

Yard4All - Using the school's yard for ALL child's wellbeing and

development

-a step closer to a more inclusive education-



Dear members of the Yard4All network, we would like to introduce to you the project Yard4All.

Taking into account that the first years in life are of critical importance to develop cognitive and non-cognitive skills, but also to develop civic attitudes towards others, we decided to start this journey together and implement the Yard4All project.

The project focuses on bringing together actors from the private sector, the NGO sector, and the educational system with the common belief that inclusive education for sustainability is the foundation of

a much-needed hope for a better tomorrow. The main objectives are to introduce non-formal educational tools for building a stronger bond between children, to use the school garden as a place to observe, compare, experience and record all activities that promote the learning of science and mathematics, and organize local events, with the support of parents and teachers.

Project duration: 3 years [01.09.2019 - 31.08.2022]

Project coordinator: [Agrupamento Escolas D. Carlos I](#)

To feed your curiosity...

<https://www.yard4all-project.org/>

Who is implementing the Yard4All project and why?

‘We will bring to the project knowledge, good practices and the experience on applying natural sciences learning during the 1st Cycle.’ (Carlos Gonçalves, Portugal)

Carlos Gonçalves (Project Coordinator) is the General Council President from [Agrupamento Escolas D. Carlos I](#). He works together with Cláudia Carolino (graduated in Geology), Elsa Florêncio (graduated in Biology), Mário Mendes (Information and Communication Technology teacher) and Maria Isabel Vaz Parente (special education teacher). They see this project as an opportunity to bring children closer to nature by encouraging them to plant, to take care of their plants, and in the end, to harvest them.

‘I cannot imagine doing something else, being a teacher is not just a job, but my call.’ (Diana Balasoii, Romania)

Diana Balasoii is an English teacher from [Scoala Gimnaziala Nr. 28](#), Bucharest, Romania. She thinks Yard4All is important because it represents a good chance to change mentalities and to improve the teachers’ competences when it comes to teaching and creating an environment where all the children would feel included.

‘Together we go further.’ (Carpentier Clément, France)

Carpentier Clément is the Head of Educational Service from [Afeji](#) – IME Jean Lombard (Medico-

Educational Institute for children with special needs). He considers that Yard4All has beneficial effects on society by enabling the children to engage in an inclusive and eco-citizen.

‘Participation in projects like Yard4All is one of the pillars of our activity.’ (Helena Bichão, Norway)

Helena Bichão is an Associate Professor in Natural Science from the [Norwegian University of Science and Technology \(NTNU\)](#). Her motivation to be a part of Yard4All came from the opportunity to work with a team focused on working in the “field” directly with teachers and pupils with the shared ambition of changing schoolyards into active places for learning science for all diversity of children.

‘Engaging in a project with children enriches the perspective of teaching new tools to adults, who will work with children in the future.’ (Noelia and Irene, Spain)

Noelia Olmedilla del Castillo has a university degree in psychology and extensive experience in project management, in social area and education, while Irene is a social worker, both working at [Defoin](#). For them, Yard4All represents an opportunity to approach different areas such as entrepreneurship, education, and gaming in an educative and participative way. Also, it a good educational strategy to teach children the job skills necessary to create sustainable businesses in the future, while also teaching them personal skills for teamwork.

‘... I can positively say that my beliefs match perfectly with the aims of the Yard4All project, so I am honored to be involved in it!’ (Mónika Tóth, Hungary)

Ákos Pordán is the General Director of [Hand In Hand Foundation](#) involved in this project alongside Mónika Tóth (the international project leader) and Zsuzsa Petó (an international project officer). They consider that the Yard4all project is the perfect way to achieve more easily their goals.

‘Our greatest motivation in this project is to enhance children’s human and social capital, investing in innovative practices that can support not only children themselves but also their parents/caregivers, schools, local community, and policymakers.’ (Rita Lourenço, Portugal)

Rita Lourenço is the Head of the Unit of the Education, Training, and Social Capital Department of [Aproximar](#). She expects that this project will be the greatest way to improve the professionals’ skills and abilities by providing training opportunities for educators, aligned with national and local level policy

goals.

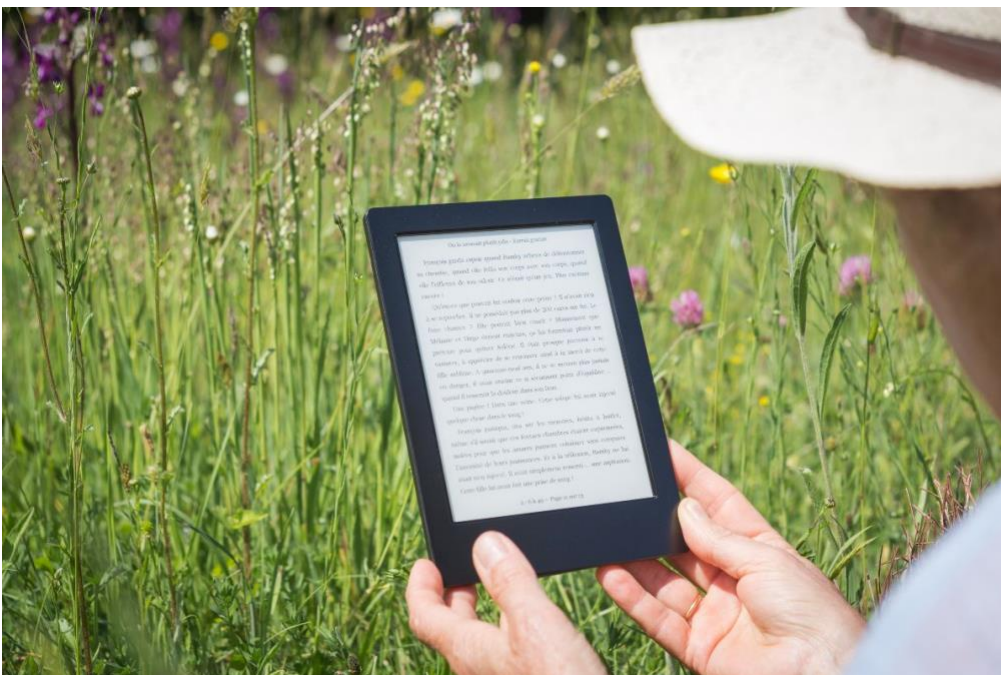
‘I believe that we are all different and highlighting this to our children as being something normal and special is a step ahead of building an inclusive society.’ (Elena Patlagica, Romania)

Elena Patlagica is an Assistant Project Manager at [EaSI](#), being involved in different initiatives that aim the development of social innovation at the European level. She believes that the objectives of the Yard4All project are ambitious and aims to support all children to connect with each other by using the garden as a “free” space and understand the meaning of taking care of others, including nature.

‘This is an opportunity to apply theoretical approaches to practice promoting more positive interactions and new learning opportunities for children.’ (Joana Alexandre, Portugal)

Joana Alexandre is an Assistant Professor at [ISCTE – University Institute of Lisbon](#). She has a Ph.D. in Social Psychology with a research training at Flinders University (Adelaide, Australia). Her research interests are inclusion and diversity, child protection, and children’s well-being. She considers that Academia should work together with communities in order to test models of intervention, and be at the service of individuals and their contexts promoting more positive environments. The Yard4all project helps to the internationalization of our teachers and researchers.

Get inspired...



Book: Earth Care, People Care and Fair Share in Education

The “**Earth care, People care and Fair share in Education**“ manual was designed to help educators understand the core ethics and principles of permaculture and give concrete examples of applying them while interacting with children, in a variety of curricular areas.