

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

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 Tomas Aylward, EOE chair Jože Sodja, Mayor of Bohinj Domen Uršič, CŠOD director			
14.30 – 15.00	Keynote speaker, Florin Popa, European commission, Directorate-General for Education, Youth, Sport and Culture Learning for Sustainability: Actions at EU Level Moderator: Tomás Aylward			
15.00 – 15.30	Coffee break			
15.30 – 17.30	Oral presentations – Parallel Sessions			
	Yellow room Moderator: Tomás Aylward	Red room Moderator: Mark Leather	Green room Moderator: Erika Eik Bjarkadottir	
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 Kejžar, Matija Pogačnik, CŠOD, Slovenia Outdoor Education Without Borders: Mobility as a Pathway to European Collaboration	Kristina Fratrovič, Snjezana Markovic-Zoraja, OŠ Dubovac, Croatia Interrelationships in Nature	
16.00 – 16.30	Spela Klofutar, Zavod Špelinice, 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	Barbora Karpíšková, Petra Nejezchlebová, Lipka – školské zařízení pro environmentální vzdělávání Brno, příspěvková organizace, Czech Republic Digital Ecology in Practice: A Synthesis of Czech Methodologies for Sustainable AI Education	
16.30 – 17.00	Mareile Betz, Munster Technological University, 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	Tina Križnar, Biotehniški center Naklo, Slovenia Practical Training in the Nockberge Biosphere Reserve	Robert Franjić, CŠOD, Slovenia Survival week - nature based outdoor program	
17.00 – 17.30	Carmen Solís Espallargas, Universidad de Sevilla, Spain Sustainability in Play: Transforming the Educational Outlook through Outdoor Educational Practices	Selima Negros, Annalisa Silvanini, Francesca Domenichella, Irene Corazza, Marco Marcassa, Italy Circle time at forest school: shared practice or pluralistic concept?	Rosa Buonanno, Italy Cultivating Plant Awareness through Outdoor Education: A School Garden Experience in Primary School	
17.30 – 18.30	EOE Annual General Meeting			
18.00 – 19.30	Time for Dinner			
20.00 – 21.30	Special Interest Group Meeting: Introductions, Networking and Planning 1. Higher Education, Yellow room, Moderator: Mark Leather 2. Researchers, Red room, Moderator: Karen Seierøe Barfod 3. Outdoor centres, Green room, Moderator: Erika Eik Bjarkadottir 4. Early Years Education Outdoors, Blue room, Moderator: Tomás Aylward 5. Inclusion & Diversity (breaking barriers), Dining room, Moderator: Jorge Gimeno Pawlowski 6. Outdoor Education in Schools, Dining room, Moderator: Irena Kokalj			

Tuesday, 6 October 2026	
7.00 – 7.30	Breaking Through the Morning Mist, Andraž Nahtigal
7.30 – 8.30	Time for breakfast
9.00 – 10.00	Keynote speaker, Mark Manns, UNESCO, Section of Education for Sustainable Development, France Action-oriented pedagogies - promoting ESD through experiential learning Moderator: Jorge Gimeno Pawlowski

