating a collaboration

Initially, divide young people into groups based on similar environmental interests they may have that are affecting their local community. Then explore how these local issues can be connected to larger global issues or are experienced elsewhere (flooding, forest fires, litter, climate anxiety, biodiversity loss). This will help you to identify regions or countries that maybe of interest for young people to twin with.

Consider the following when picking a region or country to twin with to ensure a smooth and successful collaboration experience for your young reporters.

- Age, time zone differences, academic year difference, language barriers, environmental focus areas.
- What communication methods will be used that will work for both groups (email, WhatsApp, video calls etc.) Consider the country you wish to twin with may not have reliable internet or restrictions on what communication apps can be used.
- How will your YRE work equally distributed across both groups? Have clear outlines in mind for roles and responsibilities.
- Set timelines for completion of work or a shared project plan. This is especially important if young people wish to submit their twinning work as entries in the article or long-form reportage video categories as part of the International YRE competition.
- Set regular check in dates to ensure that work on the 4 YRE steps is on track. Make sure you use clear and concise language.

While twinning internationally brings a global perspective to your YRE work, do not underestimate the power of national or local partnerships when working through the 4 steps of the YRE programme. If possible, it is always more rewarding to plan a face-to-face visit with your YRE



twinning partner- to find out more about how to do this please head over to our YRE Missions section.

STEP 1 Investigate

Exchange data and information about your local environments to identify common issues, patterns and trends. It may be hard for young people to visualise this information so consider organising an online field trip to explore each other's environments and learn about different ecosystems.

Help young people to collect reliable and accurate data in a standardised format (metric/ imperial measurements etc). Ensure that any sensitive data is protected securely and necessary GDPR guidelines and rules for both countries are adhered to. Remember to also agree what and who will be responsible for the data (and its possible deletion) after the YRE twinning work is complete

STEP 2 Research Solutions

Collaborate on potential solutions to the identified environmental issues that have been highlighted.

Create a shared online document or platform where young people can share initial research findings. Encourage positive assessment of ideas and information sharing. Use visual tools like mind maps or concept boards to visually represent the research that can be shared and edited during real time during virtual meetings.

Conduct joint interviews with environmental experts to gain insights into potential solutions, again these can be online or in person.

Evaluate different solutions based on their feasibility, impact, and sustainability. Consider that the solution(s) may not be suitable for each location. This is fine, however encourage young people to explore why the same solution can not be used in multiple locations

Provide constructive and positive feedback on each other's work to help find workable solutions.

STEP 3 Report

Collaborate on creating engaging content- if submitting for the YRE international competition Twinning Category this will need to be either: an article or long-form reportage video.

You may want to assign specific roles to different young people based on their skill sets.

Develop a compelling narrative that highlights the global impact of the environmental issue and will be relevant to both regions or countries.

Remember to respect cultural differences while creating content that resonates with your global audience.



STEP 4 Disseminate

Identify target audiences in both regions or countries and develop tailored dissemination strategies that are suitable for the audience. Depending on the solution(s) that you have discovered the target audience may be different in each region or country

Create a joint social media campaign to raise awareness about the environmental issue and the project with a # that will allow both groups to track engagement. Make use of social media analytics to see if there is more/ less engagement at certain times for certain posts content in each country to maximise your reach.

Use social media live Q&A tools that will help engage with a broader international audience.

Organise a joint launch event to showcase your work that will engage and unite local communities in the project. Where possible and time difference allows try to host these launch events at the same time with LIVE feeds to your partners.

