



Kids in Nature

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# PROJECT NEWSLETTER

- 2020 / 2022 -



Project title: KIDS IN NATURE

Project number: 2020-1-LT01-

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Picture1. "Volungele" students as nature detectives, Alytus, Lithuania

## ABOUT OUR PROJECT

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The project "Kids in nature" aims to improve children's ecological understanding and physical health. During the project, each participant country organizes short-term training and good practise sharing events according to the 6 project themes. In total, 6 short-term cooperation training events are planned in the project, each event consist of learning courses (seminars, discussions, etc.) and practical trainings (visits to kindergartens, active work with children, etc.).

### OUR TASKS:

- Organize staff training, where the participants will be equipped with competencies for the effective execution of project activities.
- Use nature as a learning environment: introduce children to the different elements of nature and their interactions and to allow kids to observe the cycles of nature up close.
- Cooperate with teacher partners and create a teaching methods related to learning about nature and in nature.
- Create eTwinning project to share and promote our common goals.
- Include parents and other stakeholders in to project activities.

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**Picture2. "From garden to table" activity in Daugavpils 13th preschool educational institution "Sunny bunny".**

During the first term of the project, the participating teachers have been actively creating and sharing their ideas and activities through a variety of channels. Overall, the project is progressing well as teachers have successfully come up with an interesting and attractive curriculum, they are sharing and discussing the teaching materials, and they are providing mutual support and feedback. By providing teachers with the necessary tools and resources to inspire a greater understanding and appreciation of nature among young children, the project is on track to achieving its goal of fostering a lifelong love of the natural world.

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# PROGRESS OF OUR PROJECT

In September 2022 we have fully completed the first part of "Kids in Nature" project.

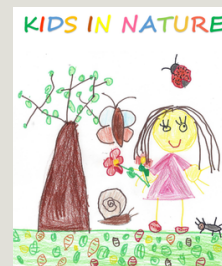
Project started with a very unexpected challenge - worldwide quarantines due to Covid-19 due to which the partners have agreed to extend the project for another year.

Over the past two years of our Erasmus+ project, we have held a number of communication events in our partner kindergartens to facilitate the exchange of knowledge and ideas. The events have included teacher training workshops, parent information sessions, and cultural exchange activities. We have also used online communication tools, such as video conferencing and group chat platforms, to stay connected with our partner kindergartens.

These efforts have helped to build strong relationships and foster a sense of community among the participating kindergartens. For the most part, the communication events and initiatives of the past two years have been an important aspect of our project and have contributed to its success.



# KEY MOMENTS IN PROJECT'S 1ST TERM



1

## Project website

<https://www.kidsinnature.online/>

10

## Online articles

1

## Project Facebook group

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/kidsinnatureproject>

8

## Presentations and seminars

Both online and contact for teachers, parents and other stakeholders.

6

## Project boards and presentations

In each partner kindergarten.

4

## TV broadcasts

8

## Social media posts

About the project and project activities.

2

## eTwinning projects

9 National Quality Labels, 4 European Quality Labels

5

## Articles in press

3

## Community events

3

## Short-term staff training in host countries

3

## Methodical tools

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**Picture3. Teachers from partner kindergartens during C2 mobility in "Volungele" kindergarten.**

## SHORT-TERM STAFF TRAINING

During the 1st project year we've held 3 scheduled LTT (Learning Teaching Training) activities. Each short-term training and good-practice sharing event hosted 2 participants from each partner country and unlimited participants from a host country. The activities were planned around one of the project themes.

### OUR THEMES:

- **A Path to Nature**, host country - Turkey;
- **Gardening for Bee-friendly Gardens**, host country - Lithuania;
- **From Garden to Table**, host country - Latvia;
- **Trees, Plants and Edible Wilds**, host country - Romania;
- **Animals in Natural Cycles**, host country - Slovenia;
- **Sustainable Nature Education at Kindergartens**, host country - Bulgaria.



**Picture4.Partner teachers during team-building activity in Menekşe Ahmet Yalçınkaya kindergarten, Kırşehir, Turkey.**

## **Short-term LTT activity in Menekşe Ahmet Yalçınkaya kindergarten**

In September 2021 partners were able to attend the first mobility event which was hosted by Turkish partner - Menekşe Ahmet Yalçınkaya kindergarten in Kırşehir city, Turkey.

4 day long teacher training program offered a concentrated and immersive experience for educators looking to expand their expertise and learn new strategies for the classroom.

