

SERIES I

Monday, 07 April 2025

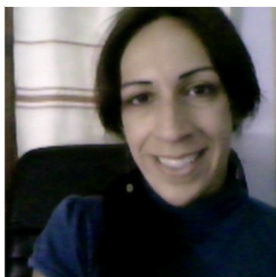
PRIORITY 3: WELL-BEING IN EDUCATION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

10:45 Panel Discussion

11:45 Parallel Workshops: "Ideas Worth Seizing"

Moderator

Stella Hadjiachilleous

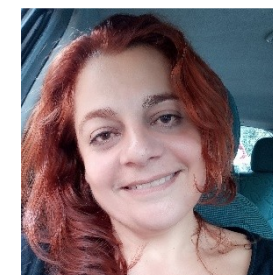


An officer at the Unit for Education for the Environment and Sustainable Development at the Ministry of Education, Sport and Youth, Stella has been involved in the development of national ESD curricula, conducted teacher and school leader training, and represented Cyprus in international forums like the UNECE ESD Steering Committee. Her work spans teaching, research, and training across different educational levels, including a background as an elementary teacher in Cyprus. Stella's professional training includes research assistant positions at the University of Pittsburgh and New York University. Stella holds a Ph.D. in Learning in Natural Sciences from the University of Cyprus. She has authored multiple publications on sustainability and educational methods.

Panelists

Vasiliki Ioakeimidou

A national inspector of European Schools and education consultant in Athens, Vasiliki is also a tutor and Counselor at Hellenic Open University (HOU). She graduated from the Pedagogical Department of Primary Education of the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, followed by postgraduate studies in the U.K. on a scholarship from the Onassis Foundation which led to an M.A. in Drama in Education from the University of Central England in Birmingham. Her postgraduate training was carried out at the University of Patras. Vasiliki holds a Ph.D. in Education with a specialization in issues of quality in distance education from HOU. Since 2000 she has worked as a teacher in private and public schools.



François Jourde



Serving as the Digital Education Coordinator in the Office of the Secretary-General of the European Schools, François supports the governance and advancement of competency-based education in the digital age, contributing to curriculum design and professional development. He also focuses on learning for sustainability and designs CPD programmes for educators and school leaders. François collaborates closely with stakeholders at both European and international levels to support these initiatives. He is a former philosophy teacher at the secondary school level.

Chara Makriyianni

Serving as the Acting Director of Orounda Primary School, she also trains teachers at the Pedagogical Institute of Cyprus. She is one of the Founding Members of the Association for Historical Dialogue and Research, the Home for Cooperation and the CypRom, the Association of Roma and Friends of Cyprus. A EuroClio Ambassador, she served as a EuroClio Board Policy Officer, a Council of Europe expert, Chara served as the Chair of the Scientific Advisory Council of The Observatory on History Teaching in Europe, an Enlarged Partial Agreement of the Council of Europe, from her election in June 2021 until November 2024. Chara holds a B.A. in Education (Hons) from the University of Nottingham, an M.A. in History in Education from the Institute of Education, University of London and later completed a Ph.D. from the Faculty of Education, University of Cambridge. She co-authored history teaching and learning material. She is a fellow of the Cambridge Commonwealth Society and a scholar of the Cyprus Fulbright Commission.



Aravella Zachariou



She is the Head of the Unit for Education for Environment and Sustainable Development (ESD) at the Ministry of Education, Sports and Youth. Since 2017, she continues to chair the United Nations Economic Commission on Education for Sustainable Development (UNECE). She also chairs the ESD Mediterranean Committee and led the Expert Group on Climate Change in Education in the Eastern Mediterranean and Middle East Countries. As an expert she participates in the European Commission's working group on learning in environmental sustainability, as well as in various international and regional networks (MIO, GENE, GUPES, etc.).

She is member of scientific and research consortiums of European projects related to ESD and her research interests focus in formal and non-formal education for ESD and ESD professional development and ESD policies. Her research work has been presented in international and national conferences, and her papers have been published in international journals, book collections, and proceedings of international conferences. She is author and co-author of a number of scientific and educational books on ESD.

Workshop Presenters

Nurturing Nature: Integrating outdoor learning into the European curriculum

Accredited European School of The Hague

Gareth Mate

With over two decades working in education, Gareth has taught in diverse settings from inner-city London to international schools. These experiences have developed a well-rounded, creative approach to teaching and leadership. He has served as a Deputy Headteacher and Language Leader. Gareth is passionate about the outdoors and advocates for integrating nature into our lives for well-being and making important connections. In his role as a Forest Schools Leader and Outdoor Nature Coach, he empowers individuals through outdoor learning and experiences. Gareth invites participants to connect with him to discover more about his ideas, his work on his website and how his passion for education and the outdoors can benefit participants' networks and goals.



