

EMBRACE

*Fostering inclusion of children with intellectual disabilities in
ECEC*

Digital Multiplier Event

Project Result 2: E-learning Course

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Introduction



The overall objective of the EMBRACE project is to contribute to the enhancement of the quality of early childhood education and care and promote the inclusion of children with intellectual disabilities. To achieve that, the partnership developed an E-learning course targeted at ECEC professionals.



<https://project-embrace.eu/elearning-course/>




E-Learning Course

Structure of the course





The e-learning course responds to the evidenced need for training and education in relation to intellectual disability in the ECEC sector and systematic building of this level of capacity.

Unlike existing training opportunities, that have a predominant focus on strengthening knowledge, this e-learning course fosters ECEC staff's inclusive values, attitudes and skills based on the rights-based social model of disability.

The course was designed, developed and piloted with ECEC staff, with the aim to strengthen their attitudes, knowledge, values, and skills that are central to ensuring that ECEC settings are welcoming and inclusive of children with intellectual disabilities.

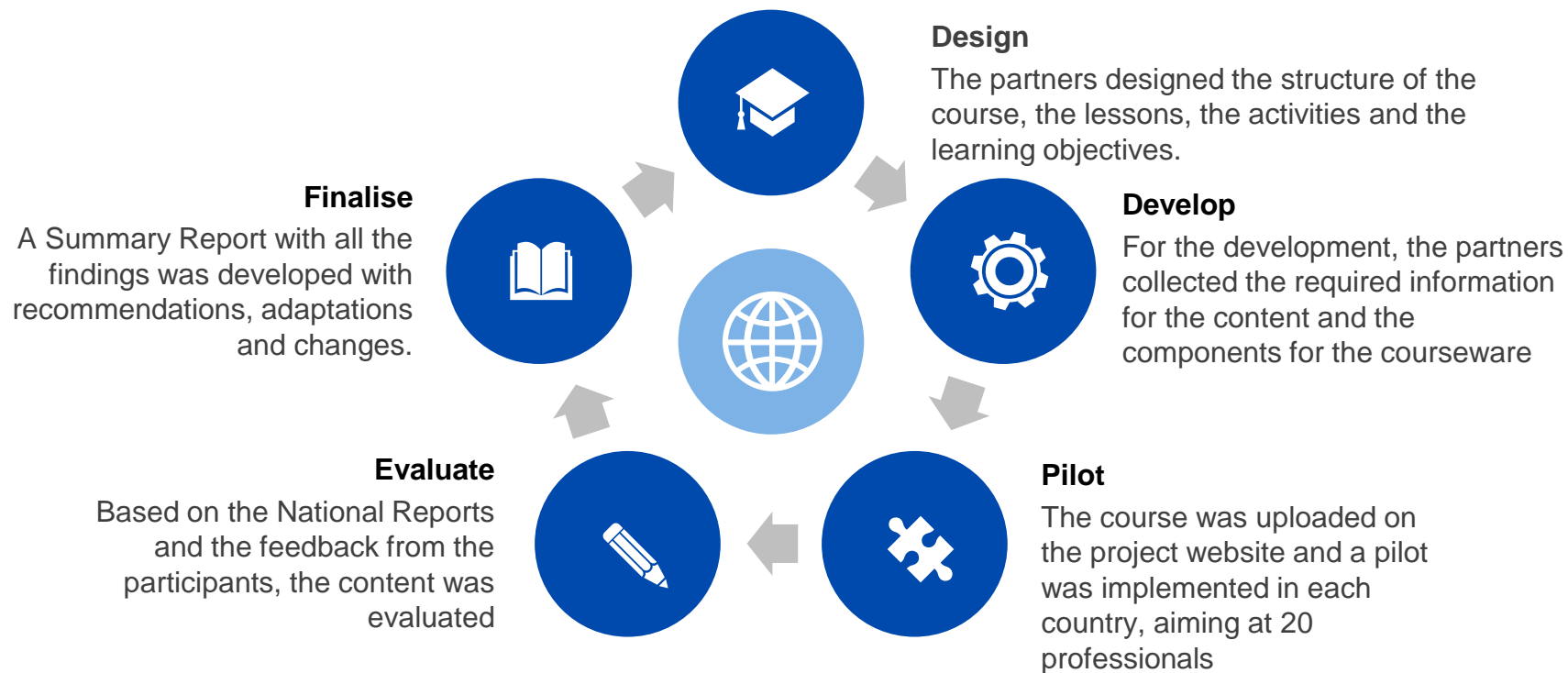


<https://project-embrace.eu/>

			
English	English	English	English
<p>MODULE 1: INTRODUCTION TO THE EU QUALITY FRAMEWORK FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION AND CARE SYSTEMS</p>	<p>MODULE 2: INTRODUCTION TO THE EU QUALITY FRAMEWORK FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION AND CARE, AND OTHER KEY EU POLICIES IN THE SECTOR</p>	<p>MODULE 3: UNDERSTANDING COGNITIVE AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT IN CHILDREN WITH INTELLECTUAL DISABILITIES, INCLUDING AUTISM, DOWN SYNDROME, FRAGILE X SYNDROME AND WILLIAMS SYNDROME</p>	<p>MODULE 4: KEY PRINCIPLES IN WORKING WITH CHILDREN WITH INTELLECTUAL DISABILITIES IN ECEC SETTINGS</p>

Steps for the Course

Development and Pilot in Each Country



Timeline

Timeline for the Development of the E-learning Course



By the end of 2022, the partners developed their content which was then uploaded into the project website as an e-learning course

Based on the data from the Questionnaires and the National Reports, a Summary Report with the main findings, recommendations and adaptations was developed

Sept' 22

Dec' 22

July' 23

Sept' 23

Oct' 23

By the end of September 2022, the partners received guidelines on the the course's structure



By the end of July 2023, the partners implemented their national pilots, collected feedback and developed their national reports.



