REPUBLIKA SLOVENIJA
MINISTRSTVO ZA IZOBRAŽEVANJE, ZNANOST IN MLADINO

CENTER ŠOLSKIH IN OBŠOLSKIH DEJAVNOSTI

EOE Network

I FEEL SLOVENIA

Sofinancira Evropska unija

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	**Barbara Kejžar, Matija Pogačnik**, CŠOD, Slovenia	**Kristina Fratrović, Snjezana Markovic-Zoraja,** OŠ Dubovac, 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	**Barbora Karpíšková, Petra Nejezchlebová,** Lipka – školské zařízení pro environmentální vzdělávání Brno, příspěvková organizace, Czech Republic	
	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	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	**Tina Križnar,** Biotehniški center Naklo, Slovenia	**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	Practical Training in the Nockberge Biosphere Reserve	Survival week - nature based outdoor program	
17.00 – 17.30	**Carmen Solís Espallargas,** Universidad de Sevilla, Spain	**Selima Negros, Annalisa Silvanini, Francesca Domenichella, Irene Corazza, Marco Marcassa,** Italy	**Rosa Buonanno,** Italy	
	Sustainability in Play: Transforming the Educational Outlook through Outdoor Educational Practices	Circle time at forest school: shared practice or pluralistic concept?	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 Biteznik, 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 Leśny** Scale of Cooperation V.O.F., Netherlands	**Petra Nejezchlebová, Eva Kazdová, Lenka Šimková** 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 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 **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	**Morning stretching in Nature**, 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**
	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	Experiential learning how to teach about climate change outdoors **Workshop 10.00-11.30**
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, Živa Pečavar**			

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, Facutly 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.