Code is shaping the way we live! Whether you or your students want to be a fashion blogger, social entrepreneur or journalist, take up the challenge!

European Schoolnet and Microsoft are pleased to announce European Kodu Kup, a new school competition that will encourage pupils to design games and take their first steps in coding in a fun and engaging way. Kodu Kup Europe highlights the role played by game-based learning to strengthen digital skills, collaboration and new thinking for young Europeans.

Pupils will be challenged to develop their own games by working in teams and learning how to create imaginary worlds, modelling and simulations. National finalists will be invited to a Coding Camp held in Brussels on October 2014 at the Microsoft Innovation Center during the European Coding Week where a regional competition will be held.

What is Kodu?
* Kodu is a visual programming language made specifically for creating games. It is designed to be accessible for children as young as 6 year olds and enjoyable for anyone
* Developed by Microsoft Research, Kodu runs on PC and Xbox allowing rapid design creation. Kodu is available for free
* The Kodu User Interface is easy to use and visually attractive especially to primary phase pupils
* Its ‘code’ syntax used is simple, intuitive, yet allows a high degree of computational thinking and programming fundamentals
* Kodu is easily integrated throughout the curriculum, with strong links to numeracy and literacy, as well as science, maths and geography
* There is plenty of support with resources and online communities including: www.kodugamelab.com www.pil-network.com www.planetkodu.com
* Kodu is a great start to computing. And to a new European adventure with Kodu Kup Europe

What is the Competition about?
* The first Kodu Kup Europe involves 8 countries: Belgium, Estonia, Finland, Greece, Lithuania, Norway, Portugal, and UK
* Pupils and teachers can participate as teams of max 4 members
* Teamwork is key to the game creation process, throughout creation of landscapes, storyboard and characters development, to the design aspects
* All team members must be within the 6 to 16 age group

We want to encourage you to take up the challenge! Applications must be submitted by 15 September 2014. More information is available at www.kodukup-europe.org Follow #kodukup_eu for updates and news