



Empower the young with talking objects is a 3-year Erasmus+ funded project. It runs from 2024-2027. Together with partners from Portugal, the Netherlands, and Belgium, we are developing activities for children aged 4-8 years and training for teachers on topics such as climate change and active citizenship.

Project key values

Empowering, playful and inclusive!

With Empower The Young, we believe that learning can be empowering while still being fun, creative, playful and inclusive.

Through play, children can explore new ideas, express themselves, work together and develop the confidence to take an active role in the world around them. Creating learning experiences where every child feels welcome and able to participate is just as important.

From our meeting in Leuven, Belgium, to the activities currently being developed across the partner countries, we continue to find new ways of bringing playfulness and inclusion into learning.

Because empowering young people means making sure everyone gets to play and participate.

Meet Dotty!

You may remember our talking creature as Tellmie, but things have changed!

After a vote on social media across the different countries involved in the project, a new name was chosen: **Dotty!** This is the new name of our friendly, non-gendered creature.

And there isn't just one Dotty! Eight different Dottys have been created, each one made with different fabrics and materials, giving each creature its own unique look and personality.

Dotty is now getting ready for an exciting new chapter: meeting children in museums, science centres and classrooms.





Together in Leuven

This time, the Empower The Young team met in **Leuven, Belgium**, home to one of our project partners, BAMM.

Over the course of the meeting, the team had the chance to work together on several important aspects of the project, from AI voices and the development of Dotty to the preparation of the upcoming Training for Trainers.

As always, these meetings are a great opportunity to share ideas, test new approaches and move the project forward together. With plenty of discussions, hands-on work and, of course, some playful moments along the way, we are one step closer to bringing Empower The Young to more children and educators.



Giving Dotty a Voice

So, how does Dotty talk?

During our meeting in Leuven, the project partners had the opportunity to take part in a workshop dedicated to **AI voices** and how they can be used to bring Dotty to life.

The workshop explored how artificial intelligence can be used to create and develop voices for interactive educational experiences. This is an important part of making Dotty an engaging companion for children, one that can react, communicate and encourage them to take part in the activities.

There is still plenty to test and improve, but the Dotties are certainly finding their voice in several languages!

Materials for Dotty

Dotty is made entirely from second-hand materials, carefully selected to reflect the signature colors of all the partners.

Go Wonder reused materials from previous Tellmie projects, but also went treasure hunting on King's Day. In the Netherlands, it's a tradition for people to sell their unwanted belongings at flea markets and street stalls. This offered the perfect opportunity to find second-hand materials in just the right colors and textures.





Dotty participated in its first Summer Activity!

Dotty recently took part in its very first summer activity at **Centro Ciência Viva do Algarve**, together with 10 children!

During **The Welcome Party Workshop**, the children organised a special welcoming party for Dotty, getting to know their new friend through play and fun activities.

But this was about more than just a party. It was a chance to talk about **friendship, citizenship, inclusion and the importance of making everyone feel welcome, just as they are!**



Train the trainers

Over the next few months, training sessions will take place in the different partner countries, introducing educators and trainers to the Empower The Young project and showing them

how they can bring their ideas and activities into their own classrooms. The goal is to give educators the tools, resources and inspiration they need to use playful learning to encourage children's participation, creativity and confidence. We are now working on the final preparations and getting ready to share everything we have been developing!

Enroll now for the Empower the young Workshops in the Netherlands

On the **28th of September** and the **9th of October** the first two ETY-workshops will take place in the Netherlands. Both education professionals and all forms of interested education-peers are invited to attend the workshops.

During this interactive workshop, participants will discover how playful technology and creative learning strategies help children explore the world around them. They will be introduced to our Tellmies: talking stuffed animals that invite children to ask questions, share stories, and think together about the world around them. Additionally, they will exchange experiences with other education professionals and gain practical ideas that you can use immediately in your classroom, museum, or other learning environment.

Want to join? You can [register here](#). These workshops will be in Dutch and take place in Leiden.

Stay tuned: training sessions in Belgium and Portugal will also be held soon!

