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

CŠOD Bohinj, Ribčev Laz 63, 4265 Bohinjsko Jezero, Slovenia

PROGRAMME DRAFT

Monday, 5 October 2026				
12.00 – 13.30	**Time for lunch**			
10.00 – 13.00	**Welcome** and registration			
14.00 – 14.30	**Official opening of the conference** **Opening speech** **EOE chair** **Mayor of Bohinj** **CŠOD 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	**Barbara Kejžar, Matija Pogačnik**, CŠOD, Slovenia	**Kristina Fratrović, Snjezana Markovic-Zoraja,** Croatia	
	A critical analysis on Outdoor learning integration in Secondary Schools in Scotland and Switzerland	Outdoor Education Without Borders: Mobility as a Pathway to European Collaboration	Interrelationships in Nature	
16.00 – 16.30	**Spela Klofutar,** Zavod Špelinice, Slovenia	**Frances Harris,** University of Hertfordshire, United Kingdom	**Rosa Buonanno,** Italy	
	Family Nature Exploration through the Lens of Plant Blindness and Early Scientific Concepts, an Analysis	Learning Journeys in the Woods: Understanding Children's Diverse Educational Experiences in Forest School	Cultivating Plant Awareness through Outdoor Education: A School Garden Experience in Primary School	
16.30 – 17.00	**Peter Wilde,** bsj Marburg, Germany	**Tina Križnar,** Biotehniški center Naklo, Slovenia	**Barbora Karpíšková,** Lipka – školské zařízení pro environmentální vzdělávání Brno, příspěvková organizace, Czech Republic	
	Exploring the world and yourself in Mountain Adventure & Digital Storytelling	Practical Training in the Nockberge Biosphere Reserve	Digital Ecology in Practice: A Synthesis of Czech Methodologies for Sustainable AI Education	
17.00 – 17.30	**Mareile Betz,** MTU, Kerry, Tralee, Ireland	**Selima Negros, Annalisa Silvanini, Francesca Domenichella, Irene Corazza, Marco Marcassa,** Italy	**Robert Franjić,** CŠOD, Slovenia	
	"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	Circle time at forest school: shared practice or pluralistic concept?	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,** Munster Technological University, Ireland **Erwin Borremans,** Live, Finland	**Verity Howell,** United Kingdom	**Živa Pečavar,** CŠOD, Slovenia	**Virginia Gómez Barrios,** Universidad Politécnica de Madrid, Spain

	Empowering Abilities: Adventure Education and Experiential Learning for All - A case study from Erasmus+	How Refusal Could Be the Greatest Win: reflections on working with trauma-impacted children in care	Promoting outdoor learning through seminars for teachers	Educational and research expeditions as a tool for training and integral development of students
10.30 – 11.00	**Kit Sattler, U**niversity of Edinburgh, United Kingdom	**Rebecca Hordern,** United Kingdom	**Ilona Tandzegolskiene-Bielaglove,** Lithuania	**Tadej Debevec,** University of Ljubljana, Faculty of Sport, Slovenia
	Navigating the Unseen: Experiences of Individuals with Chronic Illnesses and Invisible Disabilities in the Outdoors	Young people's views of positive relationships with teachers when outdoors and the impact on engagement with learning	Exploring Outdoor Education Practices in Schools: An Ethnographic Study of Teachers Implementing PhenoBL	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	**Elena Diana,** Università di Pisa, Italy	**Žan Rode, U**niversity of Ljubljana, Facutly of Education, Slovenia	**Jakob F. Thorsteinsson,** University of Iceland, Iceland **Mark Leather**, United Kingdom
	How to enable participation in outdoor activities for even the most health-challenged children and adolescents.	The Intersection of Inclusion and Education Outside the Classroom in Italy: The Role of Support Teacher	The CREA+BIRD Project: Initial Phases and Insights from Slovenia	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	**Francisco Lombo de León,** Porta Natura, Spain	**Karen Seierøe Barfod,** VIA University College, Denmark	**Čuladienė Martyna,** Lithuania
	Breaking Barriers - Barrierfree Nature Experience as a Process of European Integration	Collaborative Outdoor Education for Inclusion and Accessibility: A Community-Based Model Integrating Nature, Language Learning and Data-Driven Practice	Is There Any Difference? A Comparative Study of Indoor and Outdoor Teaching using Andreas Helmke's Framework of 'Good Teaching'	Clarifying Outdoor Education in Formal Curricula: Towards Shared Understanding and Practice
12.00 – 13.30	**Workshops** – Parallel Sessions 90 min			
	Lawrence Chapman United Kingdom	**Vullings Floor, Aga Leśny** Scale of Cooperation V.O.F., Netherlands	**Petra Nejezchlebová, Eva Kazdová, Lenka Šimková** Lipka – školské zařízení pro environmentální vzdělávání Brno, Czech Republic	**Christine Taylor** Next Level German, Germany
	Breaking Barriers 2027 and beyond: Bringing SEND Learners Together Across Europe Through Nature/adventure-Based Encounters	A Map in Unknown Territory: Designing Outdoor Learning Through The Scale of Cooperation	The School Garden as a Community Gathering Place	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			
	Brian Wright University of Edinburgh, United Kingdom	**Jorge Gimeno Pawlowski, Joanna Bochniarz,** Center for Innovative Education, Poland	**Olli Kamunen** Humak University of Applied Sciences, Finland	**Barbora Michalcová** Masarykova univerzita - Pedagogická fakulta Czech Republic
	Learning from each other's places: Bringing global diversity to place-responsive outdoor education	From practice to system: The Center for Innovative Education's path toward a Regional Outdoor Learning Ecosystem	The Power of Stories: Capturing the Impact of Adventure Education	The Observation of Nature not only at the School Garden
16.00 – 16.30	**Coffee break**			
16.30 – 18.00	**Poster presentation**			