10.00 – 10.30	Coffee break			
10.30 – 12.00	Oral presentations – Parallel Sessions			
	Yellow room Moderator: Mareile Betz	Red room Moderator: Irena Kokalj	Green room Moderator: Graham French	Blue room Moderator: Dejan Putrle
10.30 – 11.00	Eugenio Otero-Urtaza, University of Santiago de Compostela. Facultad de Formación del Profesorado, Spain	Tamara Chakvetadze, Bunebare - Caucasus Outdoor Education Institute, Georgia	Karen Seierøe Barfod, VIA University College, Denmark	Ilona Tandzegolskiene-Bielaglove, Vytautas Magnus University, Lithuania
	Ruins in nature and the awakening of historical imagination in educators	From Intuition to Profession: Building Outdoor Education Systems in Emerging Contexts – The BUNEBARE Model	Is There Any Difference? A Comparative Study of Indoor and Outdoor Teaching using Andreas Helmke’s Framework of ‘Good Teaching’	Exploring Outdoor Education Practices in Schools: An Ethnographic Study of Teachers Implementing PhenoBL
11.00 – 11.30	Martin Gröger, University of Siegen, Germany	Kateřina Gorčíková, Iva Frýzová, Masarykova univerzita - Pedagogická fakulta, Czech Republic	Tadej Debevec, University of Ljubljana, Faculty of Sport, Slovenia	Martyna Čuladienė, Vytautas Magnus University, Lithuania
	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	Approaches to Outdoor Education at the Faculty of Sport, University of Ljubljana: Insights from Mountaineering courses	Clarifying Outdoor Education in Formal Curricula: Towards Shared Understanding and Practice
11.30 – 12.00	Natálie Čeplová, Masarykova univerzita - Pedagogická fakulta, Czech Republic	Žan Rode, University of Ljubljana, Facutly of Education, Slovenia	Jakob F. Thorsteinsson, University of Iceland, Iceland Mark Leather, United Kingdom	Klemen Banko, Zavod sv. Stanislava, Slovenia
	Curriculum hidden in the university model school garden	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	Opening the Future – Expanding Horizons
12.00 – 13.30	Workshops – Parallel Sessions 90 min			12.00-12.30 Suzana Bitežnik, OŠ Podčetrtek, Slovenia
	Outdoors meeting point A	Outdoors meeting point B	Outdoors meeting point C	
	Lawrence Chapman, UK East Anglian Inclusion Partners, United Kingdom	Vullings Floor, Aga Lešny Scale of Cooperation V.O.F., Netherlands	Petra Nejezchlebová, Eva Kazdová, Lenka Šímková Lipka – školské zařízení pro environmentální vzdělávání Brno, Czech Republic	HOKUS POKUS: Outdoor and experiential science learning as a bridge for collaboration and integration
	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	
12.30 – 14.30	Time for lunch			
14.30 – 16.00	Workshops – Parallel Sessions 90 min			
	Outdoors meeting point A	Outdoors meeting point B	Outdoors meeting point C	Outdoors meeting point D
	Jorge Gimeno Pawlowski, Joanna Bochniarz, Center for Innovative Education, Poland	Brian Wright University of Edinburgh, United Kingdom	Olli Kamunen Humak University of Applied Sciences, Finland	Barbora Michalcová Masarykova univerzita - Pedagogická fakulta Czech Republic
	From practice to system: The Center for Innovative Education's path toward a Regional Outdoor Learning Ecosystem	Learning from each other’s places: Bringing global diversity to place-responsive outdoor education	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			
	Yellow room Moderator: Gregor Marinšek		Red room Moderator: Mark Leather	
	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,OSEANA, 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 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, Dáša Kočvarová, Daphne - Inštitút aplikovanej ekológie, Slovakia: Movement-based Nature Education for Early Childhood: The Innovative Approach Ilias Thermidis, Sizefxi, Greece: Linking nature skills to life skills		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 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 Agnieszka Kudraszow, Fundacja trzy czte ry!, Urszula Namiotko, University of Białystok, 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	
18.00 – 19.30	Time for Dinner			
20.00 – 21.00	Marketplace, presentation of participants' organisations			
	Free evening activities - campfire			