The partners worked on their national versions and made the adaptations based on the participants' feedback.

Modules

The e-Learning course consists of **four** Modules:



Module 1

The core philosophy that underpins inclusive early childhood education and care systems

Module 3

Understanding cognitive and social development in children with intellectual disabilities. (Autism, Down's syndrome, Fragile X syndrome and Williams syndrome)

Module 2

Introduction to the EU quality framework for early childhood education and care, and other key EU policies in the sector

Module 4

Key principles in working with children with intellectual disabilities in ECEC settings

Pilots in Each Country

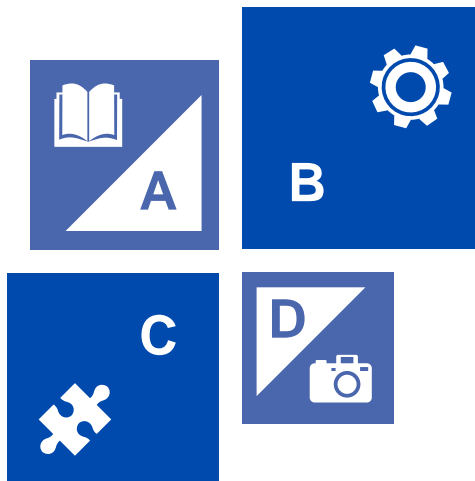
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Pilots

The pilot events took place in North Macedonia, Belgium, Cyprus, Greece and Poland, involving various participants from different educational backgrounds, mainly from the ECEC system.

Achievements

The pilot implementations of the EMBACE online course in the five countries showcased achievements in knowledge dissemination, engagement, and enthusiasm from participants.



Participants

The participants were stakeholders, ECEC and education professionals. In total, 127 professionals participated at the pilots of the E-Learning Course.

Fine-Tuning

Based on the Evaluation Questionnaires filled by the participants and their feedback, the course was fine-tuned

Feedback

Quotes from the pilot participants

"The training course will support my professional growth and networking with stakeholders at the national and local level".



"It is important that the development of education integrates many people. It is encouraging for teachers"



"Interesting discussions with colleagues, technological advances proposed which will allow a more inclusive education"



"Knowledge in the work of a teacher is an essential part of the workshop".



"The small number of participants helped in maintaining a conversation and being able to receive a thorough answer to our questions."



"I gained a deeper understanding of how to identify and support children with different needs in my classroom".



"The eLearning platform is complete, flexible, easy-to-use. Very positive impressions".



"Working with children with disabilities can be both challenging and rewarding. We need more events like this to understand social inclusion's complexity better and create safe environments where children can thrive"

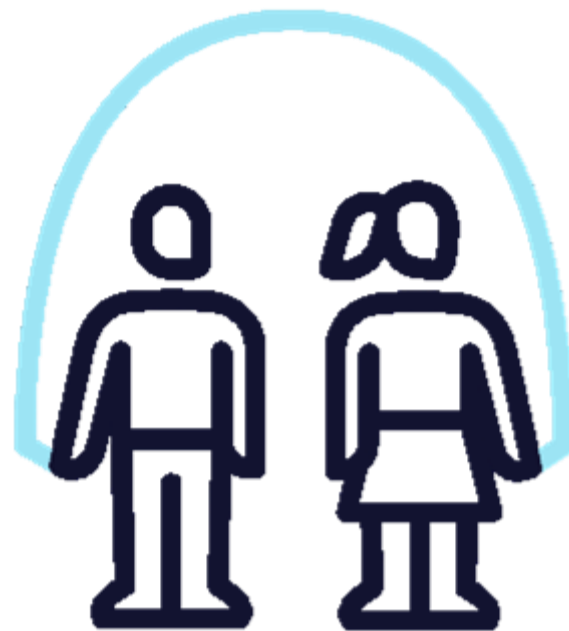


Summary

The EU Erasmus+ project EMBRACE has successfully achieved its goal of promoting inclusive education for children with intellectual disabilities in the early childhood education and care (ECEC) system. The pilot implementation of the EMBRACE online course in five different countries showcased positive outcomes and valuable feedback for improvement.

The key achievements and successes in each country were evident, with participants expressing appreciation for the comprehensive content and the potential benefits of the course for inclusive education. The positive feedback from participants demonstrates the project's effectiveness in disseminating knowledge and engaging professionals in the promotion of inclusive early childhood education and care.

The feedback from participants in Poland, Belgium, Cyprus, and Greece further reinforces the positive impact of the EMBRACE platform and e-learning course. Participants praised the course's structure, relevance, and practicality, suggesting some minor improvements for enhancing the learning experience.



Conclusions

**01**

Achievements

Successfully achieved its goal of promoting inclusive education for children with intellectual disabilities in the early childhood education and care (ECEC) system

02

Pilots

The workshops and events in each country fostered collaborative learning environments, enabling participants to gain valuable knowledge, skills, and attitudes in promoting social inclusion.

03

Challenges

technical issues, language barriers, and time constraints. However, these challenges did not overshadow the success of the events, and the feedback received highlighted the participants' willingness to further engage in inclusive education and disseminate project results.

04

Fine-Tuning

By continuously fine-tuning the course based on individual responses and incorporating recommendations, the EMBRACE project can further contribute to creating inclusive and supportive learning environments for children with intellectual disabilities in the ECEC system.

Thank you



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