

On 9 June, the *first dissemination event* of the European Union-funded project “ECA – Eco and Civic Awareness” took place at the “Meža Māja” Nature Education Centre in Ķemeri, Jūrmala. Teachers from across Latvia had the opportunity not only to learn about the results achieved within the project, but also to gain inspiration and take part in practical activities led by experts in the field.

The event was opened by Ieva Lanka, a representative of the Foundation for Environmental Education (FEE Latvia), who introduced participants to the newly developed “ECA – Eco and Civic Awareness” teaching materials in the fields of environmental and civic education and presented the results of their piloting process. At the end of the day, I. Lanka also introduced teachers to the online *Moodle* platform developed within the project.

During interactive workshops and outdoor activities, participants explored three key topics together with experts:

- Using Mobile Classroom tools and the potential of outdoor spaces in the learning process, demonstrating how different environments can become effective learning spaces.
- Creating natural meadows in school grounds together with students and using native meadow flower seeds as part of the learning process. The workshop was led by Agnese Priede, a certified expert in habitat and plant species conservation.
- Exploring the biodiversity of bog ecosystems – during a practical session in the Great Ķemeri Bog, teachers explored the ecosystem together with Agnese Balandina, an expert from the Nature Conservation Agency.



*Teachers exploring the Big Ķemeri bog. Workshop with A. Balandina.*



*Energizers before the presentation and workshop on ECA learning materials with Ieva Lanka.*



*The Flag of the Eco-Schools.*



*Teachers learning about the natural meadows and how to sustain them. Workshop with A. Priede.*

The *second project dissemination event* took place on 19–20 August at the “Gungas” Ethnographic Guest House in Ādaži Municipality. Over the course of two days, participants had the opportunity to explore the environmental and civic education teaching materials developed within the ECA project in greater depth, exchange experiences on their use in the learning process, and participate in practical and educational activities.

The second event was opened by Daniels Trukšāns, a representative of the Foundation for Environmental Education. Ieva Lanka, coordinator of the “ECA – Eco and Civic Awareness” project, then led a session on the content of the teaching materials developed within the project, their accessibility, and opportunities for integrating them into the learning process. During the practical part of the session, participants had the opportunity to try out the project's civic participation lesson materials and explore methods that can be used when working with students.

Later on the first day, participants focused on the relationship between civic participation and the preservation of cultural heritage. The association “Radošā apvienība DZĪVOTPRIEKS” led a creative team-building activity entitled “Civic Participation in the Preservation of Cultural Heritage”, providing a practical opportunity to explore how active participation can be linked to learning about and preserving cultural heritage.

The second day focused on exchanging experiences and the practical use of the project materials in schools. Project participants and teaching material testers Egija Tīse and Marta Krūmkalne shared their experience of using the materials to implement civic and environmental education in primary school. Kristīne Krīgere, a teacher at Zaķumuiža Primary School and author of one of the project lessons, presented a lesson plan and led the practical workshop “Making Environmentally Friendly Gifts”.

At the end of the event, learning moved outdoors. Together with nature researcher Uvis Suško, participants went on an educational hike, putting into practice the topics covered in the lesson plan “A Journey through the Garezeri Habitats” and discovering the natural values of the surrounding area.



*Teachers by the Eco-School flag at the end of the event.*



*U. Suško explaining the importance of Garezeru lake ecosystem.*



*Participant with the result of the lesson plan “Home, School and Environment as One” – a handmade recycled-paper postcard with embedded seeds.*



*E. Tīse and M. Krūmkalne share their experience of piloting the project materials.*



*Natural cosmetics workshop.*



*Teachers take part in the lesson “I Can Be Part of Change” and create a short play.*

In total, 76 teachers from more than 40 schools across Latvia participated in the two project dissemination events. Both events gave educators the opportunity not only to learn about the results of the “ECA – Eco and Civic Awareness” project, but also to test the developed teaching materials in practice, exchange experiences, and gain new ideas for integrating environmental and civic education into everyday teaching and learning.

The events were organised within the framework of the Erasmus+ Strategic Partnership for School Education project “ECA – Eco and Civic Awareness” (Project No. 2023-1-BG01-KA220-SCH-000160813).