

EDUPLAY

“Promoting High-Quality ECEC through Education and Play in All-Day Settings

2nd Newsletter

September 2025

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Mapping of the needs and challenges of pre and in-service teachers and headteachers in using play in ECEC

Work Package 2, coordinated by the team at the Polytechnic Institute of Porto, has been in progress for the past few months. During these months, all partner countries are conducting extensive desk and field research to **identify the current status of play in ECEC settings**, as well as the **current needs and challenges** of in-service and pre-service teachers and headteachers in employing play into their practice.

Field Research

A field research is currently taking place in each country, capturing the perspectives and views of ECEC professionals concerning their training needs and challenges. Data collection includes:

- individual **interviews** with headteachers,
- focus group discussions** with in-service teachers, and
- on-site observations** conducted by pre-service teachers in early childhood settings.



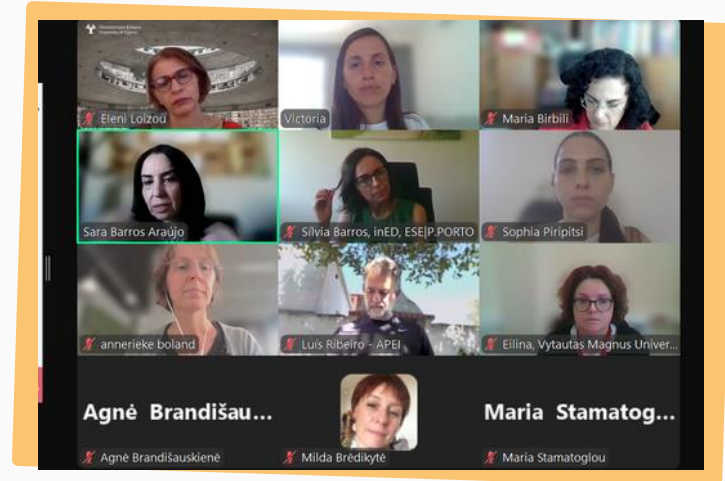
Desk Research: Policy & Literature Review

Desk research aims to help the partnership gain a comprehensive understanding of how play is framed and practiced in the different European ECEC systems. It includes two main activities:

- a **review** of current **national policies**, and
- an **analysis** of **existing research and studies** on the use of play pedagogy in promoting learning and development in the participating countries.

Consortium Meetings

Several meetings were held to coordinate the research activities and discuss the progress of desk and field research. Partners have paid emphasis on aligning data collection procedures and ensuring that all partners follow a common approach during the implementation of the research activities.



What's Coming Up

The findings from both desk and field research will soon be synthesized into national reports, providing an in-depth view of each country's status of the use of play in ECEC contexts. The final deliverable will be the development of a **transnational needs assessment report**, offering cross-country insights.

Together, these deliverables will inform the project's subsequent activities, including the development of a **Teacher Guide** and the design and implementation of a **Professional Development Program** to support ECEC practitioners in employing play to promote **quality** and **equity** in ECEC settings.

Consortium



Stay tuned for more!