InterAct

LEARNING PROGRAMME

Broadening Horizons Through Outdoor Learning

5-DAY COURSE

25 learning hours | Course programme

Broadening Horizons Through Outdoor Learning – 5-Day Course

Introduction and Description

This professional development programme provides a multidisciplinary and research-informed exploration of outdoor learning as a pedagogical approach that enhances cognitive, social, emotional and physical development across diverse learner populations. The course is intended for educators and educational professionals from early childhood to adult and special needs education, as well as for practitioners from non-profit organisations, public institutions and policy contexts who seek to extend their theoretical and practical competence in the design, implementation and evaluation of outdoor learning.

Situated within the broader discourse of experiential, environmental and place-based education, the programme critically examines how outdoor environments—natural, urban and school-based—can function as dynamic learning ecologies. Participants engage with contemporary theoretical frameworks, including experiential learning theory, inquiry-based learning, environmental literacy, cross-curricular integration, and whole-school approaches to outdoor pedagogy. These are operationalised through a sequence of practice-oriented modules, field-based learning activities, structured observations, collaborative design tasks and reflective inquiry.

The programme's structure progressively scaffolds learning from foundational principles to advanced application. It includes nature-based field trips, urban orienteering and city-based challenges, sensory and problem-solving activities, digital documentation tasks, and an inquiry-driven project culminating in documentary video production. Participants are supported in developing contextually relevant outdoor learning plans for their own institutions and in exploring mechanisms for dissemination, stakeholder engagement and alignment with European educational priorities. The programme foregrounds intercultural dialogue, professional collaboration and the strengthening of European networks in the field of outdoor learning.

Methodology and Assessment

The course uses experiential, inquiry-based and collaborative learning methods, combining essential theory with extensive practical activities in natural, urban and school environments. Participants learn through field trips, teamwork, reflective journaling, micro-projects and a documentary-style inquiry task. Collaboration, peer learning and guided reflection support the integration of theory into practice.

Assessment is continuous and formative, based on active participation, completion of outdoor tasks, contribution to group work and reflective discussions. The final requirement is an individual implementation plan, which demonstrates each participant's ability to apply outdoor learning methods in their own educational context.

Objectives

Upon completion of this course, participants will be able to:

1. Theoretical Competence

• Critically articulate the foundational principles, pedagogical rationales and research evidence underpinning outdoor learning in natural, urban and school-based contexts.
• Demonstrate a comprehensive understanding of experiential learning theory, environmental and sustainability education, place-based pedagogy and inquiry-based learning frameworks.

2. Design, Planning and Safety Management

• Conduct systematic planning and risk assessment for outdoor learning activities, ensuring safe, developmentally appropriate and inclusive learning conditions.
• Evaluate and implement strategies for group management, behavioural guidance, and accessibility for learners with diverse needs in outdoor environments.

3. Cross-Curricular and Contextual Integration

• Design and justify outdoor learning activities that integrate literacy, numeracy, science, social sciences, arts and environmental education across natural and urban settings.
• Employ the cityscape as a pedagogical resource through structured urban exploration, inquiry tasks, orienteering and collaborative challenges.

4. Facilitation of Experiential and Socio-Emotional Learning

• Apply methods to cultivate sensory awareness, teamwork, communication, problem solving, creativity and resilience through structured outdoor experiences.
• Assess how nature-based experiences contribute to learner wellbeing, socio-emotional development and broader educational outcomes.

5. Digital and Documentary Competence

• Apply relevant digital tools, open educational resources and collaborative online platforms (eTwinning, European School Education Platform) to support outdoor learning design and implementation.

• Conduct an inquiry-based outdoor learning project incorporating data collection, narrative construction, visual storyboarding, video documentation and basic digital editing techniques.

6. Professional Growth and Intercultural Competence

• Demonstrate enhanced professional competences including communication, collaboration, reflective practice, critical thinking and pedagogical creativity.
• Engage in intercultural dialogue, compare educational systems and critically examine variations in outdoor learning policies and practices across Europe.

7. Implementation, Evaluation and Dissemination

• Develop an evidence-informed, contextually grounded implementation plan for integrating outdoor learning within their institutional setting.
• Construct evaluation approaches and dissemination strategies that align with European educational priorities and support sustainable adoption of outdoor learning practices.
• Contribute to strengthening transnational cooperation and knowledge exchange in the field of outdoor and experiential education.

