

GREEN4VIP

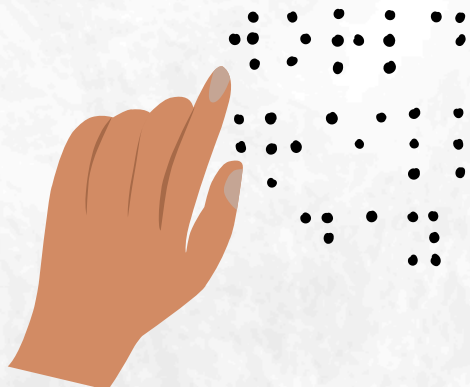
ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION AND STEAM APPROACH FOR VISUALLY IMPAIRED PUPILS IN KINDERGARTENS



NEWSLETTER No. 3 – May 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.



GREEN4VIP

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION AND STEAM APPROACH FOR VISUALLY IMPAIRED PUPILS IN KINDERGARTENS



NEWSLETTER No. 3 - May 2024

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



Co-funded by
the European Union

Project No. 2022-1-IT-02-KA220-SCH-000086906

GREEN4VIP

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION AND STEAM APPROACH FOR VISUALLY IMPAIRED PUPILS IN KINDERGARTENS



NEWSLETTER No. 3 - May 2024

Project progresses

After the training event held in Madrid in December 2023 with 14 pre-school teachers coming from partner countries, ***the project team has finalized the Teacher Training Curriculum and the Inclusive Toolbox for VIP.*** Additionally, they have created 4 video tutorials, complementary to the Toolbox, which describe step-by-step how to implement environmental education activities for kids aged 3-5. Through the videos, teachers can learn, for example, how to make inclusive trash bins or how to create a sustainable Christmas gift. **All the Video Tutorials are available on Youtube at www.youtube.com/@Green4VIP and have got a special audio description feature for visually impaired persons.**

On the 8th of April 2024, the 4th transnational project meeting took place virtually on Zoom. Partners had the occasion **to discuss about the upcoming implementation of the national pilots** (local trainings) and the environmental education workshops for kids in kindergartens.

National pilots and environmental education workshops in partner countries

In Italy, CO&SO implemented its local training together with its associated cooperative l'Abbaino, in la Nave kindergarten in Florence. The event was attended *by 10 young ECEC teachers*, and in one of the sessions educators were committed to learn how to create toys using wasted material.

In Spain, AMEI-WAECE selected the participants from among the pre-school teachers networks they have got. The training for teachers was held in Cartagena in April 2024, while the *workshops are scheduled for the first week of June, coinciding with the environmental day.*

In Greece, the national pilot was held in March 2024 in the premises of Keat that is to say the Education and Rehabilitation centre for the blinds in Athens and *was attended by 10 pre-school teachers.*

At last, **in Slovenia** the local training was attended *by 6 preschool teachers and 8 students of early childhood education.* The workshops were conducted in 6 different groups of children aged 3-5 years. During the workshops, the children learnt about biodiversity, the properties of water, herbs and recycling waste. Children were active using their senses and experimenting.



Overall, **all ECEC teachers really liked the local trainings and were overwhelmed with so much information.** The implemented workshops were also a success, as the children enjoyed and learnt new things about the nature that surrounds us.

Stay tuned!



Co-funded by
the European Union

Project No. 2022-1-IT-02-KA220-SCH-000086906