

Gainkids, project summary, keywords

Partner subjects

Coordinator: [APEI](#)

Association of Child Education Professionals was created in 1981 on the initiative of a group of educators. It is a national association made up of professionals and people who are motivated and interested in children's education (0-6 years).

1 [AidlearnOrganisation](#), Consultoria em Recursos Humanos Lda. Portugallo

for continuous learning in human resources, consultancy and training in Portugal and the European Union

2 [Association of Human Rights Educators - AHEADThe](#) Spagna

Association of Human Rights Educators - AHEAD, is composed of educators and trainers specialised in human rights education.

3 [ASSOCIAZIONE CULTURALE PICCABULLAA](#) Italia

cultural **association** Italia

that deals with educational activities for children and young people using methodologies inspired by theatre and play-theatre, educational innovation and out-door training for children and adults, Cambridge certification and sailing courses for young people.

4 [UNIwersytet Lodzki](#) Polonia

University of Lodz-Poland, one of Poland's largest and oldest universities, has numerous international projects under its belt, including on specific Gainkids topics.

5 [POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE OF BRAGANCA](#) Portugal

The Polytechnic Institute of Bragança (IPB) is a public institution of higher education whose mission is the creation, transmission and dissemination of technical, scientific and professional information and knowledge through the articulation of study, teaching, applied research and experimental development. IPB belongs to the European Network of Universities of Applied Sciences.

Focus, general objectives

The project proposes to enrich with contents and pedagogical methodologies, in the specific area of education in the 3-5 age group (nursery school), the activities carried out in the field by educators and families concerning the following themes, which can be summarised in the concept of "global citizenship": all those rights that revolve around the child and which, since they can be considered universal, make him or her a future "global citizen" aware of his or her rights as a child and not only as a person. The themes that are the object of didactic-methodological experimentation for the development of tools and supports for educators and families are:

- gender equality and combating stereotypes of socially constructed gender differences
- equal opportunities: man-woman but also in a social sense as awareness of the importance of combating social inequalities;
- combating discrimination with regard to "diversity" in the broadest sense (inclusive education)
- protection of children's rights as set out in the [UN Convention of 20 November 1989, which in](#) turn builds on the Geneva Convention of 1924, the UN Charter of 1945, the Universal Declaration of the Rights of the Child of 1948 and the principal act of 30 years earlier, the Declaration of the Rights of the Child of 1959.

The project proposes to act in at least four directions: 1) training for professionals in the sector, educators, teachers, providing them with didactic tools in the form of manuals, multimedia supports, etc. 2) sensitising and involving families in the themes in question and in the activities of the project; 3) making the child an active protagonist in the various activities planned; 4) the territory, the community in which the preschool(s) involved in the project are located.

The areas of intervention are therefore:

- pedagogical training of teachers and children, who are seen as active subjects and producers of

- content themselves and not just users of the content;
- training/awareness-raising within families on children's rights on the topics of "difference"/"diversity"
- professional training of teachers and care staff
- the school community and its territory

The themes specifically are:

- **global citizenship** by answering the question: what does it mean?
- **Equal opportunities** for all children
- **citizenship and participation**: who am I? Comprising activities aimed at developing *relational skills*, *expressive* and *communication* skills, knowledge of the *world*
- **Gender identity and equality**: biological characteristics and gender stereotypes and gender inequality
- **discrimination with** regard to diversity(ies)
- social and family **participation**

People reached/involved in the project

At least **200** people are expected to be reached through social media. The **pilot training course** will involve people from **PT (Portugal), ES (Spain), PL (Poland) and IT (Italy), 10 per country**.

Multiplier events of the GAINkids project: **30 people at each Workshop that will be held in PT, ES, PL and IT**; Participants will be the target groups of the project. The partnership will produce **1500 GAINkids Promotional Packages**, in digital format, and **each partner will have 250 GAINkids Promotional Packages** - in all languages and in English, which will be distributed to people/organisations interested in the GAINkids topic in the multiplier events. In total we expect to involve at least **1850** participants.

