

Added Value of Networking



Rural4baby: 4 steps in the green with grandparents

Basic information	
NRN:	Italian National Rural Network
Theme:	Relevant experience
Coordinator:	RuraLand Team, National Rural Network
Partners:	Four preschools in the city of Rome
Beneficiaries:	Children between 3 and 5 years old and their grandparents
Resources:	€ 32,175
Period:	11.2012 – 05.2013
Main element of networking:	Capacity building and training
Other elements of networking:	Building common understanding of common policies Exchange of relevant experience and know-how amongst stakeholders

Background

The Rural 4 Baby project was developed by the NRN and Ruraland with the aim of making children more aware of the challenges in rural areas. Sustainability, climate change, rural landscape, energy conservation, water resources management and safeguarding biodiversity are complex terms for children to understand, however, it is important to develop better integration between schools, student learning and rural areas. Aspects such as environmental degradation, climate chaos, energy crisis, unequal distribution of resources and the search for a better quality of life affect us all and are no longer solely the concern of institutions.

Main activities

The project delivered a range of different activities in each of the schools involved including:

- Two meetings to share the aims of the project with the school, teachers and grandparents to ensure that the school could capture as many learning outcomes from the activity as possible.
- Two educational and play-based meetings to increase children's awareness and knowledge about key issues of agricultural policy and rural development.
- A final meeting to share the results achieved in the classes involved and discuss any longer term activities requested by the schools.



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- The active involvement of grandparents to support and encourage the children to experience nature in a different way, developing greater understanding of the protection of natural resources.
- The development of vegetable gardens within the schools to support the continued learning of the children involved.
- The development and distribution of play based learning kits to enable more children to participate in the learning developed through the project.

Main results/benefits

This project produced a range of positive results. Discussing the project with various institutions helped to promote and increase dialogue between them. During the delivery period the activities implemented promoted the grandparent grandchild relationship, supporting and encouraging grandparents to strengthen their role in the social, psychological and spiritual development of their grandchild.

In the longer term the project has also developed the identity, autonomy, competence and citizenship of children, offering the new generation useful tools to understand the importance of respect and care for the environment.

Success factors

This project has been successful as it created effective teaching and learning - environmental education is the teaching of 'being' and 'doing', not just of 'knowledge'. It also created green spaces in schools, which encouraged the long term engagement of students in caring for their environment. All this activity supported children to modify bad behaviour and explore opportunities to find 'rural' experiences in daily life.

Added value of networking

Networking enabled more effective intergenerational dialogue to take place and enabled the project to engage with a new stakeholder group – urban schools

Contribution of the NSU

The Italian NRN provided a range of support including communication staff enabling the participation of experts, who were involved in the planning stage.

Contribution of the partners

The schools were involved in the implementation of the pilot project. The teachers engaged in the



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project have shown great ability to educate in an active way, teaching the principles of the project and respect for the environment.

Additional information

www.ruraland4.it

Pictures

n/a

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