

EOE network Conference 2026 - Outdoor Education in the Context of European Integration

Connecting and Sharing - Outdoor Education as a Tool for Social and Cultural Integration

5–8 October 2026

[ČŠOD Bohinj, Ribčev Laz 63, 4265 Bohinjsko Jezero, Slovenia](#)

PROGRAMME DRAFT

Monday, 5 October 2026				
10.00 – 13.00	Welcome and registration			
14.00 – 14.30	Official opening of the conference Opening speech EOE chair Mayor of Bohinj ČŠOD director			
14.30 – 15.00	Keynote speaker, Thomas Pritzkow or Florin Popa , Directorate-General for Education, Youth, Sport and Culture, European commission			
15.00 – 15.30	Coffee break			
15.30 – 17.30	Oral presentations – Parallel Sessions			
	Lecture room Moder:	Lecture room Moder:	Lecture room Moder:	
15.30 – 16.00	Gary Reid , Loretto School, United Kingdom, Scotland A critical analysis on Outdoor learning integration in Secondary Schools in Scotland and Switzerland	Barbara Kežar, Matija Pogačnik , ČŠOD, Slovenia Outdoor Education Without Borders: Mobility as a Pathway to European Collaboration	Kristina Fratrović, Snjezana Markovic-Zoraja , Croatia Interrelationships in Nature	
16.00 – 16.30	Spela Klofutar , Zavod Špelnice, Slovenia Family Nature Exploration through the Lens of Plant Blindness and Early Scientific Concepts, an Analysis	Frances Harris , University of Hertfordshire, United Kingdom Learning Journeys in the Woods: Understanding Children's Diverse Educational Experiences in Forest School	Rosa Buonanno , Italy Cultivating Plant Awareness through Outdoor Education: A School Garden Experience in Primary School	
16.30 – 17.00	Peter Wilde , bsj Marburg, Germany Exploring the world and yourself in Mountain Adventure & Digital Storytelling	Tina Križnar , Biotehniški center Naklo, Slovenia Practical Training in the Nockberge Biosphere Reserve	Barbora Karpišková , Lipka – školské zařízení pro environmentální vzdělávání Brno, příspěvková organizace, Czech Republic Digital Ecology in Practice: A Synthesis of Czech Methodologies for Sustainable AI Education	
17.00 – 17.30	Mareile Betz , MTU, Kerry, Tralee, Ireland "What if I don't have a world to grow up in?" Posthuman Pedagogies as a way forward in Irish Climate Action and Sustainable Development Education	Selima Negros, Annalisa Silvanini, Francesca Domenichella, Irene Corazza, Marco Marcassa , Italy Circle time at forest school: shared practice or pluralistic concept?	Robert Franjić , ČŠOD, Slovenia Survival week - nature based outdoor program	
17.30 – 18.30	EOE Annual General Meeting			
18.00 – 19.30	Time for Dinner			
20.00 – 21.00	Special interest group meeting and Networking, introducing, planing 1. Higher Education 2. Outdoor centres 3. Early Years Education Outdoors 4. Inclusion & Diversity (breaking barriers) 5. Researchers			

