

Projektname: „Kids Train“

Programm: Grundtvig Partnerships

Intention:

Construction of a multilateral network from national and regional facilities and organisations who are involved in early support to didactic-educational questions in the area of Mathematics / natural sciences with the aim to promote a broader and better-balanced educational participation. In the course of the project the partners should have the possibility to exchange themselves to common characteristics and differences in the national education systems, learning terms and especially to the question of the mathematical early demand.

Project description:

"Kids train" deals with the early support of children even before they start to attend primary school.

The various approaches of different countries in this field shall be compared and optimised by the exchange of experiences.

The focus lies in particular on early education and support ("Frühförderkonzept") in mathematics and natural sciences, for the development of such skills and competences, mainly because mathematical competences are interculturably comparable and are not influenced by the linguistic specifics of different languages, as it is the case for reading and spelling competences.

In recent large-scale profile studies regarding the prevention of dyscalculia which were realised in Germany during the last years, proof has been found that children who are at risk regarding dyscalculia can already be helped during the preschool age by the use of suitable programmes. Children with a so-called weak "quantity-number competence" are at increased risk of later being weak in arithmetic. If children already show deficits in basic numerical skills at the preschool age, they are also very likely to show lower performance in arithmetic at a later stage. Hence, a systematic support should begin as a preventative measure as early as possible, in order to address deficiencies even before school entry.

The aim of the "Kids Train" project is to set up a partner network **among France, Lithuania, Austria, Italy, Turkey and Germany**. Within this project, kindergartens and primary schools that implement early education and development concepts in the mentioned area, as well as university faculties that provide the academic research and evaluation background, are to cooperate and share their experiences.

The participation of education authorities is also intended.

During the implementation of the project, it should be determined whether it is possible to provide a comprehensive early education and development concept which is applicable across the participating countries, and which can be transferred within the scope of the project to other countries.

The duration of the project is to be two years; during the first three-day meeting in Germany, the project partners are to get to know each other. Then the partners will visit each other in their respective countries for three days to become acquainted with the implementation of the early education and development concepts in kindergartens, at schools, etc., and to get an impression of the country-specific psychological, cultural and economic context and the environment-child-support. During the course of these visits, the specific early education and development concepts are also to be presented at a public event. After the realisation of the first three partner visits, a three-day final workshop in Austria will aim at an interim evaluation, in which context the possibility of designing a comprehensive, cross-country concept will be examined. It will be determined whether a comprehensive, cross-country concept can be developed, or if and how single early education and development concepts can be transferred to other countries.

Procedure:

Timeline:	Date of application:	21.02.2012
	Decision expected:	end of May 2012
	Beginning of the measure:	September 2012
	End of the measure:	August 2014

Steps:

- October 2012: Workshop 1 in Germany; introduction of the partners, expectations and project objectives are in the focus..
- March 2013: Workshop 2 in xxx; Representation of politico-educational basics in the countries with the focus on kindergardens.
- June 2013: Workshop 3 in xxx: Representation of politico-educational basics in the countries with the focus on primary schools.
- October 2013: Workshop 4 in xxxx: Influences on development of mathematical and social competences.
- March 2014: Workshop 5 in xxx: Introduction of different programs for early education in the countries.