



Fostering inclusion of children with intellectual disabilities in ECEC

Final Conference

PR4: AWARENESS-RAISING TOOLKIT

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AWARENESS-RAISING TOOLKIT: INCLUSION OF CHILDREN WITH INTELLECTUAL DISABILITIES IN EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION AND CARE

What is the TOOLKIT?

- ✓ The TOOLKIT will help nurseries and kindergartens address the limited understanding of the needs of children with intellectual disabilities among the key stakeholders, as well as the existing stereotypes and prejudices towards them, which are among the key barriers to their ECEC integration.
- ✓ It includes useful and effective resources for raising awareness of the importance of inclusion of children with intellectual disabilities in early childhood education and care.



STEP-BY-STEP METHODOLOGY



01

Development of the content

The content is separated into 3 chapters: 1) Dissemination strategies 2) **Children** 3) **Adults**. Each set includes guidelines and various types of resources i.e., posters, leaflets and short videos.

02

Piloting and Evaluation

The partners will pilot-test the toolkit to 4 kindergartens to determine its effectiveness.

03

Finalization, Publication and Dissemination

Finalization of the toolkit and dissemination through websites, social media and networks, direct mailing or meetings with selected stakeholders

CHAPTERS OF THE TOOLKIT

CHAPTER 1

Dissemination
strategies and
guidelines on
how to use
them

CHAPTER 2

Children with
and without
intellectual
disabilities

CHAPTER 3

Adults
including
ECEC teachers
and parents

CHAPTERS OF THE TOOLKIT

CHAPTER 1

Dissemination
strategies and
guidelines on
how to use
them

Chapter 1 is subdivided in 3 topics:

1. Objectives of the toolkit
2. Target groups
3. Things an ECEC educator will need to initiate a campaign/ activity/ event addressed to parents, school leaders, other ECEC educators etc.

CHAPTERS OF THE TOOLKIT

CHAPTER 1

Dissemination
strategies and
guidelines on
how to use
them

Topic 3: Things you will need:

Step 1: Dissemination Materials

- ✓ Creation of visual materials to either disseminate through your social media or give to the parents, teachers etc., when they visit your kindergarten

Step 2: Social Media campaigns

- ✓ Exploitation of the various social media platforms to convey your message e.g., use of emojis, simple language depending on the target group, “do’s” and “don’ts” when using social media



CHAPTERS OF THE TOOLKIT

CHAPTER 1

Dissemination
strategies and
guidelines on
how to use
them

Topic 3: Things you will need:

Step 3: Identify your relevant stakeholders

- ✓ Creation of a list of the audience you wish to target and invitation letters (formal & informal) to be sent via email to the stakeholders

Step 4: Create your campaign!

- ✓ Implementation of the aforementioned steps and organization of the activity/ workshop/ initiative/ seminar



CHAPTERS OF THE TOOLKIT

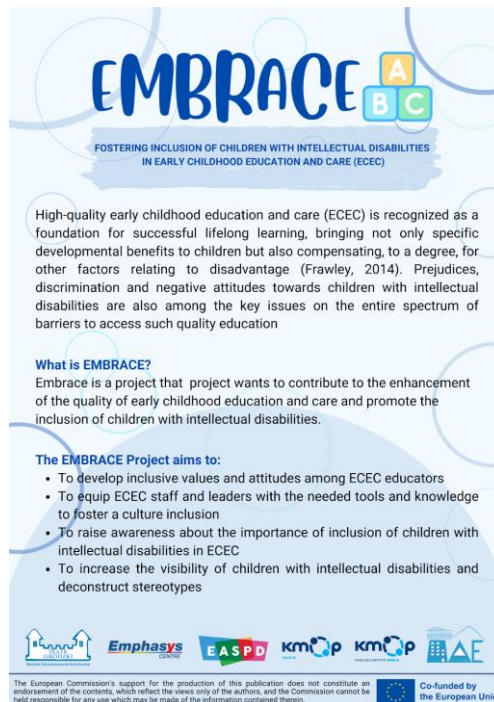
Topic 3: Things you will need:

Step 1: Dissemination Materials

Step 2: Social Media posts

Step 3: Identify your relevant stakeholders

Step 4: Create your campaign!

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

High-quality early childhood education and care (ECEC) is recognized as a foundation for successful lifelong learning, bringing not only specific developmental benefits to children but also compensating, to a degree, for other factors relating to disadvantage (Frawley, 2014). Prejudices, discrimination and negative attitudes towards children with intellectual disabilities are also among the key issues on the entire spectrum of barriers to access such quality education

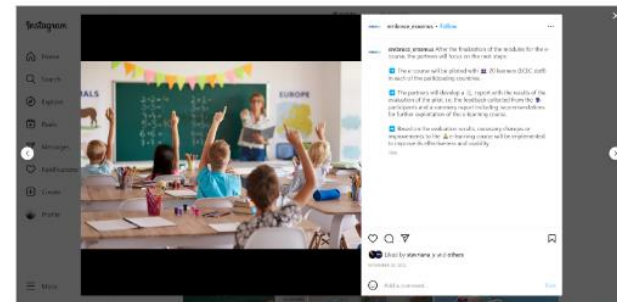
What is EMBRACE?
Embrace is a project that project wants to contribute to the enhancement of the quality of early childhood education and care and promote the inclusion of children with intellectual disabilities.