Tuesday, 6 October 2026				
7.30 – 8.30	Time for breakfast			
9.00 – 9.30	Ministry of Education Slovenia			
9.30 – 10.00	Coffee break			
10.00 – 12.00	Oral presentations – Parallel Sessions			
10.00 – 10.30	Tomás Aylward, Gerard O Carroll , Munster Technological University, Ireland Erwin Borremans , Live, Finland Empowering Abilities: Adventure Education and Experiential Learning for All - A case study from Erasmus+	Verity Howell , United Kingdom How Refusal Could Be the Greatest Win: reflections on working with trauma-impacted children in care	Živa Pečavar , ČŠOD, Slovenia Promoting outdoor learning through seminars for teachers	Virginia Gómez Barrios , Universidad Politécnica de Madrid, Spain Educational and research expeditions as a tool for training and integral development of students
10.30 – 11.00	Kit Sattler , University of Edinburgh, United Kingdom Navigating the Unseen: Experiences of Individuals with Chronic Illnesses and Invisible Disabilities in the Outdoors	Rebecca Hordern , United Kingdom Young people's views of positive relationships with teachers when outdoors and the impact on engagement with learning	Ilona Tandzogskeiene-Bielaglove , Lithuania Exploring Outdoor Education Practices in Schools: An Ethnographic Study of Teachers Implementing PhenoBL	Tadej Debevec , University of Ljubljana, Faculty of Sport, Slovenia Approaches to Outdoor Education at the Faculty of Sport, University of Ljubljana: Insights from Mountaineering courses
11.00 – 11.30	Veronika Lisjak Banko , CIRIUS Kamnik, Slovenia How to enable participation in outdoor activities for even the most health-challenged children and adolescents.	Elena Diana , Università di Pisa, Italy The Intersection of Inclusion and Education Outside the Classroom in Italy: The Role of Support Teacher	Žan Rode , University of Ljubljana, Faculty of Education, Slovenia The CREA+BIRO Project: Initial Phases and Insights from Slovenia	Jakob F. Thorsteinsson , University of Iceland, Iceland Under the Open Sky: Building a National Outdoor Studies Program on the Foundation of International Friendship

