

“Versatile working methods in early childhood and pre-primary education”**1. Goals of the Course and Description of Content**

The main objective of this international inter-university project is for participating early childhood and pre-primary education students to learn how to **plan, implement, and evaluate pedagogical activities** in early childhood education.

Students will:

- Apply **versatile and functional methods** that promote children’s participation.
- Understand the importance of **ecosocial education** as an essential part of a child’s learning and development.
- Explore **culture and art-based pedagogical approaches** that enhance children’s well-being, development, and learning.

2. Priorities Addressed

Priority Chosen: *Environment and Fight Against Climate Change*

The course emphasizes sustainability and ecosocial education within early childhood education.

- Students will visit ECEC settings where environmental and sustainability issues are integrated into everyday pedagogy.
- They will learn **art-based methods** that promote ecological awareness and sustainable practices.
- Children’s participation in ECEC and pre-primary education will be linked to **democracy education**, helping students understand how environmental responsibility connects with civic engagement and participation.

3. Description of the Physical Mobility Component

Duration: 20 hours

Dates: April 20–24, 2026

Location: Hämeenlinna, Finland

Organiser: Häme University of Applied Sciences (HAMK), School of Health and Social Services

Activities:

- Interactive sessions and workshops led by academic staff.
- Field visits to local schools and daycare centres to observe innovative Finnish early childhood education practices.
- Collaborative group work in **international student teams**, supported and guided by lecturers.

Goals and Expected Results:

By the end of the physical mobility, students will have:

- Strengthened their **practical skills and theoretical knowledge** of early childhood and pre-primary pedagogy.
- Learned how to **integrate sustainable and participatory methods** in their teaching practice.
- Developed international collaboration skills through teamwork and shared reflection.

4. Description of the Virtual Mobility Component

Timing: Conducted **before** the physical mobility

Duration: 8 hours total

Schedule:

- **April 7–8, 2026:** Two online sessions with all participating lecturers and students.
- **April 14–15, 2026:** Two sessions for students to collaborate in **mixed, multinational teams** on pre-class assignments given by lecturers.
Time: 17:00–19:00 (Spanish/Croatian time)

Goals and Expected Results:

- Build a shared foundation for the physical mobility.
- Enable international teams to **collaborate and prepare jointly** for project activities.
- Develop digital communication skills and cross-cultural teamwork experience.

5. Studying and Teaching Methods

- Pre-class assignments
- Lectures and discussions
- Hands-on exercises and workshops
- Field trips and site visits
- Sharing experiences and peer learning
- Short final report or documentation of project outcomes

6. Learning Outcomes

Upon completion, students will be able to:

- **Plan, implement, and evaluate** pedagogical activities in early childhood and pre-primary education.
- Apply **participatory and functional teaching methods** that engage children actively.
- Recognize and integrate **ecosocial education** principles into their teaching.