



PRESS RELEASE

EMBRACE

FOSTERING INCLUSION OF CHILDREN WITH INTELLECTUAL DISABILITIES IN EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION AND CARE (ECEC)

Brussels, 27 March 2023

EMBRACE is an Erasmus+ KA2 project, running between January 2022 and December 2023 with the objective to foster the inclusion of children with intellectual disabilities in early childhood education and care (ECEC), and thus contributing to its quality. The partner organisations are from Belgium (EASPD), Greece (KMOP and RDPSEA), Poland (Teatr Grodzki), Cyprus (Emphasys Centre) and North Macedonia (KMOP Skopje).

To reach this objective, the partnership is developing four Project Results, that will be available in English, Greek, Polish, and Macedonian:

- 1. A transnational Report** on looking at the different countries involved in the project with a focus on the inclusion of children with intellectual disabilities in the ECEC; the training opportunities for ECEC staff; and the strategies/actions to increase the engagement of children, parents, staff and the whole community in the inclusive process.
- 2. An E-learning course** addressed to ECEC staff, composed of four modules about: the ECEC philosophy; the EU quality framework for ECEC; understanding cognitive and social development in children with intellectual disabilities; and the key principles in working with children with intellectual disabilities in ECEC settings.
- 3. An Inclusion Handbook**, which will showcase activities that ECEC staff can take to foster the inclusion for children with intellectual disabilities, through the engagement of children, parents, and other community members. Currently, partners are collecting the best practices of each participant country.
- 4. An Awareness-raising toolkit**, which will give ECEC staff effective resources to raise awareness of the importance of inclusion of children with intellectual disabilities in ECEC, as well as to address the limited understanding of the needs of children with intellectual disabilities among the key stakeholders.

Conference in Brussels

On the 1st December 2023, the project will end with a Conference in Brussels to raise awareness on the project objectives and to disseminate and discuss its results.

World Conference on Early Childhood Care and Education

EMBRACE is in line of the conclusions drafted on the World Conference on Early Childhood Care and Education organized by the UNESCO last November 2022 in Tashkent, Uzbekistan which report stated that “well-trained, professionally qualified and well-motivated teachers and education personnel (...) are vital in supporting the achievement of SDG Target 4.2” [ensuring that all girls and boys have access to quality early childhood development, care and pre-primary education so that they are ready for primary education by 2030]. In this line, the European Quality Framework for ECEC highlights the importance of qualified staff through continuing trainings to develop core competences and inclusive professional practices. Additionally, Member States are invited to ensure well-trained staff by the Council Recommendation on High-Quality Early Childhood Education and Care Systems.

Additional resources

- [EMBRACE Facebook Page](#)
- [World Conference on ECCE Report](#)
- [Council Recommendation on High-Quality Early Childhood Education and Care Systems](#)
- [Toolkit for inclusive early childhood education and care](#)

Social media:



@embrace_erasmus



@embraceeproject



www.embrace.project.eu

