

23.12.2024

MEMORANDUM ON COOPERATION**Interreg VI - A Italy-Croatia 2021-2027,****COPE - Cooperation for better early and preschool education**

ID number: ITHR0400231

Partners included in the Memorandum on Cooperation:

Talijanski dječji vrtić Fregola Buje – Scuola d'infanzia italiana Fregola Buie, Dječji vrtić Suncokret Novigrad – Scuola dell'infanzia Girasole Cittanova,**Or.s.a Società Cooperativa Sociale- Nido D'infanzia interaziendale: “I cuccioli della scienza” Trieste**

CONTEXT: The established partnership and cross-border cooperation created within the Small-Scale INTERREG ITALY –CROATIA project Cooperation for better early and preschool education “COPE”, ID number: ITHR0400231 between the partnering institutions during its activity period of 17 months, increased and further strengthened their collaboration and clarified the common needs and objectives that can be reached through this kind of cooperation in the field of the preschool education.

For this purpose, the involved partners will continue the collaboration and cooperation in the next years after the conclusion of the INTERREG ITA-CRO project. The partners discussed and proposed common activities that were deemed important and necessary to further increase the quality of education offered, working environment and relationships within the education personnel while keeping in mind their institutions, the background and environment they are working in, the preschool educators and their users: first and more important children and secondly parents/tutors.



Italy – Croatia



At the conclusion of the INTERREG ITALY-CROATIA project, the project partners, after extensive discussions and in-depth analysis, have agreed to continue their collaboration through the following actions to be implemented based on financial availability:

1. The partners have expressed the wish to continue joint training, preferably using the online modality.

The online educations may include courses, supervisions, updating courses on new educational methods, informal dialogue between educational staff, exchange of good practices between the institutions, courses on new and innovative educational methods, etc. The themes, aims and objectives of the courses will be discussed, as needed, between the partners to fulfill the needs encountered through the everyday working life in the kindergartens.

2. The partners agreed upon undertaking and continuing the pilot project “NUTRIKIDS” proposed by PP3 in collaboration with the Fondazione Italiana Fegato. The project is based on scientific evidence regarding lifestyle habits, showing a gradual increase in the consumption of foods rich in sugars and animal fats, alongside a decrease in the consumption of dietary fiber and fruit, coupled with a decline in physical activity starting from childhood. A national study conducted by the Catholic University of Milan and the Italian National Institute of Health during the 2020-2021 period revealed that 3 out of 10 children, aged 3 to 5 years, are overweight. Similar data were observed in Croatia in a study by CroCosi titled “Childhood Obesity Surveillance Initiative 2018-2019.” Childhood obesity is influenced by genetic factors in 5-25% of cases, while in the majority of cases, dietary habits acquired within the family represent a predisposing factor. Considering the strategic importance of the first 1,000 days of life for long-term health (as highlighted by WHO and UNICEF), it is essential to intervene early to teach children healthy eating habits. The “Nutrikids” project, aimed at preschool children, seeks to promote a positive attitude toward fruits and vegetables from an early age, thereby encouraging healthy eating habits. This is achieved through the active involvement of families.

3. One of the most important aspects highlighted by the “COPE” project is the significance of networking and the exchange of skills and practices among various institutions and preschool educators in person. While this activity is fundamentally crucial for the development of the operators' skills and professionalism, it proves to be quite costly from an economic standpoint. Therefore, the partners commit to applying for funding opportunities to cover, either partially or fully, the costs of study visits, both to partner institutions and to other relevant institutions. These institutions will be selected based on their relevance, importance in the local area, educational methods employed, or innovative/experimental approaches.



Italy – Croatia



4. The partners agreed upon to invite the partnering institutions to organized events, manifestations, relevant festivities that will be organized throughout the years. This may represent an important example for cross-border collaboration for other institutions operating on the territory.

5. The partners commit to expanding the network of collaboration with other institutions in the area that show interest in the planned initiative.

The representatives of the partnering Institutions signing this Memorandum on Cooperation on 23.12.2024:

Francesca Deklić



Arianna Doz



Cheyenne Benvegnù