Preparation

After registration participants will receive pre-course questionnaire which will be used by the trainer to learn about participants' teaching backgrounds and to assess their exact needs. Before the beginning of the course a basic reading list will be suggested to participants to prepare for the training. Participants will also be asked to prepare a presentation about themselves, their professional context and their culture. The presentation will be presented on the first day of the course to facilitate networking opportunities. Participants will receive information about the country they are going to visit in order to prepare them for their cultural experience.

Follow up

After the course participants will be asked to share what they have learned with the rest of the staff in their schools. Further books and articles to deepen the topic and contacts with some other practitioners all over Europe and in the world will be suggested by the trainer. The methods shared and explored and the bibliography given will allow the participants to complete and improve their educational path.

Certificate

Certificate complies with the guidelines of the Erasmus+ programme and includes the topic, number of didactic hours, dates and location of the course. We can list the record of learning outcomes on the Europass Mobility Document on request of participants. In case a participant requires a specific format of certificate we can accommodate that if requested at least one week before the start of the course. It is necessary to attend at least 80% of the hours in order to receive the certificate.

Accommodation

We do not offer accommodation or meals and participants have to organize it by themselves.

Paperwork

We also provide all the support with paperwork you might need for your Erasmus+ project documentation such as mobility agreement and registration letter.

Fee: 400 €

Cancelation policy

We have a flexible cancellation policy in force at the moment and you can cancel your registration up to 30 days before the course and receive a full refund. In case you don't cancel the registration more than 30 days before you will not receive any refunds, but you will be able to choose to attend any other confirmed course session later (within 6 months) without any additional costs. In case you are not able to travel, your school can send someone else to take instead of you and you can change the details of the participant any time before the start of the course at no additional cost.

TENTATIVE PROGRAMME (25 didactic hours - 5*45min per day) Monday to Friday	
Day 1	Welcome, Introduction & Foundations of Outdoor Learning

09.00 - 09.45	Welcome & Introductions
09.45 - 10.30	Overview of the Programme
10.30 - 11.15	Warm-Ups & Icebreakers Outdoors
11.15 - 11.30	Break
11.30 - 12.15	What Is Outdoor Learning?
12.15 - 13.00	Reflective Practice
Day 2	Urban Outdoor Learning (City as Classroom)
09.00 - 09.45	Principles of Urban Outdoor Learning
09.45 - 10.30	Safety, Risk Assessment & Inclusion in Cities
10.30 - 11.15	Urban Learning Methods & Tools
11.15 - 11.30	Break
11.30 - 12.15	Practical Workshop: Designing a City Hunt
12.15 - 13.00	Urban Micro-Activities & Debrief
Day 3	Nature Outdoor Learning: Environmental & Experiential Education (Field Trip 1)
09.00 - 09.45	Experiential Learning in Nature
09.45 - 10.30	Environmental Education Foundations
10.30 - 11.15	Field Trip 1: Orientation & Preparation
11.15 - 11.30	Break
11.30 - 12.15	Cross-Curricular Nature-Based Activities
12.15 - 13.00	Reflection & Curriculum Transfer
Day 4	Nature Outdoor Learning: Sensory Skills, Problem Solving & Teamwork (Field Trip 2)
09.00 - 09.45	Sensory Awareness in Nature
09.45 - 10.30	Problem-Solving Tasks in Nature
10.30 - 11.15	Team-Building Activities in Natural Settings
11.15 - 11.30	Break
11.30 - 12.15	Practical Workshop: Designing a Nature Activity
12.15 - 13.00	Debrief & Inclusive Applications of Nature Learning

Day 5	Individual Support + Final Presentations & Evaluation
09.00 - 09.45	Micro-Project Development
09.45 - 10.30	Final Adjustments & Peer Review
10.30 - 11.15	Presentation of Outcomes
11.15 - 11.30	Break
11.30 - 12.15	Evaluation & Reflection
12.15 - 13.00	Validation of learning outcomes and certification

*This is only a tentative timetable. The exact hours or the course might differ and will be announced for each session 2 weeks before the start. However, there will always be a total of 5 didactic hours per day and all will be in line with the Erasmus+ quality standards. The trainer might slightly modify the content in response to the needs of the group.
**Cultural and social programmes will be organized in addition to the academic programme. The exact cultural and social programme depends on the location, season, weather, etc.