




# OUTDOOR EDUCATION: NATURE AS A LEARNING SPACE



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**OID: E1020112**

Advanced Institute for Skills Development



# COURSE DESCRIPTION

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Education is changing – and so are learning environments. Schools across Europe are increasingly seeking to move beyond traditional classrooms, exploring the outdoors as a powerful space for learning, creativity, collaboration, and personal development.

This course invites teachers, school leaders and educators to reimagine their teaching practices by using nature as a dynamic, inclusive and stimulating learning environment. Outdoor Education is much more than taking lessons outside – it is about integrating the natural world into the learning process to foster curiosity, active participation, sustainability awareness, and emotional engagement.

Throughout this Erasmus+ training, participants will discover methodologies, tools and ideas to plan and deliver outdoor learning activities adapted to their students and school context – whether in urban, rural or mixed settings.

The methodology of this course is based on experiential learning and active participation. Participants will engage in outdoor workshops, nature-based challenges, collaborative problem-solving, sensory activities, and project-based learning outdoors. They will explore strategies for teaching different subjects in outdoor settings.

Emphasis will also be placed on sustainability education, reconnecting students with local environments, and promoting environmental responsibility through hands-on projects like school gardens, eco-friendly initiatives, and nature-based storytelling.

By the end of the course, teachers will feel prepared to create learning experiences that go beyond the classroom walls – using their local environment as a resource for creativity, engagement, and meaningful learning.

# COURSE INFORMATION

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## Learning Outcomes

- Understand the principles and benefits of Outdoor Education and its impact on student engagement, wellbeing and skill development;
- Plan and implement outdoor learning activities across different subjects, using nature as a resource and learning environment;
- Explore practical tools for project-based learning outdoors, fostering creativity, collaboration and critical thinking;
- Apply inclusive outdoor learning strategies suitable for diverse student profiles and learning needs;
- Promote environmental literacy and sustainability practices in their schools and local communities;
- Design and develop a personal Outdoor Education project or action plan to implement in their teaching context;
- Promote intercultural awareness;
- Transfer and share core values, experiences and effective teaching practices with other teachers and colleagues;
- Improve technical and English language, communication and social skills.

# DAILY PROGRAM

6-DAYS

..... \*Our courses also include a daily Coffee Break

## DAY 1 / 16h30-21h30

- Self Preparation for a short School presentation on Day 2
- Cultural Quiz (to be filled out pre-dinner)
- Welcome Session - icebreaking & dinner, week briefing & planning
- Networking between participants and Erasmus+ team
- Sharing of European core values
- Open space for participants to share ideas and discuss current challenges in the Education sector; collaborative opportunity to exchange future goals (activity)

## DAY 2 / 8h30-13h45

- Introduction to Outdoor Education: benefits, challenges, and educational value
- Case studies from European schools using outdoor methodologies
- The power of learning environments on student motivation
- Reflection: My own teaching context and opportunities for outdoor learning

## DAY 3 / 8h30-13h45

- Principles of outdoor lesson planning
- Safety, logistics, group management outdoors
- Sensory activities to develop observation, focus and creativity
- Nature as a co-teacher: encouraging curiosity and active learning

## DAY 4 / 8h30-13h45

- Outdoor group challenges and problem-solving activities
- Teamwork, collaboration and communication outdoors
- Creating nature trails, scavenger hunts, eco-games
- Outdoor learning stations: sustainability, science, arts, language
- Tools and resources for lesson planning in nature

## DAY 5 / 8h30-13h45

- Education for Sustainable Development: goals and opportunities
- School gardens, urban nature projects, recycling initiatives
- How to promote environmental responsibility in students
- Nature storytelling and creative expression outdoors

## DAY 6 / 8h30-13h45

- Mini Project: Designing a Personal Outdoor Learning Action Plan
- Peer feedback & group presentations
- Learning outcomes' validation
- Certification Ceremony

# ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

**Documentation:** Learning Agreement; Certificate of Attendance with description of learning outcomes; Europass validation; and other required Erasmus+ supporting documents.

(Our courses are eligible to be completely funded by the Erasmus+ program 2021-2027 - KA1 funds and several other programs)

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