Jure Rejec, 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 Ecologial 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
Ilias Thermidis, Sizefxi, Greece: Linking nature skills to life skills

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, Facutly of Education, Slovenia: The Role of Outdoor Education in Understanding Biology: An Analysis of Early Childhood Education Students' Perceptions
Agustin 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 Mal-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	**Jianing Fu,** University of Edinburgh, United Kingdom	**Tamara Chakvetadze,** Georgia	**Ivana Poláčková** CEEV Živica, Slovakia **Workshop 10.30-12.00**
	Ruins in nature and the awakening of historical imagination in educators	Outdoor play as a third space: Micro-cultural transitions of multicultural children between home and school	From Intuition to Profession: Building Outdoor Education Systems in Emerging Contexts – The BUNEBARE Model	Experiential learning how to teach about climate change outdoors

				Workshop 10.30-12.00
11.00 – 11.30	**Martin Gröger,** University of Siegen, Germany	**Kateřina Gorčíková, Iva Frýzová,** Masarykova univerzita - Pedagogická fakulta, Czech Republic	**Ismael Zosso**, Haute Ecole Pédagogique Vaud, Switzerland	
	The Breath of the Earth – Carbon Dioxide as a Mediator between Inorganic Matter and Organic Life	One opportunity is not enough – repeated use of authentic learning environments in primary science teacher training	Governing Outdoor Education in Teacher Education: The Institutionalisation of a Transversal Field	
11.30 – 12.00	**Natálie Čeplová,** Masarykova univerzita - Pedagogická fakulta, Czech Republic	**Marjanca Kos,** University of Ljubljana, Facutly of Education, Slovenia	**Christiana Glettler,** Private Pädagogische Hochschule Augustinum, Austria	
	Curriculum hidden in the university model school garden	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	Gardening for Future - supporting Teachers in an integrative gardening practice	**Sarah Grocutt** Fitness Excel Training & Education, United Kingdom **Workshop 12.00-13.30**
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:			Exploring Somatic Motion in Natural Spaces – A Walking and Pilates Movement Practice for Embodied Presence and Calm. **Workshop 12.00-13.30**
13.00 – 15.00	**Time for lunch**			
15.00 – 18.00	**Study visit** **Visit to Bohinjska Bistrica Primary School (by 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**			

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 Biteznik,** 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 Solís 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			
13.00 – 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 CŠOD teachers. Additional cost: €20. **Rafting in the Soča Valley – Additional cost: €100.** **Mountain Tour in the Julian Alps – self-organised, with CŠOD providing advice and assistance with planning.**