

How to start a twinning?

Welcome! In this document you will find a few ideas you can implement to start off your twinning. The things listed here are meant to be easy to implement and motivating.

In any case, you can direct all questions and get support throughout the process from Task Force Capacity Building (twinning@jef.eu).

Find a partner

First thing first, to get a partner section, write to twinning@jef.eu, or fill in the form available on JEF Europe website. It might take a few weeks, but the Task Force will work hard to find you the perfect partner!

Getting to know one another

Congrats! Now that you are twinned, it is time to e-meet one another and discuss the next steps. We suggest having first an online meeting of the people that will be in charge of the twinning to introduce your sections (number of active members, activities etc), your cities, your twinning ideas and how you are going to communicate with one another (email, Facebook, Whatsapp).

If your cities are already twinned together, try to find out why, since when etc. Discuss it in your respective places, ask questions to the City Hall... in addition to being a great introduction to each other, it will put you in touch with civil servants who might come in helpful for future events. If your cities are not twinned, simply try to get to know each other's history, main places and so on.

Communicate on your twinning

Let's announce your twinning to the world! What are your respective channels of external communication (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram...)? It can also be featured in the JEF Europe newsletter.

If you have a website, add a page on the twinned section, to present it and show some of its newest/biggest activities. Share common content on Facebook and Twitter – use all the possibilities for interaction we have!

Creating a day-to-day link

Now it's time for your members to get to know each other and work together!

You can organise one or two things that will turn it into part of your daily activities.

One idea is to start a buddy programme. There is a possibility some of your members want to learn the language of the country where the other section is located. If not language, think of cultural things you could share – why not a Polish cuisine cooking class via Skype? Be imaginative, the sky is the limit!

Twining activities implemented by other twinings:

- Online get-together, conference, debate;
- Digital city tour (landmarks, culture etc);
- Speeddating of members;
- Food contest/ Kochchallenge : prepare the food of the other region;
- Common resolution for the Political commission;
- Common article in our online newspaper the New Federalist...

Sharing best practices

One possibility is to have regular Skype calls, with for instance a specific topic to be discussed on which you need advice or ideas. If you happen to have such calls, make sure to advertise it, to show the great things you are doing with this other section!

Meet in real life

And of course, if you have time and money, you can start organising an exchange... for which we suggest you read the other toolkit available on the website!