

'Creativity through Early Years Science Education' Erasmus+ Training Activity Attica Region, Greece 12/7- 17/7 2015

Description

Creativity through Early Years Science Education

The training course will be based on the teacher education curriculum design principles guidelines and exemplary materials formulated in the EU-funded project *Creative Little Scientists* utilizing a training approach which is under development by the Erasmus+ funded project CEYS (Creativity in Early Years Science education) and aims to promote creative approaches to science in preschool and the first years of primary school. More specifically, the objectives of the training course specify that school staff as a result of the course will feel empowered to: use inquiry-based and creative science education approaches; have positive attitudes towards learning and teaching science and creativity; act as innovators, researchers and reflective practitioners; and engage in communities and partnerships with other stakeholders (other teachers, professional associations, experts, etc.).



Throughout the course school staff will experience inquiry-based and creative approaches in 3 different modes: a) as learners participating in science inquiry-based activities fostering creativity; b) as school staff implementing inquiry-based and creative approaches in science classes; and c) as researchers collecting, examining and interpreting data about their practice and their students' learning. The course will leverage an inquiry-based creative approach through hands-on and reflection sessions to experience the principles of inquiry-based and creative science learning, while exploring teacher education curriculum design principles. The latter cover: learning activities, role of teacher educator, materials and resources, grouping, location, time; and assessment.



Reflective and collaborative practices will be promoted and during the hands-on sessions attention will be paid to formative assessment and feedback.

The training course overall comprises 10 hours of guided explorations, and 15 hours of hands-on workshops. All participants will have direct access to PCs (although participants are encouraged to bring their own laptops) as needed to enhance the hands-on activities. Visits to non-formal learning settings (such as the Museum of Acropolis and/or the Lavrion Technological and Cultural Park) will introduce participants to ways of using such settings with their students for creative science learning.

Participation in this training activity is funded by the European Commission through the Erasmus+ programme under Key Action 1 (KA1): Learning Mobility of Individuals, and Activity: Mobility project for school education staff.

It should be noted that individuals cannot apply directly for grants and should, instead, contact their school/organisation. Interested schools/organisations providing preschool or primary education should apply to their relevant National Agencies. The list of eligible countries (the 28 EU member States, plus Iceland, Lichtenstein, Norway, Switzerland, Turkey and FYROM) and the contact details of the National Agencies can be found here: http://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/national-agencies_en.htm.

The deadline for applications is March 4th, 2015, 12:00 CET.

Guidelines

Information about the Erasmus+ Programme Guide and application procedure can be accessed at http://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/index_en.htm.

The steps to follow to apply for an Erasmus+ (School Education Staff Mobility) grant are:

1. First contact us by e-mail (see contact details below) to express your interest in our course and if you need assistance with the application procedure. By doing so we will reserve places for your school/organisation.
2. Register your school/organisation on the European Commission Authentication Service (ECAS), if not already registered.
3. Log in to the Participant Portal with your ECAS account details and register your organisation on the Unique Registration Facility (URF) to obtain your unique Participant Identification Code (PIC), if not already registered. The European Commission has produced a Participant Portal User Manual to help guide you through the process of registering on the portal. You may seek further assistance on this by contacting your National Agency.
4. Download the application form for School education staff mobility of the Erasmus+ Programme from the website of your National Agency.
5. Consult the application assistance form, giving useful guidelines on how to fill it in according to the Erasmus+ Programme Guide.
6. Please consult the description of the course (objectives, preparation, methodology, follow-up) on the website of the course <http://cls.ea.gr>, to make sure that the training activity fits well with the school's project described in the form.
7. Fill in and submit the application form on behalf of your school to your National Agency. The deadline is **4th of March 2015, 12:00 CET**.
8. Do not forget to inform us as soon as you get notified from your National Agency whether your grant application has been accepted or rejected.
9. After having submitted the funding application, fill in the registration form for the 'Creativity through Early Years Science Education' Summer School 2015 with your details. This is an individual registration form, so if there are more than one participants from the same school, each one will have to submit a separate registration form.

The website of the training course is: <http://cls.ea.gr>

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