Gainkids project priorities

The training of educators and kindergarten staff is a priority, as is the pedagogical training of children and awareness-raising among families.

When carrying out activities in the field and experimenting with training methods and practices, it seems important to maintain consistency between the messages shared in the family and those conveyed by the educators and all the auxiliary staff in the classrooms. From this point of view, tools, methods and cultural supports should be introduced in the family to continue the work carried out in the classroom, provided there is a convergence of opinions on the issues in question. The family must be able to address, in a coherent manner, a key issue shared during the TV screening or an event that happened at school. Sharing the work done in class with the families is therefore fundamental.

Gainkids aims to:

- **Train professionals** to work on children's rights in the context of a pre-school;
- **Sensitising families** to the importance of children's rights, respect and acceptance of difference;
- **Involving children** in the reflection and production of the project development tools

The project works in two directions: **operators in the sector** (educators, teachers and their pupils) to be directly involved in the preparation and testing of the tools, and **local actors** such as associations working in the area, school directors, local administrators, etc.

Transnationality and the Gainkids paradigm

Leaving aside local cultures and customs and the fact that global citizenship education has been implemented in different ways depending on the context, the aim of Gainkids is to find all those common elements that cut across the various cultures and to ensure that they are translated into educational content and methodologies from pre-school onwards. The core of the paradigm adopted is to pay great attention to education from kindergarten onwards, so that children can feel part of the world in an interdependent way from an early age. EGC (Education for Global Citizenship) uses a multifaceted approach and draws on concepts, methodologies and theories already implemented in different fields and themes, including human rights education (EHR), **education for peace (PE)**, **education for sustainable development (EDS)** and education **for international understanding**, and has a crucial role to play in preparing students with the necessary skills to deal with the dynamic and interdependent world of the 21st century.

Similarly, the other key theme of Gainkids, gender equality, is based on the assumption that the perpetuation of gender stereotypes from pre-school onwards is at the root of de facto inequalities between men and women in adulthood.

Gainkids' main achievements/outputs and activities

The GAINkids project foresees the elaboration of a TOOLKIT defined as 3 in 1 i.e. an innovative training course that will develop competences on Global Citizenship for Children and the topics presented above, containing:

- **Out-put1 Collection of children's stories/fables (storybook) and videos inspired by the stories themselves, which** also come from children's stories and educators' testimonies
- **Out-put2 A handbook for pre-school educators that** explores the themes of storybooks *and* videos and translates them into practical activities in the classroom
- **Out-put3 A guide/manual + animated short films for** families to link classroom topics to everyday educational practices in the family environment.

The sharing of materials for dissemination in the various countries will take place both through social media and the website which will concentrate all the materials, including videos, and through events defined as "multipliers" **to which** will be invited educators, associations of the territory, representatives of the local school organisation and possibly as witnesses one or two representatives of the partner countries to share the practices in their respective countries of origin. Each event will have at least **20 participants among these figures**.

All the countries contribute **transversally to the** preparation of the various intellectual outputs (videos, manuals, etc.). In their respective areas, they will carry out the same research and experimentation activities in parallel and provide the contents that will be collected in a single product.

The activities prior to the field-testing of the pedagogical tools consist of **surveys with interviews** on GainKids topics and **focus groups** among the practitioners to bring out daily practices related to GainKids keywords and topics but also **good practices**.