Wednesday, 7 October 2026				
7.00 – 7.30	Warming Up in Silence, Tina Grm			
7.30 – 8.30	Time for breakfast			
9.00 – 9.30	Sandi Vrabec , vodja Sektorja za osnovno šolstvo Ministrstvo za izobraževanje, znanost in mladino / Ministry of Education, Science and Youth Slovenia Moderator: Karen Seierøe Barfod			
9.30 – 10.00	Coffee break			
10.00 – 12.00	Oral presentations and Workshop – Parallel Sessions			Workshops
	Yellow room Moderator: Jorge Gimeno Pawlowski	Red room Moderator: Jakob F. Thorsteinsson	Green room Moderator: Tadej Debevec	Outdoors meeting point A
10.00 – 10.30	Veronika Lisjak Banko , CIRIUS Kamnik, Slovenia	Verity Howell , United Kingdom	Graham French , Bangor University, United Kingdom	Ivana Poláčková CEEV Živica, Slovakia Workshop 10.00-11.30 Experiential learning how to teach about climate change outdoors Workshop 10.00-11.30
	How to enable participation in outdoor activities for even the most health-challenged children and adolescents	How Refusal Could Be the Greatest Win: reflections on working with trauma-impacted children in care	From the margins to teacher formation? Outdoor learning professionals, pedagogy, and legitimacy in initial teacher education	
10.30 – 11.00	Riehl Jochen , Mühlenkraft e.V., Germany	Francisco Lombo de León , Porta Natura, Spain	Ismael Zosso , Haute Ecole Pédagogique Vaud, Switzerland	
	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	Governing Outdoor Education in Teacher Education: The Institutionalisation of a Transversal Field	
11.00 – 11.30	Tomás Aylward , Munster Technological University, Ireland Erwin Borremans , Live, Finland	Elena Diana , Università di Pisa, Italy	Christiana Glettler , Private Pädagogische Hochschule Augustinum, Austria	
	Empowering Abilities: Adventure Education and Experiential Learning for All - A case study from Erasmus+	The Intersection of Inclusion and Education Outside the Classroom in Italy: The Role of Support Teacher	Gardening for Future - supporting Teachers in an integrative gardening practice	Sarah Grocutt Fitness Excel Training & Education, United Kingdom Workshop 11.30-13.00
11.30 – 12.00			Breogán Gómez Requejo , JFK International School, Switzerland Miguel Cons-Ferreiro , University of Santiago de Compostela, Spain	Exploring Somatic Motion in Natural Spaces – A Walking and Pilates Movement Practice for Embodied Presence and Calm. Workshop 11.30-13.00
			The CŠOD Model: A Slovenian National Framework for Integrating Outdoor Education into the School Curriculum	
12.00 – 13.30	Round table discussion Learning Beyond the Classroom: Partnerships with UNESCO Sites for Transformative Education for Sustainable Development Moderator: Gregor Torkar Roundtable discussants: Heather Prince , University of Cumbria, UK Franz Rauch , University of Klagenfurt, Austria Mojca Pintar , Triglav National Park, Slovenia Final discussant: Mark Manns , UNESCO, France Sandi Vrabec , Ministry of Education, Science and Youth Slovenia			
13.00 – 15.00	Time for lunch			
15.00 – 18.00	Study visit Visit to Bohinjska Bistrica Primary School (by bus) , Guide: Erika Melihen Lake Bohinj and Mostnica Gorge Exploration (by canoe) , Guide: Marija Zupanc, Tina Grm Cycling through the Bohinj Valley and Visit to Bohinjska Bistrica Primary School , Guide: Andraž Nahtigal, Robert Franjić Rock Climbing below Skalca (or Hike to Mount Peč) , Guide: Igor Puhan, Laura Blaznik			
18.30 – 20.30	Closing dinner			
20.00	International Social Evening Moderator: Robert Franjić			

Thursday, 8 October 2026				
7.30 – 8.30	Time for breakfast			
9.00 – 10.00	Keynote speaker, Pavel Zgaga , University of Ljubljana, Faculty of Education, Slovenia Indoors vs. outdoors: Some reflections on education, nature and culture Moderator: Gregor Torkar			
10.00 – 10.30	Coffee break			
10.30 – 12.30	Oral presentations – Parallel Sessions		Workshops	
	Yellow room Moderator: Erika Eik Bjarkadottir	Green room Moderator: Karen Seierøe Barfod	Outdoors meeting point A Moderator: Simona Ž. Menart	
10.30 – 11.00	Marjanca Kos , University of Ljubljana, Faculty of Education, Slovenia	Camilla Maria Aviles , Università di Modena e Reggio Emilia, Italy	Franz Rauch , Institute of Instructional and School Development, University Klagenfurt, Christiana Glettler , Private Pädagogische Hochschule Augustinum, Austria Workshop 10.30-12.00	

	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	Outdoor Education as an Organisational Process: A Processual Perspective on Teaching Competence	Action, Reflection, Participation: How to start an Action Research process? Workshop 10.30-12.00	
11.00 – 11.30	Chiara Borelli , University of Bologna, Italy	Vanda Sigurgeirsdóttir , University of Iceland, Iceland		
	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	Heather Prince , University of Cumbria, United Kingdom	Živa Pečavar , CŠOD, Slovenia		
	Teacher-identified needs for support to expand curricular outdoor learning in schools in England	Promoting outdoor learning through seminars for teachers		
12.00 – 13.00	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	<u>Repeated Study Visits</u> Lake Bohinj and Mostnica Gorge Exploration (by canoe) , Guide: Marija Zupanc, Laura Blaznik Cycling through the Bohinj Valley , Guide: Tina Grm, Andraž Nahtigal Rock Climbing below Skalca , Guide: Igor Puhan Hike to Mount Peč , Guide: Robert Franjić			
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 , Guide: Igor Puhan, Mateja Vertelj Rafting in the Soča Valley – Additional cost: €100 , Guide: Meta Vončina Gnezda Mountain Tour in the Julian Alps – self-organised, with CŠOD providing advice and assistance with planning.			

The international conference is organised within the framework of the project »Krepitev kompetenc strokovnih in vodstvenih delavcev na področju vodenja inovativnega vzgojno-izobraževalnega zavoda v obdobju od 2024 do 2028«, co-financed by the European Union through the European Social Fund Plus and by the Republic of Slovenia.