

GREEN S.E.E.D.S.

Synergy and Environment
to Empower Decentralised Schools

Manifesto

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In many regions of Europe, the increasing urbanisation and the consequent population decrease in mountain areas and small islands has severely tested the survival of their schools. Where they survive, they are likely to face deficiencies and organisational problems, often as a consequence of poor forward-looking public policies and investments.

Prejudices about the quality of teaching and the concern that geographical isolation may result in cultural isolation often lead parents to enrol their children in more central schools, sometimes even at the cost of moving, so increasing depopulation. All this is in spite of the commitment of the many capable and motivated teachers and of the social, cultural and environmental value of these schools, which lies primarily in their relationship with their own community and the link with the natural habitat, so important to develop a sense of collective belonging and a basis for the protection of local culture and environment.

The desire to enhance this identity heritage, promoting the potential of small teaching contexts, more attentive to persons and relationships, is at the basis of the European project **GREEN S.E.E.D.S.**, co-funded by Erasmus+ for the years 2019-2020/2021-2022.

OUR PRINCIPLES

Opening up to the world, beyond distance

At **GREEN S.E.E.D.S.** teachers and pupils of five European countries got in touch and experimented pathways of encounter, dialogue, training and planning, thanks to technology and online interaction. Definitely, **GREEN S.E.E.D.S.** demonstrates that “remote” does not necessarily mean “isolated” and how breaking isolation is important for teaching and learning.

Small schools: hubs of innovation, resource for their communities

Small schools, with their small numbers and their multi-classes, are a resource, not a limit. The daily work in these realities is a passionate, dedicated and continuous research. This implies attention to pupils, inclusion and much more experimentation and innovation.

The strong and solid relationship with their communities and the link with their natural habitat allow the development of a collective identity and lays the foundations for the protection of local cultures and environment, which are, in turn, part of the European cultural and environmental heritage.

Technology to overcome distance and support teaching

At **GREEN S.E.E.D.S.**, remote teaching and learning are not a consequence of the health emergency. On the contrary, they are at the very heart of the project, which was conceived and started well before Covid-19, as for remote schools the online connection becomes a valuable resource and an ally of face-to-face teaching, allowing experiences that would otherwise not be possible, both at teachers and pupils' level.

At **GREEN S.E.E.D.S.**, where the working groups involved classes from different countries, the teachers planned together the activities to be implemented; the pupils met their foreign mates online, sharing knowledge and experiences on the ground, which are the premises to realise a true enlarged learning environment at transnational level.

This experience can be replicated at different levels and in different contexts, as it can enhance and enrich the learning programmes not only of small decentralised schools, but of all schools.

The pupils, ambassadors for the Environment

Schools in the mountains and in smaller islands share a common identity, which relies on the bond with their natural surroundings as a common dimension of life. In these days, adolescents all over Europe and throughout the world have been acquiring awareness and are strongly concerned for the planet safeguard.

At **GREEN S.E.E.D.S.** the students investigate environment and global challenges starting from their local contexts and needs, which they have been observing and exploring throughout their lives. They are connected to their land and this is a privilege, not only for these same students, but also for the knowledge transfer and exchange of experiences with other students, including those in city schools.

They are our best possible ambassadors for Environment, as active players of a common identity. This identity and the sense of belonging are one of the pillars of **GREEN S.E.E.D.S.**

Sign our **MANIFESTO!**

Do you share our work and its values and principles?

Sign the **GREEN S.E.E.D.S. Manifesto** to join a community of people willing to support and promote them. Subscribers will be informed about project follow-up.

You can sign at www.greenseeds.eu