Training teachers on communication & presentation skills

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The EDU-ECO Project

The Project aims to offer teachers training on digital education, based on the framework of the National Plan for Digital School (Law 107/2015).

The lead organization was the Technical Institute Galileo Galilei, a secondary school of Livorno, which has the role of a training center for teachers in the Tuscany region.

Overall, the Edu Eco project involved 26 training courses, for a total of about 500 teachers.

The EDU-ECO Project – initial request

Courses focused on 5 topics:

- 3D making

- Artificial Intelligence & Coding

- Learning technologies

- Communication & Presentation skills

- Video & ebook storytelling

Due to the pandemic situation, all training activities were carried out online.

Our proposals as Media Educators

- Avoid focusing only on technologies

To adopt in all the courses a media literacy approach, deepening issues related to languages, audiences, intellectual property etc.
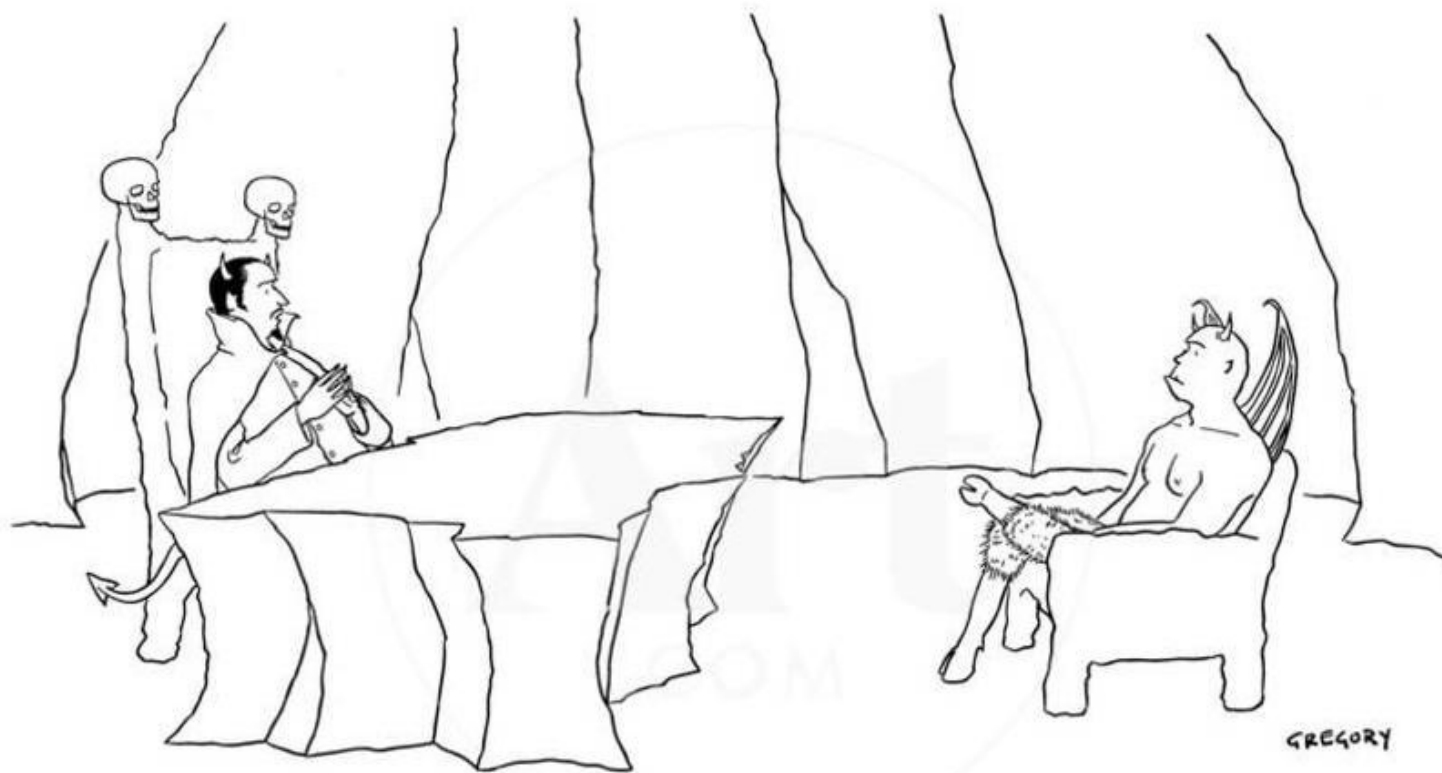
- Community of practices

To use group work as a methodologies to facilitate the sharing of learning and teaching practices between colleagues

- Learning on the Job

To foresee a path of design and experimentation of the activities in the classroom, in order to facilitate the transfer of knowledge to professional context

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Can we teach Media Literacy by working on how to use Power Point?

"I need someone well versed in the art of torture—do you know PowerPoint?"

Teachers ask students to make presentations ....but don't teach them how to do it!

Media educational contents in a presentation:

- Differences between a document and a slide

- Audiences and their expectations

- How to create a storyline

- How to use images

- Intellectual property

- Public speaking

How to create a multimedia product collaborating online

How to evaluate slides and presentation

Experimentation in the classrooms

- Teachers also included objectives related to the creation of the presentation itself

- Guidelines: most of the teachers gave a lesson on how to create effective presentations

- Analysis: teachers provided examples of presentations for students to analyze, and asked them to improve (before/after exercise)

- Production: students were asked to produce presentations on different topics, but also to pay attention to intellectual property (report information sources, reuse only free images, provide a license for their own work)