INTELLECTUAL OUT-PUT AND DISSEMINATION PRODUCTS

- **(PRELIMINARY ACTIVITY) To investigate**, in each country, the conceptions, knowledge and practices (practices are more difficult to evaluate) of educators taking into account the dimensions under analysis, through a questionnaire and the creation of a focus-group (which would give a more precise dimension on the needs of professionals in the field);
- Each country once identified a set of professionals/institutions that would function as a working group, as witnesses of good practice that could be active members in this dynamic;

In the first months the activities will be as follows:

- **Research on global citizenship and equal rights of children; Books and films depicting citizenship, participation, social stereotypes and equal opportunities.**
- **Handbook for educators v.1, ready for testing in schools - Pilot Actions**
- **Handbook for Educators v.2, final version, to be made available to all target groups, stakeholders and key actors to use**

OUT-PUT 1

- Each country constructs, with professionals and children (children must be participants in the project and not just recipients), stories on each of the dimensions presented: Equal opportunities for all children, gender equality and gender identity; non-discrimination; diversity; social and family participation (one or more dimensions);
- These stories translated into all languages (to be made to work as a collection) should contain a small **Exploration Guide, for professionals and families** (it could be integrated into the Exploration Guide of the book itself, at the end);
- **Videos recreated from the stories themselves** will also be produced, including ways in which the educators have worked in their professional contexts and with families;
- These books and videos will be **disseminated throughout the** professional early childhood education community in each country;

- At the end there will be an international meeting on children's rights.

Specific dissemination activities

The website, in English and in the four partner languages, will be created at the beginning of the project and regularly updated, it includes:

- presentation of the project and partners;
- leaflets;
- *newsletter*;
- Out-put.

4 marketing campaigns are planned through **e-newsletters** with updated information on the project, activities and results, sent by the partners to their **mailing lists**.

There are also two **flyers**: one at the beginning to promote the project, including objectives, partners and products, and a final flyer to promote the final GAINkids products.

All the activities to be performed and described above are carried out with an SME grant. It is necessary to contract the domain and hosting for the website. It will also be necessary to entrust the publishing/printing of GAINKids products (in USBpen) which includes **Videos, Story Books** collection, **Educators Manual and Guide + Animated Short Films for working with families**.

Output O2 Toolkit 3 in 1

Guide/Handbook entitled "**Global Citizenship for Children in Practice**".

Topics:

- how to use the storybook and video collection, I'O1 (storybook + video collection) , in the classroom with the children.
- suggestions on how to deal with this issue in the classroom.suggestions and some proposals for working tools, aimed at professionals and educators dealing with children.
- introduction to the topic of Global Citizenship and Equal Opportunities and the importance of working with children on this topic
- methodological approach of the topic to young children, (as they learn differently from older students).

OUT-PUT 3: Guide and Animated Short Films for Families,

Focusing on the theme of Global Citizenship and Equal Opportunities for Children, it will be presented simply and clearly, preferably without speaking. It includes a **booklet** and an **animated film** to make families aware of the importance of children's rights, respect and acceptance of difference;

This is a sensitive issue for parents to work on with their children, so the booklet + animated video should present very clearly what the objectives of working on this issue are, and the methodology to be used with young children, taking opportunities/inspiration also from everyday situations.

The Guide and the Short Animated Film for Families will allow work on this topic to be done at home as well, and possibly make parents aware of certain habitual behaviours that should no longer be encouraged, as they maintain the gender gap. This material will be available online + USBpen to parents and families.

Division of labour, tasks for intellectual production and applied methodology

- The lead partner, P3/IT, will prepare the guidelines for the creation of IO3; and compile the final product.
- **All partners will provide and create the content**; some for the brochure and some for the film.
- P1/PT will be responsible for the final version of the film, considering their expertise; and for the layout of the brochure.
- P4/SP will prepare the final version to be published on the website and social media. P6/PL is responsible for assigning the quality of the final version.

Leading organisation **CULTURAL ASSOCIATION PICCABULLA**

Multiplier events

Portogallo: APEI - Associação de Profissionais de Educação de Infância GAINKids

Spagna Associazione degli educatori per i diritti umani - AHEAD GAINKids

Italia: ASSOCIAZIONE CULTURALE PICCABULLA GAINKids

Polonia: UNIWERSYTET LODZKI GAINKids