

Creative Little Scientists Training Summer School Crete, Greece 30 June- 5 July 2013



Description

CREATIVE LITTLE SCIENTISTS INTERNATIONAL TRAINING ACTIVITY: Practices Fostering Creativity in Early Years Science and Mathematics Education

The training course will be based on the teacher education curriculum design principles and guidelines formulated in the EU-funded project *Creative Little Scientists* (www.creative-little-scientists.eu) and aims to promote creative approaches to science and mathematics learning in preschool and the first years of primary school. More specifically, the objectives of the training course specify that teachers 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, mathematics and creativity; act as innovators, researchers and reflective practitioners; and engage in communities and partnerships with other stakeholders (other teachers, parents, professional associations, experts, etc.).



Throughout the course teachers will experience inquiry-based and creative approaches in 3 different modes: a) as learners participating in science and mathematics inquiry-based activities fostering creativity; b) as teachers implementing inquiry-based and creative approaches in their science and mathematics 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 introducing the basics of curriculum design research and 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.

Finally, course participants will be introduced to learning repositories for sharing learning resources and will explore best practices of using digital technologies and resources to promote creative science learning. They will be given the opportunity and tools to design their own teaching materials using digital content resources from digital repositories and collections of science museums and centres.

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 Skinakas Observatory, and/or the Natural History Museum of Crete, and/or the Cretaquarium) will introduce participants to ways of using such settings with their students for creative science learning.

Participation in this event is funded by the European Commission through the Comenius and Grundtvig programmes: therefore interested teachers or trainers can simply contact their relevant National Agency. The list of eligible countries (EU ones plus Turkey, Croatia, FYROM) and the contact details of the National Agencies can be found here: http://ec.europa.eu/education/lifelong-learning-programme/doc1208_en.htm.

The deadline for applications is January 16th, 2013. So we strongly suggest that:

(a) You ask the members of your teams that are interested in early years science teaching to apply for Comenius (for school staff) and Grundtvig (for university/adult training staff) funding through your National Agencies, so that they can participate in the Training Summer School.

(b) You forward this opportunity to contacts that could be interested (e.g. external institutions involved in early years science education with which you are collaborating), letting them know about this training opportunity and inviting them to apply for funding.

For any further information please contact our colleagues from EA who are coordinating the organization of the event Dr. Fani Stylianidou (fani@ea.gr) and Dimitris Rossis (drossis@ea.gr).

Guidelines

Detailed Guidelines (from <http://ec.europa.eu/education/trainingdatabase/instructions%20for%20applying-EN.doc>)

How to apply for a grant:

1. Contact your own National Agency to obtain information on the grant application procedures and to check the deadline for submitting your application. National Agency contact details can be found at: http://ec.europa.eu/education/programmes/llp/national_en.html
2. Once you have selected the training event <http://ec.europa.eu/education/trainingdatabase/index.cfm?fuseaction=DisplayCourse&cid=35082>, contact the training organizer to check that places are still available. You may need to enclose confirmation of your provisional registration for the training with your grant application.
3. Send your grant application form to your National Agency following the defined application procedure.
4. Your National Agency will inform you if you have been awarded a grant, normally 7-10 weeks after the application deadline.
5. You should then immediately contact the training provider to formally register for the course or to confirm your pre-registration. If you have not been awarded a grant but made a pre-registration, it is your responsibility to cancel this.
6. From the moment your National Agency confirms that you have been awarded a grant, you have responsibilities towards the training provider. If you cancel your attendance at the event, you will be responsible for paying any cancellation fees which the training provider may claim. Only in very exceptional cases of force majeure (e.g. serious illness or death of the grant applicant or a family member) may your National Agency pay cancellation fees using grant money.
7. If the training organizers cancel the training at short notice, you may ask him/her for compensation if you have already incurred costs. Neither your National Agency nor the European Commission can be liable. However, in justified cases your National Agency may decide to cover these costs using the grant awarded. If your training event is cancelled, your National Agency may give you the opportunity to select another one (contact your Agency for further details).
8. At the end of the training event, the organizers must hold an evaluation session. Your opinion on the quality of the training is important; training which is considered to be of poor quality can be further investigated by the National Agency.
9. At the end of the training event, the organizers should distribute a course attendance certificate, which is proof of having carried out the training activity.
10. Within 30 calendar days after the end of the activity you must send the Final Report to your Agency. Approval of the Final Report is the basis for formal settlement of the awarded grant. The Final Report form is downloadable from your Agency's website.

Should you need any further information, please contact your National Agency.

The initial description of the event can be found here:

<http://ec.europa.eu/education/trainingdatabase/index.cfm?fuseaction=DisplayCourse&cid=35082>

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