The EMBRACE Project aims to:

- To develop inclusive values and attitudes among ECEC educators
- To equip ECEC staff and leaders with the needed tools and knowledge to foster a culture inclusion
- To raise awareness about the importance of inclusion of children with intellectual disabilities in ECEC
- To increase the visibility of children with intellectual disabilities and deconstruct stereotypes

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After the finalization of the modules for the e-course, the partners will focus on the next steps:

➡ The e-course will be piloted with 20 learners (ECEC staff) in each of the participating countries.

➡ The partners will develop a report with the results of the evaluation of the pilot, i.e. the feedback collected from the participants and a summary report including recommendations for further exploitation of the e-learning course.

➡ Based on the evaluation results, necessary changes or improvements to the e-learning course will be implemented to improve its effectiveness and usability

CHAPTERS OF THE TOOLKIT

CHAPTER 2

Children with
and without
intellectual
disabilities

Chapter 2 consists of:

- ✓ Educational materials i.e., posters, brochures and videos to facilitate discussions and learning experiences for children with and without intellectual disabilities.
- ✓ These materials address several significant themes e.g., sharing, inclusivity, diversity, disability awareness.
- ✓ 3 posters
- ✓ 3 brochures
- ✓ 3 videos



CHAPTERS OF THE TOOLKIT

CHAPTER 2

Children with
and without
intellectual
disabilities

Poster Topics:

- ✓ "Sharing is caring" - promoting sharing and turn-taking skills
- ✓ How to make your classroom or school more inclusive
- ✓ Games and activities that promote inclusion and understanding of disabilities

Brochure Topics:

- ✓ Understanding different disabilities such as physical, sensory, and intellectual disabilities
- ✓ Celebrating differences and embracing diversity
- ✓ Making Our World Accessible: The importance of accessibility in creating an inclusive environment



CHAPTERS OF THE TOOLKIT

CHAPTER 2

Children with
and without
intellectual
disabilities

Example materials:



Let's watch a short video!



CHAPTERS OF THE TOOLKIT

CHAPTER 3

Adults
including
ECEC teachers
and parents

Chapter 3 consists of:

- ✓ Educational materials i.e., posters, brochures and videos to aid the integration and inclusion of children with intellectual disabilities within the kindergarten setting, by upgrading the knowledge of parents and educators
- ✓ These materials address several significant themes e.g., sharing, inclusivity, diversity, disability awareness.
- ✓ 3 posters
- ✓ 3 brochures
- ✓ 3 videos



CHAPTERS OF THE TOOLKIT

CHAPTER 3

Adults
including
ECEC teachers
and parents

Poster Topics:

- ✓ Strategies for adapting activities to include children with intellectual disabilities
- ✓ Tips for creating an inclusive environment, including accessibility and sensory considerations
- ✓ The role of peer support and mentorship in promoting inclusion

Brochure Topics:

- ✓ Assistive technologies that help people with disabilities
- ✓ How to promote empathy for children and respect towards others who have disabilities
- ✓ Advocating for inclusive policies and practices in schools and other community setting

CHAPTERS OF THE TOOLKIT

CHAPTER 3

Adults
including
ECEC teachers
and parents

Example materials:



Learn more about the EMBRACE project!

Contact Information

For more information about the EMBRACE project you can visit our:

- www.embraceproject.eu
- [@embraceproject](https://twitter.com/embraceproject)
- [@embrace_erasmus](https://twitter.com/embrace_erasmus)

"The training and education of ECEC staff is central to the quality of ECEC provision"

"Many children with intellectual disabilities still lack ECEC practitioners who are adequately trained and equipped to meet their needs"

EMBRACE ABC
Fostering inclusion of children with Intellectual Disabilities in Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC)

Promoting empathy towards children with disabilities



What is it?

Empathy is the ability to understand and share another person's feelings and put yourself in someone else's shoes, to feel and understand what they might be going through.

According to scientists, there is a difference between two types of empathy:

Cognitive empathy, often called "perspective taking," refers to our ability to identify and understand other people's emotions.

Affective empathy refers to the sensations and feelings we get in response to others' emotions; this can include mirroring what that person is feeling or just feeling stressed when we detect another's fear or anxiety.

Unlock your potential for creating an inclusive environment for children with disabilities



PILOT TESTING

- **5 partner countries**
- **23 kindergartens in total**
- Positive feedback about the Awareness-Campaign ToolKit
- Participants expressed strong enthusiasm and appreciation for the ToolKit
- Participants expressed positive feedback about the brochures, posters and videos that can be used for them
- Participants provided detailed feedback about the three chapters of the ToolKit
- Participants expressed great appreciation for the guidance on planning and implementing activities to promote events and gatherings within the school, especially through the social media



PILOT TESTING

Cyprus

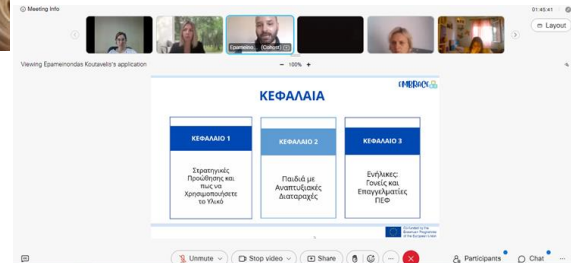


- 5 partner countries
- 23 kindergartens in total

Belgium



Greece



Poland

Community Kindergarten in Jurków



Look at the child's potential, their talents and not just their shortcomings and deficiencies. This helps to create an inclusive environment. The workshops - the EMBRACE project - help to do this



North Macedonia



Thank you!

*You can find the TOOLKIT and all
PROMOTIONAL MATERIALS on our website!*



www.project-embrace.eu



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