11.30 – 12.00	Riehl Jochen , Mühlenkraft e.V., Germany Breaking Barriers - Barrierfree Nature Experience as a Process of European Integration	Francisco Lombo de León , Porta Natura, Spain Collaborative Outdoor Education for Inclusion and Accessibility: A Community-Based Model Integrating Nature, Language Learning and Data-Driven Practice	Karen Seierøe Barfod , VIA University College, Denmark Is There Any Difference? A Comparative Study of Indoor and Outdoor Teaching using Andreas Helmke's Framework of 'Good Teaching'	Čuladienė Martyna , Lithuania Clarifying Outdoor Education in Formal Curricula: Towards Shared Understanding and Practice
12.00 – 13.30	Workshops – Parallel Sessions 90 min			
	Lawrence Chapman United Kingdom Breaking Barriers 2027 and beyond: Bringing SEND Learners Together Across Europe Through Nature/adventure-Based Encounters	Vullings Floor, Aga Lešny Scale of Cooperation V.O.F., Netherlands A Map in Unknown Territory: Designing Outdoor Learning Through The Scale of Cooperation	Petra Nejezchlebová, Eva Kazdová, Lenka Šimková Lipka – školské zařízení pro environmentální vzdělávání Brno, Czech Republic The School Garden as a Community Gathering Place	Christine Taylor Next Level German, Germany DELA / DECILA: Language as Experience in Nature-Based Learning Environments
12.30 – 14.30	Time for lunch			
14.30 – 16.00	Workshops – Parallel Sessions 90 min			
Olli Kamunen Humak University of Applied Sciences, Finland The Power of Stories: Capturing the Impact of Adventure Education	Brian Wright University of Edinburgh, United Kingdom Learning from each other's places: Bringing global diversity to place-responsive outdoor education	Jorge Gimeno Pawlowski, Joanna Bochniarz , Center for Innovative Education, Poland From practice to system: The Center for Innovative Education's path toward a Regional Outdoor Learning Ecosystem	Gerrit Onstein Outrac/Stichting Learning by Outdoor and Experience Netherlands Outdoor as a competence building tool workshop 11.00-12.30	Barbora Michalcová Masarykova univerzita - Pedagogická fakulta Czech Republic The Observation of Nature not only at the School Garden
16.00 – 16.30	Coffee break			
16.30 – 18.00	Poster presentation			
Jure Reječ , FSC International (FSC Adria-Balkan), Slovenia / Germany: A Multi-Stakeholder Model for Outdoor Education and Circular Entrepreneurship in the Adria-Balkan Region Breogán Gómez Requejo , JFK International School, Switzerland: Crossing Borders, Shaping Learning: Rethinking Outdoor Education through International Comparative Perspectives Diana Vogetseder , Austria: Connecting Local Practices and European Futures: Adult Education for Social Ecological Transformation Diana Czajkowska , Niespokojne Nogi, Poland: Just around the corner Paulina Patro , CEO Nature Coaching Institute, Poland: Preparing Teachers for Outdoor Education: The Children in Nature Cards as a Practical Teaching Tool Salman Kazmi , Dandelion OE, Pakistan: Dandelion Trail – Using Outdoor Obstacle-Based Learning to Develop Leadership, Resilience and Human-Centred Skills Jari Kujala , Finland: Third Way Empathy in Camp School: Supporting Social Learning through Outdoor Pedagogy Jana Menkynová , Daphne - Inštitút aplikovanej ekológie, Slovakia: Citizen Science with schools and public – example of Living Bratislava Initiative Anna Fischerová , TEREZA, Educational Centre, Czech Republic: Beyond the Classroom Walls: Turning Everyday Spaces into Powerful Learning Experiences Pavla Lényiová , Dasa Kocvarova, Daphne - Inštitút aplikovanej ekológie, Slovakia: Movement-based Nature Education for Early Childhood: The Innovative Approach Agnieszka Kudraszow , Fundacja trzy czte ry!, Poland: Nature as an Everyday Space for Formal Education: Twelve Years of the Puszczyk Nature-Based Education Model			Kelly O'Hara , UBI, Universidade da Beira Interior, Portugal: Paddling Together: A Collaborative School Canoeing Programme for Social Connection and Cultural Inclusion Pablo Caballero Blanco , Universidad de Sevilla, Spain: "Outdoor Education Day" in initial training teachers Domen Tominec , University of Ljubljana, Faculty of Sport, Slovenia: Promoting Physical Activity and Social Inclusion in Mountain-Region Universities: The Erasmus+ Project Climb United – Ascend Together Luka Praprotnik , University of Ljubljana, Faculty of Education, Slovenia: The Role of Outdoor Education in Understanding Biology: An Analysis of Early Childhood Education Students' Perceptions Agustín Merino , University of Santiago de Compostela, Spain: FACING FIRE: Service-Learning to Enhance Training and Employability in Wildfire Management in Southern Europe Miguel Cons-Ferreiro , University of Santiago de Compostela, Spain: The case of a relationship between two european universities in the natural environment: 2011-26 Martin Gröger , University of Siegen, Germany: From experience to knowledge about glaciers in an outdoor laboratory and virtual learning environment Frances Harris , University of Hertfordshire, UK: Development of a Citizen Science Project to Teach and Engage Children and Young People with Nature Omar Firdaus Mohd Said , Malaysia: Usability Mail-Unity Module Towards the High School Students in Batang Padang District in Perak, Malaysia	
18.00 – 19.30	Time for Dinner			
20.00 – 21.00	Market Place , presentation of participants' organisations			
	Free evening activities - campfire			
Wednesday, 7 October 2026				
7.30 – 8.30	Time for breakfast			
9.00 – 10.00	Keynote speaker, dr. Pavel Zgaga , Faculty of Education, University of Ljubljana			
10.00 – 10.30	Coffee break			
10.30 – 12.00	Oral presentations and Workshop – Parallel Sessions			Workshops
10.30 – 11.00	Eugenio Otero-Urtaza , University of Santiago de Compostela. Facultad de Formación del Profesorado, Spain Ruins in nature and the awakening of historical imagination in educators	Jianing Fu , University of Edinburgh, United Kingdom Outdoor play as a third space: Micro-cultural transitions of multicultural children between home and school	Tamara Chakvetadze , Georgia From Intuition to Profession: Building Outdoor Education Systems in Emerging Contexts – The BUNEBARE Model	Ivana Poláčková CEEV Žrnica, Slovakia Workshop 10.30-12.00 Experiential learning how to teach about climate change outdoors Workshop 10.30-12.00
11.00 – 11.30	Martin Gröger , University of Siegen, Germany The Breath of the Earth – Carbon Dioxide as a Mediator between Inorganic Matter and Organic Life	Kateřina Gorčíková, Iva Frýřzová , Masarykova univerzita - Pedagogická fakulta, Czech Republic One opportunity is not enough – repeated use of authentic learning environments in primary science teacher training	Ismael Zosso , Haute Ecole Pédagogique Vaud, Switzerland Governing Outdoor Education in Teacher Education: The Institutionalisation of a Transversal Field	
11.30 – 12.00	Natálie Čeplová , Masarykova univerzita - Pedagogická fakulta, Czech Republic Curriculum hidden in the university model school garden	Marjanca Kos , University of Ljubljana, Faculty of Education, Slovenia Nature for the Very Young: Assessing the Effectiveness of Structured Activities and Nature Didactic Games in Natural Environments for Learning Biology in the Early Years	Christiana Glettler , Private Pädagogische Hochschule Augustinum, Austria Gardening for Future - supporting Teachers in an integrative gardening practice	
12.00 – 13.30	Round table discussion Learning Beyond the Classroom: Partnerships with UNESCO Sites for Transformative Education for Sustainable Development Moderator: dr. Gregor Torkar Panelist:			
13.00 – 15.00	Time for lunch			
15.00 – 18.00	Study visit Visit to Bohinjska Bistrica Primary School (ba bus) Lake Bohinj and Mostnica Gorge Exploration (by canoe) Cycling through the Bohinj Valley and Visit to Bohinjska Bistrica Primary School Vogel Mountain (by cable car)			

