



Erasmus+ KA1 Training course Outdoors Education for All!

Preparation:

The participants will receive support information (printed and online studies, useful links, a set of non-formal methods/ exercises). An info pack including the detailed schedule will be provided. A questionnaire will be sent to the participants via e-mail in order to indicate their professional requirements, interests and expectations related to the subject of the course. They will be asked to prepare short Power-Point Presentations of their institution and/or their own experience in the subject matter of the training event.

Objectives:

At the end of the course, the participants will be able:

- To understand the benefits of outdoors education
- To understand the availability of nature in offering knowledge
- To discover and use unconventional outdoors places for teaching/ learning activities (formal, non-formal, informal).
- To use outdoors education existing strategies and create & apply new ones in a cross curricular perspective
- To develop personal and social skills on the basis of outdoors pedagogy for regular educational system and for SEN
- To create a personal/ school activity strategy in order to develop outdoors education
- To develop an intercultural dialogue

Programme (30 hours, 5 days without travel)

The participants' arrival

Day 1 (Monday): Ice-breakers, know-each-other and team building exercises (outdoors activities)

Presentation of the schools/ organizations and the outdoors education experience of the participants (outdoors activities)

Exploring outdoors pedagogy; connections between outdoors education and the types of intelligences (Gardner; Danah and Marshall); Deci and Ryan self-determination theory and intrinsic motivation

Intercultural evening

Day 2 (Tuesday): Exploring outdoors pedagogy - lecture and seminar about outdoors environmental education (benefic effect on health, its power to develop social and personal skills)

Workshop (part I) on teaching different subjects using the opportunities offered by the natural environment; planning, teaching, assessing. SEN: Occupational Therapy and Behavioral Activation Therapy

Day 3 (Wednesday): in the local rural or urban landscape. Workshop (part II) on the way about teaching different subjects in the natural environment. .

Day 4 (Thursday): in the pure nature. Creative ideas to smoothly connect culture and nature. Outdoors learning techniques.

Day 5 (Friday): Thematic creative day; toolbox (methods, instruments) for developing the teaching skills (different curriculum subjects), the personal and social skills
Evaluation of the course. Certification. Farewell outdoors dinner.

The participants' departure

Methodology:

The methodology will be experiential, based on workshops, hands-on, practical exercises.

Some methods will be imported from psychology, under the supervision of a certified psychologist: Behavioral Activation Therapy, Occupational therapy

Other methods and techniques:

-Creative and attractive planning, teaching and assessing methodology and learning activities proper for the outdoors learning environment (action-based learning, problem-based learning, game-based learning)

- Simulation, roles play, autobiographical method, learning café, case study, educational games etc. for developing personal and interpersonal skills: self-knowledge, motivation and self-motivation, creativity, adaptability, team spirit

The basic technique will be doing – reflection upon doing. Most activities will be run outdoors.

Certification:

The participants will receive:

- The Europass mobility document
- Certificate of attendance including description of the course content and time input

Follow-up:

A mailing list of participants will be created after the course and they will be encouraged to keep contact with the trainers and with their fellow participants, so as to establish future partnerships and projects, related to Erasmus+. Self-evaluation materials will be provided. At the end of the course the participants will accomplish a questionnaire in order to get a detailed feedback to the effectiveness of the training event. They will be helped to create an action agenda on the strategy of implementing the key learning points into their professional practice. A Facebook group will be formed for discussions and sharing of ideas and good practices after the workshop. The participants will be given the opportunity to transfer the knowledge and experience achieved to their colleagues and by this to assist in the dissemination of the leaning results and outcomes. For 3 months after the course ARVIS will be available for the participants for further support and suggestions regarding the implementation of outdoors education in their institution. .

Anca Vieriu,
Course leader