Where Nature Becomes the Classroom

European School of Karlsruhe

Joanna Staub

A French primary school teacher with extensive experience in bilingual education in both the national system and international schools abroad. Over the last 20 years, Joanna developed an expertise in teaching in lower primary and «Ecole maternelle» in a multilingual environment. She has taken on leadership roles at different levels and has been training teachers to help them integrate digital tools and encourage innovation in their teaching practices. As an experienced teacher in « Outdoor/ Forest classroom », she has developed several projects in partnership with local community actors to promote sustainable education, the well-being of children and academic achievement. With particular emphasis on digital tools that give voice to the youngest pupils by enabling them to share their respect for nature, Joanna believes that combining digital learning and sustainable education is the key to shaping eco-conscious citizens.



Vanessa Wessbecher



As a Belgian primary school teacher with almost 20 years of experience in both the national system and plurilingual settings, she has been working at the European School of Karlsruhe since 2016. developed my practices and focused on Project pedagogy and digital learning. I try to offer students a fun, dynamic and engaging learning experience. Since my arrival at school, I have been involved in different working groups to support the development of the system and have taken on several coordination tasks to improve the community spirit in our school. Constantly willing to develop my teaching skills, I decided to dive into outdoor learning and combine it with digital projects. Overall, I value sharing ideas and working together to build a greener and more innovative future for children.

Mailis Klemola

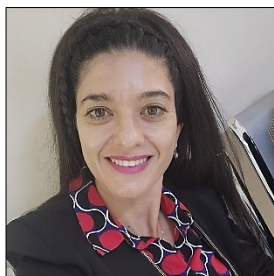
A native Finnish teacher with over 40 years of experience both in primary and secondary school teaching, she has spent almost 30 years at the European School of Karlsruhe dedicating her professional life to developing sustainability projects that will shape the future generations. Mailis has been responsible for the school's Biotope project, since 2008. Her goal is to enable children to experience outdoor learning in an active way, to foster their respect for nature and to develop competences to become responsible European citizens.



Innovations in Geography Education: Advancing learning through gamification and Artificial Intelligence

Gymnasium of Kiti, Cyprus

Photini Photiou



A dedicated secondary teacher of geography in the Cyprus public school system, Photini previously taught AS Geography at the private American Academy in Larnaca. She holds a B.A. in Geography from Kingston University in London and an M.S. in Environmental Management and Environmental Health from the Harvard School of Public Health in Boston. She has collaborated with her university tutor to publish research on desalination plants in four Mediterranean countries. Recognized as an Educational Leader by Boussias Cyprus for three consecutive years, she is known for promoting innovation and Environmental Education. Every year, she partners with student teams to compete and win various prizes. Recently, she has specialized in Artificial Intelligence and the integration of digital tools in teaching to enhance educational practices. Last year, she served as a reviewer for postgraduate student papers at an international conference in Larissa, Greece. Now a pre-doctoral student, she is committed to advancing new educational techniques to further develop her students' geographical skills.

Nurturing Students' Well-being through Classrooms without Borders

European School Brussels I

Marijana Smolcec

An L2/L3 English teacher at EEB1 and teacher trainer with over 23 years of experience working with secondary school students, she is currently on secondment from the Croatian Ministry of Science, Education and Youth. She has been active in various teaching associations, as well as Erasmus+ and eTwinning since 2011 and was serving as an online group moderator of an eTwinning featured group "Inclusive Education". Marijana is passionate about teaching teenagers, implementing personalized and project-based learning, videoconferences, online projects, use of technology, etc.



Sustainable School Reporting

European School of Luxembourg I

Magdalena Rodzinka

Magdalena holds a postgraduate diploma in Social Policy and Resocialization and a Certificate of Sustainable Development and Social Innovation. She was a mentor for students of the University of Luxembourg in the project 'NatureED' - the project included awareness-raising activities on urban biodiversity and so-called outdoor education. Her passions are gardening, producing her own food and travelling. She writes poems for adults and children. Two years ago, she published her first book of poetry for children. She was nominated for the nationwide Irena Sendler Award 'For Repairing the World'.



Ludovic Ramirez

Professor "agrégé" of Physical and Chemical Sciences of the French National Education on contract at the European School of Luxembourg 1. I have been teaching Sciences since 2013 with motivation, dynamism and modernism. I am passionate about Chemistry and more particularly Green Chemistry in strong connection with sustainable development. I try through my classes and thanks to numerous actions to ensure that students learn with an ecological and caring vision..."



