

Outdoor4mi Education for, with and in Nature

The Outdoor4mi project will be implemented over two years and aims to capacitate early childhood educators to implement outdoor activities.

Seven European institutions are working in partnership to implement a common ideology, the possibility of innovative, enriching, and equitable education.

The main objective of the project is to promote environmental awareness through the implementation of outdoor activities with children aged between three and five, taking into account the uniqueness of each child, especially children with mobility impairments.

The consortium, after analyzing literature and interviewing kindergarten educators and parents from all countries covered by the project, will produce training courses and relevant materials for the implementation of outdoor education activities.

The creation of guidelines to assist teachers in implementing Outdoor Education, a teacher training program, and a set of tools for the implementation of these activities are expected.

By 2025, online and face-to-face training sessions will be organized in each participating country, and the materials produced will be available for free and in multiple languages on the project's official website.

The Outdoor4mi project will be co-financed by Erasmus+, the European Commission's financial instrument for Education and Training, with a support of €250,000.





VICINI ALLE PERSONE

Consorzio per la Cooperazione e la Solidarietà (CO&SO), Italy

Is a consortium located in Florence which includes 14 cooperatives working in the social, educational and cultural field.

Since 2021 CO&SO, in accordance with the European Green Policy, has started planning new green oriented activities by participating, as coordinator or partner, in EU projects aimed at supporting the environment through the improvement of the Green skills of its staff and of its associates.



Município de Lousada (ML), Portugal

The ML is a local government institution in Portugal that, based on its Municipal Strategy for Sustainability, promotes ecological literacy and local biodiversity conservation.

To do so, one of its pillars relies on outdoor environmental education activities for the entire community.



European University Cyprus (EUC), Cyprus

With its seven Schools, has a mission to educate students for successful careers and life achievements, to understand and serve the needs of society, and to create knowledge through research and innovation.

EUC has extensive experience in Early Childhood Education (ECE) academic programs and research projects.



Direcția Generală de Asistență Socială
și Protecția Copilului Harghita

General Directorate of Social Assistance and Child Protection of Harghita County (DGASPC HR), Romania

Is a public authority in Romania operating at the county level in Harghita. It manages and provides social services, focusing particularly on vulnerable groups such as children, the elderly, and individuals in difficult situations, and promotes the social inclusion of people with disabilities.



World Association of Early Childhood Educators (AMEIWAEECE), Spain

Is a participative and democratic non-governmental organization, founded in Spain, that facilitates ECEC teachers, the necessary resources that are globally demonstrating a better adequacy for childrens' interests and development.



Newark School, Malta

Located in Sliema, Newark School Malta welcomes students of 43 nationalities, with 80% of the total number of students being foreign.

Inclusion is central to their philosophy, with teachers trained to promote multicultural integration, as well as the integration of children with special needs into regular classes, while prioritizing outdoor activities.



Spazio Aperto Servizi (SAS), Italy

Is a social enterprise that for over 30 years welcomes and takes care of people in situations of fragility in the metropolitan area of Milan.

In the field of education, SAS supports and strengthens education structures that are sensitive to the needs of children, providing safe, inclusive and non violent environments. Spazio strongly believes in outdoor education as a tool to increase children's social skills and awareness towards the environment.

The Outdoor4mi project aims to:

- Train a generation to respect nature and value its conservation from an early age;
- Increase the implementation of Outdoor Education activities;
- Develop inclusive Outdoor Education strategies for all students, especially those with reduced mobility;
- Enhance teachers' skills in implementing Outdoor Education activities, including through the use of digital tools;
- Improve communication between parents and educators, helping parents understand the value of the Outdoor Education approach;

The work has already begun!

Throughout the first phase of project implementation, a literature review was conducted regarding the implementation of activities outside the classroom, including effectiveness and expected outcomes.

This allowed us to understand significant improvements not only in terms of the relationship between children and nature but also social and emotional improvements among participants. Interviews were conducted with two focus groups of kindergarten educators and individual interviews with parents to understand the educational and family context of all partner countries in the project.

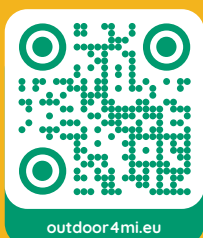
The first face-to-face meeting of the seven partners took place on June 20, 2024.

During this meeting, we were able to get to know the partners better and learn about all the work they have done in the field of environmental education. With the warm welcome from CO&SO and SPAZIO, we clarified the responsibilities and tasks of each partner, as well as established the next steps for implementing the Outdoor4mi project.



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