



**CREATIVE LITTLE SCIENTISTS:
Enabling Creativity through Science and
Mathematics in Preschool and First Years of
Primary Education**

D6.3 Project Dissemination Materials

www.creative-little-scientists.eu



The project CREATIVE LITTLE SCIENTISTS has received funding from the European Union Seventh Framework Programme (FP7/2007-2013) under grant agreement n° 289081.



Project Information

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Creative Little Scientists: Enabling Creativity through Science and Mathematics in Preschool and First Years of Primary Education

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D6.3 Project Dissemination Materials

Contact Information

Coordinator:

Ellinogermaniki Agogi, Dr. Fani Stylianidou

Lead partners for this deliverable:

Ellinogermaniki Agogi, Dimitris Rossis and Dr. Fani Stylianidou

Website: <http://www.creative-little-scientists.eu>



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OVERVIEW OF DELIVERABLE

This deliverable (D6.3) presents the dissemination materials produced during the first six months of the project. It provides a description of all material, their intended target audience and how they can be used efficiently for dissemination purposes. The aim of dissemination materials produced during these six months is to raise awareness for the project, and ensure that activities and outcomes of the project are disseminated and exploited widely and efficiently to the intended target audiences. The actual material produced can be found as Appendices of this document as well as on the project website.



1. INTRODUCTION

The Dissemination and Exploitation Plan (D6.1) defines three phases for disseminating the project:

- Phase I – *Awareness building* (October 2011 – May 2012)
- Phase II – *Dissemination of results* (June 2012 – November 2013)
- Phase III – *Exploitation of the project's results* (December 2013 – March 2014)

Each phase includes different kinds of dissemination material and activities, specifically designed to reach the target audiences as they are identified in the Dissemination and Exploitation Plan (D6.1). The overall dissemination strategy begins by introducing the project widely in the first 8 months (October 2011-May 2012), so that the target audiences get familiarised with the project ; builds momentum in the following 18 months (June 2012-November 2013) as the project progresses through targeted dissemination opportunities; and culminates in the last 4 months (December 2011-March 2014) by organizing the Final Project Workshop to present and explain the research findings to an audience consisting of selected key players capable of mobilising their organisations and professional networks to exploit the project results.

Before any of the project's desk or in-field research takes place, dissemination involved communication to inform schools and other stakeholders about the project in order to increase their interest and motivate them to be actively involved in the field research. During this phase, the dissemination materials, along with the project website were the main dissemination channels to raise awareness on the work of the project and inform target audiences about the project's aims, objectives and expected outcomes.

Following the completion of the first dissemination phase at the end of May 2012, an easy-to-read brochure containing the main points of D2.2 Conceptual Framework targeted at teachers and school leaders will be produced. The brochure will be the first dissemination material of dissemination Phase II – *Dissemination of results* aiming to generate interest and increase potential participants for the in-field research conducted in WP3 and WP4.

All dissemination materials are produced by EA with input from all partners.

2. NEWSLETTER

The first newsletter for *Creative Little Scientists* was released at the end of December 2011 and included information about the Kick-Off meeting, the work that had been completed and what lied ahead for the project. As specified in the Dissemination and Exploitation Plan, the newsletter will circulate every four months containing up-to-date information on the project. The newsletter was sent to all partners' contacts and relevant networks and uploaded to the project website, where it was available for download to all visitors.



The next installment will come by the end of April 2012.

The newsletter can be found in Appendix A.

3. LEAFLET

A leaflet describing the *Creative Little Scientists* project objectives, providing general information about the project aims and vision, as well as publicising the project website was produced by EA in digital format for partners' easy printing and translation in the national languages. The English version was released on 16 January 2012 and all other language versions followed on 14 March 2012. Updated and revised versions of the leaflet will be provided by EA (with input from content developing partners) as the project progresses.

The leaflet served as the main dissemination tool for the project in all events that Creative Little Scientists partners participated during the first six months of the project. Localised versions were handed out in national conferences and events in the nine participating countries.

The English version of the leaflet can be found in Appendix B.

4. POSTER

A poster summarizing the aims and objectives of the project was produced at the beginning of April as per the request of UEF to use in a dissemination event in Finland. Alternate versions of the poster will be produced in all languages represented in the consortium to be used in similar dissemination activities.

The poster can be found in Appendix C.

5. BROCHURE

As soon as D2.2 Conceptual Framework was released, EA presented the consortium with an idea of producing a multiple page brochure summarising the main points of the framework in an easy-to-read format for practitioners and school leaders. During the second project meeting in Paris partners agreed that such a brochure will serve the project well and generate interest for the upcoming research stages. This brochure will prove very important in both disseminating the first project results, as well as increasing participation of practitioners in the field research. It will be the first material of the second dissemination phase (June 2012 – November 2013), presenting an easy-to-read "snapshot" of the project's findings as documented in the Conceptual Framework, while at the same time offering valuable information on creativity, science and mathematics in the Early Years and first years of Primary Education to teachers.



