

GREEN4VIP

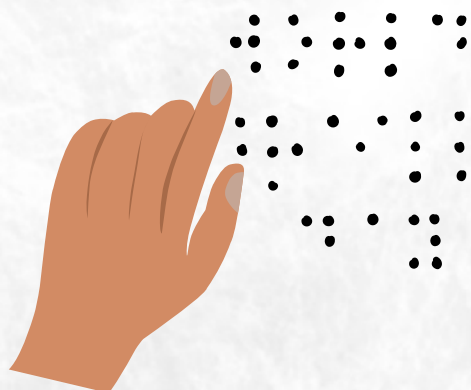
ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION AND STEAM APPROACH FOR VISUALLY IMPAIRED PUPILS IN KINDERGARTENS



NEWSLETTER No. 2 - Jan 2024

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.

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 Rafínas (Greece) www.1dimrafin.com

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



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Project progresses

From December 2022 onwards, partners have worked to develop the 3 main project products. Thanks to the [GREEN4VIP Guidelines](#), already available in all partner languages on the website, they have at first acquired the **opinions and the needs of 189 pre-school teachers** from partner countries regarding inclusive education with a focus on VIP, use of STEAM approaches and environmental education in ECEC.



Then, they started to create the [Teacher Training Curriculum](#) and the Inclusive [Toolbox for VIP](#). In the meanwhile, 2 project meetings have taken place: the 2nd project meeting was held online, via Zoom platform, on the 10th of May 2023 while the 3rd meeting was hosted by PZN in Warsaw on the 14-15th of November 2023. Both meetings were great occasions for partners to discuss about the project progresses in partner countries as well as to discuss about the next steps of the project.

Transnational Training Event in Madrid

From 12-15th of December 2023, 14 pre-school teachers from partner countries have met in Madrid (ES) to test at transnational level the [Teacher Training Curriculum](#) and the [Inclusive Toolbox for VIP](#) designed by the project consortium. The training consisted of **5 interactive sessions**, where all teachers were engaged in practical activities to learn how to convey kids the concepts of biodiversity protection, efficient use of resources, waste management, sustainable lifestyles and, more than all, they found out about visual impairment and learnt new pedagogical strategies to deal with VI kids.

The training was a special occasion to share experiences in the ECEC field and set the ground for the *national piloting phase of the GREEN4VIP project which will start in March 2024* in all partner countries.

Stay tuned!

