



Innovative Thinking

Competence 4 of 4

Primary education · ages ~6-12



WHAT IS THIS COMPETENCE ABOUT? A disciplined, iterative process for turning insights into testable solutions. It combines **inquiry and speculation, creativity, design skills, adaptability and storytelling** — from framing challenges to prototyping and purposeful communication.



The student is able to...

OBJECTIVES

- Imagine and tell alternative versions of stories.
- Combine things from different sources into something new.
- Identify something in daily life that could be improved and compare solutions.
- Generate conventional and unconventional ideas and see the value of imperfect solutions.
- Describe and show their own design ideas and adjust their approach when faced with obstacles.
- Build a short narrative that explains a situation or idea.

ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

- Expresses ideas through play, drawing, speech or writing.
- Recognises simple design challenges and cause and effect.
- Generates multiple ideas for one challenge and compares solutions.
- Tests and improves designs after feedback and tries something new when it does not work.
- Uses vivid details to engage a listener or reader.



The teacher is able to...

OBJECTIVES

- Support exploration and imagination with open-ended creative tasks.
- Have students name challenges and show their ideas through a suitable medium.
- Teach brainstorming and idea-evaluation techniques.
- Facilitate activities where students design and learn about design.
- Teach story structure and model adaptability to change.

ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

- Includes open-ended tasks and turns observations into design challenges.
- Guides a simple design cycle (plan, create, test, improve).
- Encourages “what if” questions and values originality and risk-taking.
- Uses feedback that rewards learning from failure rather than penalising it.
- Uses stories as a teaching tool and supports story building.

Partners: Universidad de Burgos · HAMK · IPCA · Junta de Castilla y León · CFIE · Politécnico de Leiria · NHL Stenden · Howest · TUS

Co-funded by the Erasmus+ Programme of the European Union. The European Commission's support for this product does not constitute an endorsement of its contents.