



## Fostering creativity in early years science

### CEYS PROJECT

## Why creativity in early years science?

School in Europe today would benefit considerably from acknowledging and fostering the link between science education, and creativity. Science education could (and should) be more creative. In the teaching and learning of science, a more creative approach based on curiosity and inquiry would be beneficial, involving, for instance, a move away from the pedagogy of the 'correct answers', which makes pupils believe that it is wrong to be wrong, and become progressively less willing and able to take risk and to unlock their creativity.

Further, in a more creativity oriented science education, new modes of interactions within the classroom could be developed to stimulate self-expression – which, if nurtured, could manifest itself subsequently in later years in terms of an ability to create and innovate. Such a major shift towards more creativity in science education, though, both in terms of fostering creativity in science and teaching science creatively, would require a profound change in educational practices and cultures, demanding the development not only of new curricula, but most importantly of appropriate teacher training and professional development.

There is on the whole consensus that any materials to be used by teachers should be designed in collaboration with them and with the involvement of all relevant stakeholders (for example teacher educators, school mentors, school leaders, etc.), in order to be relevant and have the maximum potential for impact.

Collaboration between schools and higher education institutions not only improves initial teacher education but also contributes to school development and teachers' professional development.

## What is CEYS?

CEYS is an Erasmus+ funded partnership that is aiming at the development of a teacher development course and accompanying materials to be used in professional development to promote the use of creative approaches in teaching science in preschool and early primary education, in the frame of inquiry-based educational environments.

Participating teachers will take part in professional development workshops held in the 4 participating countries aimed at promoting use of creative approaches in science teaching and an opportunity to take part in curriculum development as co-designers in the iterative phases of development of the CEYS course, sharing their ownership and thus facilitating their adoption through the use of action research methodology.

### THE CEYS OBJECTIVES



- Formulate the main outcomes of the Creative Little Scientists ([www.creative-little-scientists.eu](http://www.creative-little-scientists.eu)) project into training requirements of the target user groups in terms of knowledge and competences required to use creativity and inquiry-based approaches in the teaching of science to young children.
- Propose concrete training materials that can be used in teacher education for early years and primary teachers in order to foster their use of creative and inquiry-based approaches in science teaching.
- Implement and validate a number of training activities at national and international levels with the scope to improve early years and primary teachers' knowledge and skills.
- Develop a systematic evaluation methodology in order to identify the impact of the proposed training process and materials in terms of both effectiveness and efficiency.



## What you can gain from participating in CEYS



5 days professional development and support focused on creativity in early years science education (travel costs will be covered)



Opportunity to collaborate with the local CEYS project team and the other lead teachers



Professional development and mentoring sessions from the CEYS team (including minimum of 2 visits to each lead school during the year)



Opportunity to attend a summer school in summer 2016 to work with colleagues across Europe sharing their own practice and profiling the work undertaken in their school



Opportunity to liaise and partner with colleagues from 25 international schools across Europe (in Greece, Belgium, Romania and the UK)



Opportunity to actively participate in the development and validation of teacher education resources in close collaboration with key stakeholders

## What your school can gain from participating in CEYS



Opportunity to liaise and partner with some of the other 25 CEYS schools across Europe (in Greece, Belgium, Romania and the UK)



Opportunities to liaise with CEYS project partners who are actively involved in a variety of EU-funded and national projects as well as a large network of schools



Reports on the project



Support to apply for funding by the Erasmus+ programme



Support for schools that wish to participate in eTwinning projects which promote school collaboration in Europe through the use of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT)



High profile and publicity

### THE CEYS PARTNERS



For more information on the course and the project visit the official website at

[www.ceys-project.eu](http://www.ceys-project.eu)

Or contact

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