EDUCAS Space and Educare: Creating child and family friendly learning spaces in ECEC centres

NOME PROPOSTO: Ada Cigala

- VBJK Centre for Innovations in the Early Years, is the main applicant and the overall coordinator
- Unipr is a Research Unit; Principal Investigator: Ada Cigala; other participants: Paola Corsano, Luisa Molinari e Sara Berti (Ph.D student)

PROGRAMMA: ERASMUS+, KA2 - Cooperation for Innovation and the Exchange of Good Practices; KA201 - Strategic Partnerships for school education

DURATA: 31 months (03/12/2018; 02/07/2021)

ABSTRACT: The European Quality Framework (2014) underlines how ECEC quality should be linked to a holistic approach in which education and care are intertwined. However, at the European level, there is a general trend to treat children as ‘academic learners’ at younger ages (Fukkink, 2017). Within this perspective, the role of space is crucial: in an ‘educare approach’, the space as ‘third educator’ should address the holistic wellbeing of children and families (Galardini, 2003).

The project’s overall goal is creating ECEC environments that support children’s development in a holistic way, taking into account the diverse needs of children and families, with special attention to the ones at risk of social exclusion. The specific objectives are to: 1) examine existing visions and methods related to organizing ECEC environments, with a focus on educare and on family involvement; 2) increase ECEC staff’s reflective/relational/methodological competences related to the connection space/educare, with attention to involving children and families, particularly the ones at risk of social exclusion; 3) promote ECEC innovation by experimenting new methods concerning how to improve spaces within an educare approach, and how to adapt this experimentation to other local and EU contexts; 4) specify how national and EU policy should address this issue, through policy recommendations elaborated by analyzing strengths and critical points of the experiments.

NETWORK DEL PROGETTO: Italia; Lituania, Belgio

RUOLO ALL’INTERNO DEL NETWORK: Examine existing visions and methods related to organizing ECEC environments, with a focus on edu-care and on family involvement. Three observational and longitudinal studies will be conducted in ECEC in the different countries involved: Italy, Belgium and Lithuania