APPENDIX A: DECEMBER 2011 NEWSLETTER



Newsletter December 2011

Creative Little Scientists Kick-Off Meeting

The Kick-Off meeting of *Creative Little Scientists* took place on 6th and 7th October 2011 at Ellinogermaniki Agogi in Athens, Greece. Partners from 8 European countries attended the meeting and started work towards building a common vision for the project and its deliverables. They reviewed managerial and financial issues and decided on the working activities for the next six months.



Decisions made at the Kick-Off meeting concern the coordination of work with regards the development of the project's conceptual framework (as part of Work Package 2), the means to be used for the internal communication of the consortium, and the general principles guiding the project's dissemination strategy.

At the end of the first day of the meeting, the hosts organised a dinner at a Greek

restaurant, giving partners the chance to get to know each other and start building a relationship of mutual trust and respect, in a relaxed environment while savouring traditional Greek dishes.



Deliverables completed by the end of December 2011

Following the successful organisation of the Kick-Off meeting and until the end of December 2011, four deliverables belonging to three different Work Packages (WPs) have been completed. At the end of October 2011, the Project Management Plan (D1.1) was released as part of work in WP1, alongside the Guidelines for the Background Literature Reviews (D2.1) in WP2. Two more deliverables were ready at the start of December, the Dissemination and Exploitation Plan (D6.1) and the Project Website (D6.2).



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Project website

www.creative-little-scientists.eu

The project website went online at the beginning of December and includes information about all aspects of the project (summary, objectives, outputs, news and dissemination material). The website will be updated as the project evolves and will serve as the main dissemination tool for the project. Through it, stakeholders interested in following the work of the project can subscribe to receive regular newsletters.

Work in progress

In addition to the above mentioned completed deliverables, a number of other tasks and deliverables are in progress.

Conceptual framework

During the first three months of the project, most of the work carried out by all partners has been towards defining a clear and detailed conceptual framework to underpin the issues at stake in the project. This framework will identify the parameters which need to be addressed in all stages of the research. The first drafts of the background literature reviews of the separate conceptual and/or thematic areas addressed by the project (i.e. creativity, science and mathematics education in early years, teacher training, and comparative education) have been released for comments by the partners. The final versions of these will consist the building

blocks of the Conceptual Framework, which will be ready by the end of March 2012.

Dissemination material

Following this newsletter, the first dissemination material generated by the project will be released. At the beginning of January 2012, a leaflet will be available to endorse the project to interested parties, including teachers and school administrators, who are stakeholders integral to the next stages of the project. This leaflet, as well as a project brochure to be released by the end of March 2012, and most dissemination materials will be produced in English and then translated into all partner languages.

Next consortium meeting

The next meeting for *Creative Little Scientists* will be held at the Cité des Sciences et de l'Industrie in Paris, France on 22nd and 23rd March 2012.

The Creative Little Scientists consortium would like to wish you a very happy Season's Greetings and a healthy and prosperous New Year.



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APPENDIX B: ENGLISH LEAFLET

Creative Little Scientists

Enabling Creativity through Science and Mathematics in Preschool and First Years of Primary Education



The Creative Little Scientists project is supported financially by the European Commission within the Seventh Framework Programme



"The principle goal of education is to create people who are capable of doing new things, not simply of repeating what other generations have done – people who are creative, inventive and discoverers."

Jean Piaget

"Creativity is contagious. Pass it on."

Albert Einstein

Science and mathematics education, creativity and innovation are areas equally recognized as important for Europe, and their strengthening as a vital priority. The Creative Little Scientists project constitutes a timely contribution to a better understanding, at the European level, of the potential available on the common ground that science and mathematics education in pre-school and early primary school (up to the age of eight) can share with creativity.

Project Aims

The Creative Little Scientists consortium comprising expertise of the highest level and quality in the areas of science and mathematics education in early childhood, creativity in education, cognitive psychology, comparative educational studies, and teacher training has set as **overall aims**:

- To provide Europe with a clear picture of existing and possible practices, as well as their implications and the related opportunities and challenges, in the intersection of science and mathematics learning, and development of creative skills in pre-school and the early years of primary education (up to the pupil age of eight); and
- To transform the knowledge generated through this into policy guidelines, as well as guidelines, curricula and exemplary materials for relevant teacher training in the various European contexts.