18.30 – 20.30	Closing dinner and programme
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Thursday, 8 October 2026				
7.30 – 8.30	Time for breakfast			
9.00 – 10.00	Keynote speaker, Julia Heiss, UNESCO, Section of Education for Sustainable Development			
10.00 – 10.30	Coffee break			
10.30 – 12.30	Oral presentations – Parallel Sessions			
10.30 – 11.00	Zubeyde Genc, University of Nottingham, United Kingdom	Alexandre Ribeaud, Académie de Paris	Camilla Maria Aviles, Italy	
	Unlocking Potential in the Outdoors: Forest School as a Pathway to Social and Language Skills for EAL Learners in an English Primary School	Institutionalizing Outdoor Education in Dense Urban Environments: The Paris "L'École Dehors" Model for Teacher Training.	Outdoor Education as an Organisational Process: A Processual Perspective on Teaching Competence	
11.00 – 11.30	Suzana Bitežnik, OŠ Podčetrtek, Slovenia	Chiara Borelli, University of Bologna, Italy	Vanda Sigurgeirsdóttir, University of Iceland, Iceland	
	HOKUS POKUS: Outdoor and experiential science learning as a bridge for collaboration and integration	Reframing Outdoor Education Through Intersectionality and Critical Feminist Posthumanism	Freshman field trips in Leisure Studies: Using field trips and natural spaces as a key to successful integration of new students into university	
11.30 – 12.00	Klemen banko, Zavod sv. Stanislava, Slovenia	Heather Prince, University of Cumbria - self-funded, United Kingdom	Graham French, Bangor University, United Kingdom	
	Opening the Future – Expanding Horizons	Teacher-identified needs for support to expand curricular outdoor learning in schools in England	From the margins to teacher formation? Outdoor learning professionals, pedagogy, and legitimacy in initial teacher education	
12.00 – 12.30	Margherita Fassari, Il Pulcino Cooperativa Sociale, Italy	Carmen Solis Espallargas, Universidad de Sevilla, Spain	Nino Kitoshvili, Alterbridge University, Georgia	
	Outdoor Education and Social-Emotional Learning in Early Childhood: A CASEL-Aligned Perspective	Sustainability in Play: Transforming the Educational Outlook through Outdoor Educational Practices	The Ecological Turn in Media Studies: Re-Establishing Authentic Communication through Outdoor Immersive Learning	
12.30 – 13.30	Plenary Session and Conclusion Presentation by the moderators Presentation of the Special Interest Group plans Conference conclusions and plans for EOE 2027			
13.30 – 14.30	Time for lunch and departure			
Thursday, 8 October 2026 afternoon				
Optional in the afternoon				
15.00 – 18.00	Repeated Study Visits Lake Bohinj and Mostnica Gorge Exploration (by Canoe) Rock Climbing below Skalca Cycling through the Bohinj Valley Vogel Mountain (by Cable Car)			
Friday, 9 October 2026				
	Optional Post-conference activities			
	One-Day Hike to Viševnik (2,050 m above sea level) – guided by CSOD teachers. Additional cost: €20. Rafting in the Soča Valley – Additional cost: €100. Mountain Tour in the Julian Alps – self-organised, with CSOD providing advice and assistance with planning.			