

# EDUPLAY

“Promoting High-Quality ECEC through Education and Play in all day settings”

1st Newsletter

May 2025

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## About the Project:

A consortium of **6 partners** from **5 European countries** Cyprus, Greece, Portugal, Netherlands and Lithuania initiated the project entitled “Promoting High-Quality ECEC through Education and Play in all day settings” (EDUPLAY) which is implemented with the co-funding of the European Education and Culture Executive Agency under the Erasmus+ Teacher Academies 2024 call.



## How was the project initiated?

The international need to **improve the quality of ECEC** has created a **steady interest in children’s play**, both from researchers’ and practitioners’ points of view. Play, despite its popularity as a pedagogical tool in ECEC, remains a complex issue that does not translate easily into practice. Researchers and practitioners (i.e., teachers, stakeholders, parents) talk about its importance, but as research suggests, they are often uncertain as to how they can best support it.

## What is the aim of the project?

The EDUPLAY project aims to enhance the use of play in ECEC settings across Europe and to strengthen the role of play in ECEC by promoting a collaborative process of reflection and co-construction of knowledge, skills, and tools needed to integrate play more effectively into in-service and pre-service educational practices.

## What activities is the EDUPLAY project going to implement during 2025–2028?

Structured around **three key phases**, the project involves:

- 1. Desk and Field research**, including an assessment of the current state of play and the in-service and pre-service teachers' and headteachers/leaders' needs and challenges.
- 2. Professional development program**, including a comprehensive teacher guide and training e-learning courses for supporting practitioners to effectively integrate play into their practice.
- 3. Establishment of a pan-European network and learning community** of ECEC stakeholders, researchers, practitioners and policymakers, specialized and interested in the use of play in ECEC. Also, a formulation of **policy recommendations** to inform the educational systems and policy on systematizing the use of play in all-day ECEC settings across Europe.



## The project was kicked off in Cyprus, hosted by the University of Cyprus!

The EDUPLAY project officially launched with its **1st Transnational Partners Meeting**, held in **Cyprus** on **May 29–30, 2025**. Representatives from all partner organizations came together to set the foundation for a successful collaboration. The two-day meeting offered a comprehensive overview of the project's vision, goals, and expected impact. The meeting focused on building strong coordination mechanisms and setting a shared course for the months ahead. With enthusiasm and a collaborative spirit, the EDUPLAY consortium is now fully equipped to bring the project's objectives to life.

## Meet the consortium



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