



Kids in Nature

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"KIDS IN NATURE" NEWSLETTER

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ABOUT OUR PROJECT

We are thrilled to share with you the exciting adventures and remarkable achievements of the Erasmus+ project "Kids in Nature," as it concludes its third and final year.

Over the past 3 year, the initiative has brought together six partner kindergartens from across Europe – Latvia, Lithuania, Bulgaria, Slovenia, Turkey, and Romania – to revolutionize early childhood education. The project's primary goal was to introduce outdoor learning and foster a deep connection with nature within the preschool curriculum.

The "Kids in Nature" project has ignited a journey, as educators and children alike have discovered the wonders of the natural world. Through various activities, the participating kindergartens have beautifully integrated outdoor experiences into their teaching methodologies, providing invaluable opportunities for children to explore, discover, and learn through direct engagement with nature.

Each partner kindergarten has contributed unique perspectives and experiences, creating a diversity of approaches to outdoor learning. From nature walks and gardening to wildlife observation and environmental conservation projects, the children have been immersed in a world of hands-on learning experiences. Together, they have developed a deep appreciation for the environment and acquired essential skills that will serve them well into the future.

Throughout the second year of the project, the partner kindergartens have actively shared their successes and challenges, supporting one another in their pursuit of excellence. The collaborative nature of the Erasmus+ program has fostered a rich exchange of knowledge and best practices, enabling educators to refine their approaches and create a lasting impact on early childhood education.

Discover how the "Kids in Nature" project has sparked curiosity, nurtured creativity, and fostered a love for the natural world among our youngest learners. Join us as we celebrate the achievements and bid farewell to this incredible journey that has laid a solid foundation for the future of outdoor learning at our kindergartens.

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KEY MOMENTS IN PROJECT'S 2ND TERM

1

eTwinning project

12

Online articles

6

**Project results
dissemination events**

Organized in each partner
country.

6

**Presentations and
seminars**

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

6

Methodical tools

65

**Education specialists
participating in
international training
events**

3

**Short-term training in
countries staff
in host**

8

Community events

12000

**On average the amount of students
participating in the project
activities**





Picture1. Participants during dissemination event in kindergarten “Srebarno Kopitce”, Sofia/Bulgaria.

SHORT-TERM STAFF TRAINING

During the 3rd 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.



Picture2. Students and animators during an outdoors lesson. Buzau, Romania

Short-term LTT activity in kindergarten No.1 with an extended program, Buzau/Romania

The 4th LTT activity took place in October 2023. This time, partner teachers from Turkey, Slovenia, Latvia, Lithuania and Bulgaria visited Kindergarten No. 1 with the Extended Programme in Buzau.

The hosting team, the children and their parents prepared an impressive programme on the theme of "Learning about trees and edible wild plants".

TREES, PLANTS AND EDIBLE WILD

Teachers observed and participated in a wide range of seminars and workshops to promote sustainable learning about natural processes. Teachers received useful tips on healthy, natural eating from the kindergarten's chef. Also, visited a seed research station. Local teachers shared good practices on how to prepare and deliver outdoor lessons.

The professional knowledge was diversified and enriched with a fun cultural programme. Teachers visited the Berka mud volcanoes and the nearby village of earthen houses, the castle of Brano (Dracula), Prunceea waterfall, and admired a traditional dance performance prepared by local children.

Read more about the event here:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/kidsinnatureproject/permalink/1249376759187490/>

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Picture 3. Kindergarten "Šentvid" (Ljubljana) project roll-up .

Short-term LTT activity in "Šentvid" kindergarten, Ljubljana, Slovenia

In March, 2023 a group of dedicated partner teachers met to share good practices and expand their knowledge around the "Animals in natural cycles" theme.

The teachers were excited to learn from each other and to gain new ideas for incorporating learning about various habitats and animal into their curriculum.

ANIMALS IN NATURAL CYCLES

During the visit, participants toured the host kindergarten's spaces, witnessing the bright and tidy environment that encourages exploration, creativity, and independent thinking among students. The educators were impressed by the children's creative work and the emphasis on artistic expression and eco-education.

The group participated in work observation sessions, gaining insights into how Slovenian teachers create positive learning environments and incorporate outdoor learning in nearby forests. Discussions among project partners allowed for the comparison of educational practices in nature education and other subjects across countries.

Cultural field trips provided valuable opportunities for the educators to learn about Slovenian culture and history.





Picture 4. Partner teachers arriving at the host kindergarten “Srebarno kopitce” in Soafia/Bulgaria

Short-term LTT activity in Sofia’s kindergarten “Srebarno kopitce”.

May 2023 held the last project LTT event. A group of teachers from partner kindergartens gathered for a meeting to exchange ideas and share good teaching practices and to discuss long-term plan on how to keep the continuity of the nature lessons in their kindergartens.

LONG-TERM NATURE EDUCATION

Together with Latvian, Lithuanian, Bulgarian, Slovenian, Romanian and Turkish teachers, we shared our success strategies for integrating learning in nature into our curricula, exchanged best practices and observations, and had discussions about various success stories from their organizations.

Furthermore, partners developed a prevalent plan on how to continue with nature education good practices in their organizations.

Also, the Bulgarian team showcased their project activities-based classes with other partners.

After observing the activities, the partner team embarked on cultural discovery activities, which certainly enriched everyone's worldview and social (and professional) skills.