## **A PATH TO NATURE**

During the training, teachers participated in a variety of workshops that presented learning games and activities focused on nature and the environment. There were also discussions and job shadowing sessions where participants could learn from experienced educators and observe their teaching practices.

In addition to these learning opportunities, participant teachers had the chance to design own outdoor activities and take part in cultural trips in the beautiful region of Cappadocia, Turkey. This unique opportunity allowed participants to experience the culture and natural beauty of this fascinating part of the world while also gaining valuable skills and knowledge as a teacher.

Read more about the event here:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/kidsinnatureproject/permalink/1000376160754219/>

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**Picture5. Partner teachers observing an educational garden area at kindergarten "Volungele" in Alytus, Lithuania.**

## **Short-term LTT activity in "Volungele" kindergarten, Alytus, Lithuania**

In May, 2022 a group of dedicated partner teachers met for the second time to share good practices and expand their knowledge around the "Bee-friendly gardens in kindergarten" theme.

The teachers were excited to learn from each other and to gain new ideas for incorporating bee-friendly gardens into their curriculum.

# **GARDENING FOR A BEE-FRIENDLY GARDENS**

During the event partners observed educational activities about the bees and bee-keeping outdoors, had a work session about Project Based Learning (PBL) methodology with practical examples from "Volungele" kindergarten, visited the ancient Hollow Bee-Keeping museum and tried beeswax candle casting. Moreover, partners visited community-based outdoors school-kindergarten Melkys, where the alternative to traditional learning was presented.

Also, partners got to know Lithuanian partner kindergarten "Volungele" a little better: they met the team of teachers; observed the methods and methodologies used and how the indoor and outdoor spaces are used in the education process.

Read more about the event here:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/kidsinnatureproject/permalink/1139561386835695/>

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## Short-term LTT activity in Daugavpils 13th preschool educational institution "Sunny bunny".

In June, 2022 a group of teachers from partner kindergartens gathered for a meeting to exchange ideas and share good teaching practices involving gardening with children and learning about the origins of food.

**Picture6. Partner teachers during a "From garden to table" activity in Daugavpils 13th preschool educational institution "Sunny bunny".**

# FROM GARDEN TO TABLE

The main focus of the meeting was on how to incorporate gardening and food education into the classroom curriculum. The teachers discussed various strategies for teaching children about the importance of healthy eating and the benefits of growing their own food. They also shared their own experiences and successes in using gardening as a tool for teaching subjects such as science, math, and language.

In addition to the gardening and food education, the event also presented an opportunity for the teachers to learn more about Latvian culture and heritage. Through presentations, lectures, and interactive activities, the teachers were able to deepen their understanding of Latvian history, folk art and customs, which they could later replicate to the pupils.

Read more about the event here:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/kidsinnatureproject/permalink/1153794525412381/>

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**Picture7. Partner teachers during outdoor team activity in guest school "Melkys", Lithuania.**

## COMING SOON

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The upcoming project "Kids in Nature" year will involve a range of fun and engaging activities designed to help children learn about the natural world around them.

One of the key components of the project will be a series of field trips to local parks, forests, and nature reserves, where children will have the opportunity to explore and learn about different types of plants and animals in their natural habitats. These trips will provide children with a wealth of information and inspiration to deepen their understanding and interest in the natural world.

In addition to the field trips, the project will also include a variety of educational activities such as storytelling, games and craft-making related to the nature and wild animals that will be done in the kindergartens.

The project will also provide a platform for teachers and educators to share their experiences and knowledge, by participating in a training and knowledge sharing workshops which will be organised to help them develop new teaching methods and activities that can be used to enhance the learning experience for children.

The "Kids in Nature" Erasmus+ project promises to be an exciting and valuable opportunity for young children to learn about wild nature and animals in a fun and interactive way.

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# PLANNED PROJECT ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS

- C5 LTT activity in Slovenia "Animals in Natural cycles" - March 2023;
- Final C6 LTT activity in Bulgaria "Sustainable Nature Education in Kindergartens" - June 2023;
- Dissemination event in Lithuania, date to be confirmed;
- eTwinning project "Kids in Nature: discovering local wild nature", December/May 2023;
- "Flora and Fauna picture dictionary" digital edition, January 2023;
- "Recipe book" digital edition, October 2023;
- Teachers guide book "Nature Kids Activity Pack", April 2023
- "Sustainable Nature Education in Kindergartens" strategy, August 2023.



**Picture8. Partner teachers during tree planting activity with students ,Menekşe Ahmet Yalçinkaya kindergarten, Kırşehir, Turkey.**



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