



Introducing the ECOL Project: Ecological Education and Out-of-School Learning

The **ECOL Project** (2024-1-RO01-KA220-SCH-000243521) is a transformative initiative funded by the European Union, focusing on ecological education through innovative, engaging, and inclusive methods. With the involvement of six international partners, this project aims to empower students with the knowledge, skills, and awareness needed to address environmental challenges and foster sustainable practices.

Project Overview

The ECOL Project seeks to revolutionize ecological education by moving beyond traditional classroom settings and embracing **out-of-school learning environments**. The innovative use of **drama as a teaching method** will enhance the educational experience, making environmental learning interactive, practical, and meaningful. By focusing on fostering environmental literacy, social responsibility, and community involvement, ECOL is paving the way for a greener future.

Project Goals and Objectives

- 1. Environmental Literacy**
The project aims to equip students with action-oriented environmental literacy skills, enabling them to understand and actively address ecological issues in their communities.
 - 2. Social Participation**
By encouraging participation in real-world ecological activities, students will develop essential social skills and become active contributors to environmental protection efforts.
 - 3. Holistic Development**
ECOL emphasizes students' physical, cognitive, and social growth while cultivating a strong sense of environmental responsibility.
-

Planned Activities

The ECOL Project will span two years (October 2024 – September 2026), with diverse activities designed to engage students, educators, and communities:

1. Piloting Educational Practices

An eight-week piloting phase will take place in all participating schools. This phase focuses on activities conducted in outdoor environments, complemented by in-class sessions using drama and digital applications. Key topics include:

- **Tree planting** initiatives
- **Habitat protection** for animals
- Raising awareness about the role of **soil, forests, and oxygen** in sustaining life

2. International and Local Meetings

To foster collaboration and knowledge exchange, the project includes:

- **Transnational meetings (M1-M4):** Bringing together partners to share insights and coordinate project implementation.
- **Local dissemination events (E1-E7):** Engaging communities to share project outcomes and promote ecological awareness.

3. Mobility and Training Opportunities

- **Student mobility (C2):** Enabling students to experience ecological education in different cultural contexts.
- **Staff training (C1):** Equipping educators with the tools and knowledge to effectively implement the program.

Expected Outcomes and Deliverables

The ECOL Project will produce a range of resources and materials to support ecological education, including:

1. **Ecological Education Program:** A comprehensive curriculum designed for schools.
2. **Ecological Education Guide for Teachers:** Practical strategies and methodologies for teaching ecological topics effectively.
3. **Outdoor Ecological Education Interactive Book:** A dynamic resource for educators and students, promoting hands-on learning.

International Partnership

The project is coordinated by **Liceul "Profesor Mihai Dumitriu" Valea Lupului**, Romania, in collaboration with esteemed partners from Turkey, Croatia, Italy, and Portugal:

- **Afyon Kocatepe University** (Turkey)
 - **Esat Sivri Ortaokulu** (Turkey)
 - **Pamukkale University** (Turkey)
 - **Osnovna škola Prof. Filipa Lukasa** (Croatia)
 - **Istituto Comprensivo "Lombardo Radice-Pappalardo"** (Italy)
 - **Agrupamento de Escolas D. Sancho I** (Portugal)
-

Focus Areas

The ECOL Project addresses critical themes related to environmental and climate change education, including:

- Development of **green skills** among students and educators
 - Integration of **digital technologies** into ecological learning
 - Raising awareness about global sustainability challenges
-

Funding and Support

The ECOL Project is supported by a €250,000 grant from the European Union under the Erasmus+ program.

Conclusion

The ECOL Project is more than an educational initiative—it's a movement toward a sustainable future. By engaging students, educators, and communities in innovative ecological education, ECOL inspires action and responsibility toward protecting our planet.

For more information, visit [Valea Lupului High School's Website](#) or explore the project's [official page](#). Together, let's nurture a generation ready to lead the way in ecological stewardship!