Read more about the event here:

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

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CONTINUITY PLAN FOR NATURE EDUCATION IN KINDERGARTENS

By fostering environmental awareness, promoting holistic development, and empowering teachers, the Erasmus+ project "Kids in Nature" lays the foundation for sustainable practices in education. With a comprehensive continuity plan, the project's objectives can be sustained, ensuring the long-term benefits of nature-based education for generations to come.



Picture5. Partner teachers during the cultural part of the LTT activity in Plovdiv, Bulgaria.

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CONTINUITY PLAN FOR NATURE EDUCATION IN KINDERGARTENS

To ensure the long-term impact of the "Kids in Nature" project, the following strategies will be implemented:

- **Integration into the Curriculum:** The project's objectives, methodologies, and activities are incorporated into the regular curriculum of participating kindergartens. To achieve this „Nature Science Group“ will be established in the organizations. This integration ensures the continuation of nature-based education and sustainability practices.
- **Teacher Support:** Providing ongoing professional peer support opportunities to teachers is crucial. Online sharing platforms can help educators stay updated with current practices in nature-based education and inspire them to continue implementing innovative approaches. Therefore, the project's web page and Facebook page will be kept active after the project has ended, for any interested teacher to share their activities and ideas and get inspired by other educators.
- **Community Involvement:** Establishing partnerships with local environmental organizations, parks, and environmental educators creates a network of support for the kindergartens' nature-related activities. Regular collaborative initiatives, such as field trips and community events, will engage families, reinforce the importance of nature, and ensure long-term community involvement. Partner organizations aim to hold at least 1 nature-related event for the community per season (parents, staff, and other members).
- **Project results will be shared** on the Erasmus+ Project Results Platform.
- **Project Outputs** - Teacher's guide book „Nature Kids: activity pack“, International Recipe Book, Flora & Fauna Picture Dictionary is prepared and shared online with downloadable free access pdf.
- **Partners will ensure that the project outputs are shared and promoted** on their organization's website or via their local authorities digital platforms.

PROJECT'S "KIDS IN NATURE" LONG-TERM EFFECTS ON STAKEHOLDERS

Erasmus+ project "Kids in Nature" aims to promote environmental education and outdoor learning experiences for young children in kindergartens. After completing project activities, there are several benefits project partners have outlined. The data is collected through the Pre/post-test questionnaires for students, monitoring questionnaires for participant teachers in each organization (completed after each themed activity), and feedback questionnaires for mobilities participants and project coordinators.



Picture 6. Students from Alytus kindergarten "Volungele" observing Čepkeliai Marsh in Dzukija National Park, Lithuania.

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PROJECT'S "KIDS IN NATURE" LONG-TERM EFFECTS ON STAKEHOLDERS

Long-Term Effects for Students:

- Environmental Awareness and Conservation: The "Kids in Nature" project introduced children to the importance of nature, biodiversity, and sustainability. Through hands-on experiences and engaging activities, students develop a deep appreciation for the environment, fostering a sense of responsibility towards its preservation.
- Cognitive and Emotional Development: Outdoor activities stimulate children's curiosity, imagination, and problem-solving skills. Regular exposure to nature enhances cognitive abilities, creativity, and emotional well-being. These benefits contribute to long-term academic success and holistic development.
- Health and Well-being: Spending time in nature promotes physical activity, reduces stress levels, and enhances overall well-being. The project encourages a healthy lifestyle among students, leading to positive habits and improved long-term health outcomes.



Picture 7. Students from Ljubljana kindergarten "Šentvid" sowing seeds during an outdoor lesson.

PROJECT'S "KIDS IN NATURE" LONG-TERM EFFECTS ON STAKEHOLDERS

Long-Term Effects for Participant Teachers:

- Enhanced Pedagogical Skills: The Erasmus+ project empowered participant teachers by providing a space to seek resources on nature-based education, training and experience sharing. Teachers gained new teaching methodologies and tools, enabling them to create dynamic learning environments incorporating nature into their curricula. These enhanced skills continue to benefit teachers beyond the project's duration.
- Professional Development & Networking Opportunities: Participation in "Kids in Nature" broadens teachers' professional networks, allowing them to exchange ideas and experiences with educators from different countries. This collaboration fosters ongoing professional growth, encourages innovation, and strengthens the teaching community.



Picture 8. Participant teachers in Daugavpils, Latvia after a flower workshop/sample lesson

PROJECT'S "KIDS IN NATURE" LONG-TERM EFFECTS ON STAKEHOLDERS

Long-Term Effects for Participant Organizations:

- Institutional Advancement: Participation and involvement in international projects enhance the institution's reputation and attract prospective students and families seeking nature-based education as well as staff with broader views and experiences.
- Community Engagement and Partnerships: "Kids in Nature" promotes collaboration among kindergartens, local communities, and environmental educators. Establishing partnerships fosters community engagement and encourages sustainable practices beyond the project's scope.
- Improved Project Management Skills: Erasmus+ projects require effective project management. Participating in these projects enables the kindergarten's staff to improve their project management skills, including planning, coordination, budgeting, and evaluation. These skills can be applied to future projects within the organization.



Picture 9. Kindergarten "Volungele" community after a guided nature hike in Vidzgiris old forest, Alytus/Lithuania

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PROJECT RESULTS



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<https://erasmus-plus.ec.europa.eu/resources-and-tools/documents-and-guidelines?>

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