Creative Little Scientists

Enabling Creativity through Science and Mathematics in Preschool and First Years of Primary Education

Project Objectives

To achieve these aims the Creative Little Scientists consortium has designed and is carrying out research, which integrates elements of comparative research, in-depth field study and curriculum design. This research is operationally defined in terms of the following specific objectives:

- To define a clear and detailed conceptual framework comprising the issues at stake and the parameters which need to be addressed in all stages of the research.
- To map and assess comparatively existing approaches to science and mathematics education in pre-school and first years of primary school (up to the pupil age of eight) in the nine sample countries, highlighting instances of, or recording the absence of, practices marrying science and mathematics learning, teaching and assessment with creativity.
- To provide a deeper analysis of the implications of the mapped and compared approaches which will reveal the details of current practice and provide insights into whether and how children's creativity is fostered and the emergence of appropriate learning outcomes in science and mathematics is achieved.
- To propose a set of curriculum design principles as concrete guidelines for European initial teacher training and continuous professional development programmes, which will foster creativity-based approaches to science and mathematics learning in preschool and the first years of primary education.
- To exploit the results of the research at the European level as well as at national and institutional level, making them easily available to educational policy makers and other stakeholders, especially teacher training policy makers and institutions. This work will start with a special focus on teacher training, and will be completed through the synthesis of all research outputs and their transformation into an accessible Final Report on Creativity and Science and Mathematics Education for Young Children and a concrete Set of Recommendations to Policy Makers and Stakeholders.
- To disseminate the messages and outputs of the project widely in Europe and beyond through targeted communication actions addressing all stakeholders (teachers, school administrators, teacher trainers, curriculum designers, policy makers, parents).



Project Number

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Programme / Action Line / Project Type

FP7-Science-in-Society-2011-1 / Collaborative Project / Young people and science

Full Title

Creative Little Scientists: Enabling Creativity through Science and Mathematics in Preschool and First Years of Primary Education

Area

Research and Coordination Actions on New Methods in Science Education

Topic

SIS.2011.2.2.3.1 Science and mathematics related activities carried out in pre-school and in the first years of primary schools: their link to the development of creative skills

Start date - End date

01/10/2011 - 31/03/2014

Target groups

science and mathematics teachers and school leaders; teacher trainers; policy makers; curriculum designers

Key words

preschool education; lower primary education; science education; mathematics education; creativity; inquiry-based teaching; teacher training; comparative research

Website

www.creative-little-scientists.eu

Project Coordinator

Dr Fani Stylianidou
Ellinogermaniki Agogi
Dimitriou Panagea Str.
GR-153 51 Pallini, Greece
Tel: +30 210 8176788
Fax: +30 210 6032554
Email: fani@ea.gr

Project Participants

- Ellinogermaniki Agogi
www.ea.gr
- Institute of Education, University of London
www.ioe.ac.uk
- Open University
www.open.ac.uk
- Bishop Grosseteste University College Lincoln
www.bishopg.ac.uk
- University of Eastern Finland
www.uef.fi
- Artevelde University College
www.arteveldehs.be
- Goethe University Frankfurt
www.uni-frankfurt.de
- University of Minho
www.uminho.pt
- National Institute for Laser, Plasma and Radiation Physics
www.inflpr.ro
- Université de Picardie Jules Verne
www.u-picardie.fr
- University of Malta
www.um.edu.mt

APPENDIX C: FINNISH POSTER

creative little
SCIENTISTS

Lapset luovina luonnontutkijoina

Kekseliäisyyden edistäminen esi- ja alkuopetuksen luonnontieteen ja matematiikan opetuksessa

"Kasvatuksen ensisijainen tavoite on kasvatkaa ihmisiä, jotka pystyvät luomaan uusia asioita, eivätkä alnoastaan toista edeltisten sukupolvien aikaansaannoksia. Tarvitaan luovia, kekseliäitä ja omaperäisiä ihmisiä."
Jean Piaget

Hankkeen tavoitteet ja toimenpiteet

- selvitetään eri maissa käytettäviä luonnontieteen ja matematiikan opetuksen käytänteitä ja opetusmenetelmiä esi- ja alkuopetuksessa
- analysoidaan miten käytetyt lähestymistavat edistävät lasten luovuutta ja millaisia oppimistuloksia niillä saavutetaan
- tutkimusten tulosten perusteella laaditaan suosituksia opettajankoulutuksiköille ja opetussuunnitelmien laatijoille sekä valmistetaan luovuutta edistäviä materiaaleja opettajankoulutukseen ja opettajien täydennyskoulutukseen
- välitetään tutkimuksen tuloksia laajasti eri tahoille (opettajat, koulujen johtajat, opettajankouluttajat, vanhemmat ja opetussuunnitelman laatijat) sekä edistetään yhteistä keskustelua pienten lasten luonnontieteen oppimisesta

Yhteyshenkilöt:


Opetus- ja kulttuuriministeriö
Sovelletun kasvatustieteen ja opettajankoulutuksen osasto
PL 111, 00101 Järvenpää

Sari Huru-Nuolinen
sari.huru-nuolinen@ue.fi
050 4422 356

 

Hankkeeseen on mukana 11 partneria yhdeksältä Euroopan maalta.
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Hanketta saa rahoitusta Euroopan unionin seitsemänneksi puiteohjelmasta.




