

SEEDS NEWSLETTER



Social Entrepreneurship Empowering Development in Preschools

Newsletter 4/October 2020

SEEDS

The project Social Entrepreneurship Empowering Development in Preschools (SEEDS) addresses the need to provide European preschools with innovative teaching methods and tools. There is a need for a new European Entrepreneurial Pedagogy that meets the skill needs of the 21st century European society, and a need to provide children and educators in preschools with inclusive methods of facilitating skills for relevant digital media use and competences for becoming active, participating, critical and contributing citizens, no matter the social background, gender or ethnicity.



Screenshot from the 1st webinar (Denmark)



Screenshot from the 2nd webinar (Italy).

SEEDS IN SHORT

The project will develop a European preschool pedagogy for social entrepreneurship mindset and digital media use. It will be contained in a collection of resource materials that will suggest educational guidelines and principles, methods and themes, best practice and a concrete toolkit that facilitate social entrepreneurship mindsets, key entrepreneurial competences and social inclusion. The resource materials will be developed and tested across so-called local experimenting communities that will facilitate co-creative development between partners, local preschools, children and key stakeholders in the 4 partner countries. Based on local developments and transnational exchange and test of methods, a generalized, European pedagogy will be developed, which will be transferable across preschools in European countries.

ENTREPRENEURIAL THINKING IN PRESCHOOLS

For the last two years preschool children and educators from Palermo, Bremen, Nicosia and Vejle were experimenting with mixing anything from gardening, dancing, the solar system and “the good life” for children with technologies such as digital robots, makerspace technology, 360 degree cameras and apps. The main goal of the experiments has been to develop pedagogical methods for preschool education, to support early learning of relevant skills like entrepreneurial thinking, digital media use and to ensure social inclusion of all children in this learning. In September and October 2020, our experimented communities presented the activities implemented in their schools in a series of webinars. During the webinars, educators from the participating cities explored exciting examples from real life practice. All showing how you, in a collaborative way, can be creative and experimenting together with preschool children and in that way sow the SEEDS of entrepreneurial thinking in the minds of the children!

4 WEBINARS IN THE PARTNER COUNTRIES

Denmark: The first webinar took place on the 14th of September 2020. It introduced two exciting examples from preschools in Vejle on how to set up experimenting communities and do experiments with children using robots and in technology in playful learning about gardening. The webinar had also introduced the development work methods of the SEEDS project; experimenting communities and the change maker pedagogy. The webinar included a mix of light presentations, group discussions and question time.

Italy: Social inclusion refers to the active involvement of others into one’s social interaction. But it is also about the removal of barriers and integrity.



Screenshot from the 3rd webinar (Cyprus).



Teacher producing her own toolkit



Screenshot from the 4th webinar (Germany).

Project Partners

- 1) Vejle Municipality (Denmark)
- 2) CUDIM - Aarhus University (Denmark)
- 3) CESIE (Italy)
- 4) DIMEB - The University of Bremen (Germany)
- 5) SYNTHESIS Center for Research and Education Ltd (Cyprus)

This webinar served as an interactive dialogue to investigate how the willingness to include others is shaped through the use of technologies in the pre-schools. An input of the debate was the voices and experiences of the teachers and educators who actively took part in the project activities. In particular, the majority of the kindergartens who took part in the SEEDS project in Palermo are mostly attended by migrant children or are located in poor areas of the city. These kindergartens were the perfect “experimenting communities” to investigate the theme of social inclusion connected to the use of small technologies like Beebots and Ozobots. Moreover, in many activities realised in the context of the project, teachers realised that technologies encouraged and improved children’s interaction and collaboration. Finally, technologies were a good mean to investigate and discover new cultures and identities. This webinar took place on the 21th of September 2020.

Cyprus: The 3rd webinar took place on 29th of September 2020. In this webinar, we explored the “SEEDS” pedagogy and more specifically how to use the concept of the experimenting communities to foster key entrepreneurial competencies. We had a look at the eTwinning platform and learned more about how schools could communicate, collaborate and develop projects together. We have also explored the challenges experienced by diversity in preschools and how these challenges were tackled through the concept of the experimenting communities. At the end, we saw the activities implemented by the experimenting communities in Cyprus.

Germany: One aim of the SEEDs project was the development of a robot toolkit and its experimental use in kindergartens. In the project, a fablab (fabrication laboratory) was used to provide workshops for educators, where they could experiment with digital technologies and develop ideas on how to use the robotic toolkits in kindergartens. In the last webinar, the production and application of a robot toolkit was presented on the basis of a practical guide developed in the project. Furthermore, discussions and video interviews were focus on the experiences of the teachers in the creative workshop. The webinar also explored to what extent the use of the Robot Toolkit contributes to fostering inventive skills and mindsets in the pre-school children, giving them basic skills: to think critically, to cooperate, to communicate, to work with others.

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