

Project Workshop 2025: „Real-world Lab for inner & outer Sustainability“



Espai de Marge
Barri Montjuïc 28, 08736 Font-rubí,
Spain



1.-4. July 2024
Start: Tuesday, 9 am; End: Friday, 14
pm

Invitation

On behalf of all project partners, we cordially invite you to our first workshop ‘Real-world Lab for inner & outer Sustainability’, that will take place from July 1 to July 4 2025 at Espai de Marge, Spain.

Project

Sustainability is primarily thought of and demanded in measurable categories, such as reducing CO2 emissions or increasing energy efficiency. However, current studies show that it is primarily inner sustainability - values, beliefs, personal awareness or social paradigms - that can have a major impact on the success of a social transformation. This Erasmus+ project uses the format of Real-world Labs at sustainability-oriented learning spaces to open up the nexus of inner & outer sustainability to school students. While experiencing nature and reflecting on their experience students develop skills such as self-regulation, creativity, solving complex problems, cooperation and communication that enables them to deal constructively and sustainably with challenges or crisis situations they are confronted. This is an important task of education for sustainable development.

Objectives

The aim of the first project workshop is to bring together teachers and educational teams at extracurricular learning spaces in Spain, Estonia and Germany in order to experience this transformative learning place-based approach. On this basis the methods and exercises suitability will be reflected and evaluated to prepare jointly the upcoming students excursions.

The focus will relay on:

- Experience of inner & outer sustainability with joint learning opportunities
- Challenges and opportunities of real-world labs for school students
- Cooperation of schools and extracurricular learning spaces

The workshop addresses teachers and educational teams to encourages an exchange between practical school and site-specific learning perspectives. Your expertise would be a great added value for the joint discussion. **We are looking forward to a stimulating exchange and hope to welcome you to the project workshop.**

Your Team of the Project *Transformative Learning in Real-world labs*

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Learn more about our concept and methodology...

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Concept and Methodology

Context

Addressing the complex phenomena related to the challenges of climate change and worldwide political conflicts requires change agents endorsed by a holistic sustainable culture. It requires a lived culture of sustainability that goes beyond a purely technical-functional approach. How can we transform our cultural patterns and habits through an inner sustainable attitude? What triggers an authentic sustainable transformation on a personal, interpersonal and group level particularly in secondary students?

Workshop Objective

During the multi-stakeholder workshop, participants (teachers and extracurricular education experts) will get an experiential understanding of Transformative Learning in Real-world Labs. Based on this on-site experience and with their manifold knowledge and experience participants will co-develop in mutual cooperation the concept and program for an extracurricular excursion format addressing Inner and Outer Sustainability. This excursion format will be provided for secondary pupils first in April 2026 at Can Grau (Barcelona province) and second (May 2026) at Muraste Nature School (Estonia). The learning objective is to experience and learn to apply sustainability-relevant methods in an extracurricular education project in a natural setting.

Workshop Format & Contents

The workshop follows the place-based principles and pedagogical qualities of a RealWorld Lab experimenting with an integrative sustainability approach that aims to combine the complex relations of its inner (mindsets, conscience, values, beliefs, motivations, emotions, etc.) and outer (of economic, ecological, social, cultural) dimensions. There will be outdoor practices every day that include among others a sensorial walk in the woods and the guided visit to a vegetable garden particularly designed for school education. The location on an inspiring natural environment will serve to deepen nature related experiences, share various in/outdoor practices, and engage in dialogue for a collaborative group work.

Focus

A thematic focus will be given on CLIPS that is a model and toolbox to work on the levels of the I, the We, the Intention, the Structure/Practice, and the Evaluation (developed by Erasmus+ SCIPP project CLIPS), and the Education for Sustainability Competencies Framework ECSF (elaborated by Redman A. y Wiek A.).

Methodology

Participants are introduced to a collaborative, integrative and creative sustainability-oriented method mix that includes among other: exercises to develop communication and team work skills, practices to enable to deal with resistance & conflict, and creative techniques of research arts to develop collaboratively innovative solutions. In a first step the methods will be trained and experienced by all the participants, and in a second step they will be evaluated jointly regarding its value for the pupils excursion as drivers of education for sustainable development. Participants will also be given time to reflect on their own role and their educational context to improve their options as drivers of sustainable development.

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