

GREEN4VIP

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION AND STEAM APPROACH FOR VISUALLY IMPAIRED PUPILS IN KINDERGARTENS

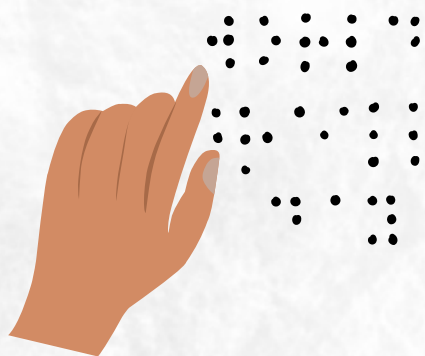
NEWSLETTER

No. 1 - May 2023



About the project

The importance of early education provided by well-trained staff is fundamental for visually impaired kids who face barriers in their inclusion in mainstream classes because pre-school teachers don't know how to supply them contents and which adapted tools, they should use to convey such contents appropriately.



UNESCO states that education is the most effective means in the quest to achieve sustainable development and in 2007 it also said that it is in the early childhood period that children develop their basic values, attitudes, skills, behaviours and habits, this is why educating for sustainability should begin very early in life. **“Like all sectors, also education and training must take action to respond to the climate emergency and planetary crisis – in terms of its own operations and, crucially, how it prepares learners for the future”** COUNCIL RECOMMENDATION on Learning for Environmental Sustainability (COM 2022).

For these reasons, **GREEN4VIP** tackles:

1. The topic of **inclusion of visually impaired pupils** in ECEC, providing pre-school teachers with suitable inclusive pedagogical strategies to address VIP needs, and in particular how to use and adapt the STEAM approach in environmental education workshops addressed to visually impaired kids;
2. The topic of **environmental awareness**, as it is one of the main pillars of the SDGs; it will update the skills of pre-school teachers through innovative training materials in the field of sustainable lifestyles and sustainable consumption habits and how to convey them to VIP;
3. the topic of **digital skills** updating teachers' expertise in the use of digital tools, including accessible and assistive technologies.

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Project objectives

1. Provide support for initial and continuing professional development of staff involved in organising, leading and providing early childhood education and care by supplying pre-school teachers with competences on suitable inclusive pedagogical strategies to address VIP
2. Improve pre-school teachers' awareness on environmental topics and contribute to enable behavioural changes for individual preferences, consumption habits and lifestyles
3. Supply competences to pre-school teachers to implement environmental workshops based on the STEAM approach and how to adapt it to the needs of VIP
4. Promote all children, including VIP (and their families), awareness on environmental issues
5. Update teachers' expertise in the use of DIGITAL TOOLS, including accessible and assistive technologies
6. Increase the quality of work in the Partner Organizations on a long term, as well as their capacity and professionalism to work at EU level.

The project, which started in November 2022, aims at producing the following main deliverables specifically designed for pre-school teachers:

GREEN4VIP Guidelines for pre-school teachers, based on a research and online survey carried out in partner countries to investigate on teachers' skill gaps in education, it will be a practical guide for teachers on how to implement learning and teaching processes with hints on how to deal with VIP in kindergartens.

GREEN4VIP Teacher Training Curriculum, aimed at supplying competences to teachers on environmental issues, digital assistive technologies and online learning, how to adapt STEAM approach to VIP.

GREEN4VIP Inclusive Toolbox for VIP, a practical tool to implement inclusive environmental workshops based on STEAM in class and online, by describing step-by-step how to carry out the activities. Audio described video tutorials will complement the Toolbox to provide an accessible and easy transferable component.



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Kick-off meeting

The first project transnational meeting **was planned in Florence/IT and took place on the 14th of December 2022** and it allowed all partners to get to know each other, as we will be working together for two years. Then, partners focused on the second work package, the GREEN4VIP Guidelines, by discussing the methodology for the preliminary research and online survey. The meeting was also important to discuss about the first work package, which concerns the project management, the quality and the promotion and sharing issues. To conclude, partners set the date for the next transnational meeting, which will be held online.



That was the beginning... Now partners are working to develop the GREEN4VIP Guidelines and have contacted pre-school teachers in each partner countries to fill in the online survey.
Stay tuned!

Project Partners

UICI Florence (Italy) www.uicifirenze.it

Co&so (Italy) www.coeso.org

Polski Związek Niewidomych (Poland) www.pzn.org.pl

AMEI-WAECE (Spain) www.waece.org

1o Dimotikó Scholeío Rafinas (Greece) www.1dimrafin.com

Univerza na Primorskem - Pedagoška fakulteta (Slovenia) www.pef.upr.si



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