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ABOUT THE PROJECT AND THE PROJECT TEAM



How the idea of this project was born

The seed of this project was planted during an Erasmus project writing workshop organized by the Montessori Institute Prague. Here, us, a group of Montessori educators from different countries, came together—strangers at first, yet immediately connected by a shared experience. We quickly realized that, despite our diverse backgrounds, we faced the same challenges in Montessori Elementary education.

We spoke about the struggle to have our work recognized, about the difficulty of articulating the richness of Elementary classrooms to those who have never experienced them. We shared concerns about how to communicate the beauty and depth of Cosmic Education through competence-based learning, and we recognized the invisible labour teachers carry every day. Every conversation echoed a common theme: our teachers are doing extraordinary work, yet the world often doesn't see it.

This shared understanding—this common pain—sparked an idea. What if we could give teachers the tools, the language, and the confidence to show what happens in Montessori Elementary classrooms? What if we could help them defend their practice and demonstrate its value to the wider world? The motivation was clear: we wanted to illuminate the hidden gem of Montessori education, to make visible the remarkable growth and learning that happens each day.

Together, we crafted an Erasmus+ project application. The European Union recognized the value of our vision and awarded us funding of 60,000 euros to bring it to life. It was the beginning of a journey—born from collaboration, shared experiences, and a mutual desire to support teachers and students alike.

Our project “Citizen of the World”, born from shared insight and dedication, is our way of giving back to the Montessori community—offering support, language, and practical tools to teachers, while celebrating the remarkable work happening every day in elementary classrooms across the World.

Goal of the project

In today's society, Montessori Elementary education is still often overlooked or misunderstood, seen as out of step with modern needs. Through this project, we aim to change that perception. Our goal is to reveal the true value of Montessori: a learning environment where children are nurtured into thoughtful, capable, and globally aware citizens. Here, the development of the eight key competencies outlined by the European Union—skills essential for future leaders and innovators—is not just a framework but a lived reality. Montessori Elementary classrooms have been cultivating these competencies for years, quietly preparing children to thrive in an interconnected world.

Our aim of this project is to create a valuable digital free resource for teachers and school admins that gives guidelines how European Union Lifelong Learning Competencies are incorporated into Montessori Elementary education theoretically and practically.

Our message to teachers: each day, you engage in the vital and inspiring work of shaping young minds, and we are here to support you by giving voice to your efforts, so you can feel empowered and confident in your role.

Our message to parents: have confidence in the Montessori Elementary experience—your children are cultivating the eight EU key competencies each and every day.



Activities of the project

Online meetings - COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS

Where we discussed EU key competencies building in Elementary classroom with wider community of Elementary teachers and parents

We organized Eight Community Conversations:

- [Cosmic Education and Key EU Competencies](#) with *Kyla Morenz*
- [The Role of invented spelling and grammar](#) with *Madlena Ulrich*
- [STEM - Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics competencies and Maria Montessori Science - based Pedagogy](#) with *Veronika Kánová*
- [Montessori Elementary: Cultivating Lifelong Skills for the Digital Age](#) with *Indrė Vitkuvienė*
- [Montessori Education & Citizenship - Beyond Social Cohesion](#) with *Kavita Doodnauth*
- [Montessori Philosophy and Cultural Awareness](#) with *Allan Nguyen*
- [Multilingualism in the Elementary Montessori classrooms in the context of EU key competences](#) with *Lucie Urbančíková*
- [Montessori & EU Competencies for Lifelong Learning: Entrepreneurship](#) with *Mirka Vlčková*

They are all recorded and available as accompanying digital resource in our guidelines.

'Citizen of the World' guidelines

They are developed by our methodological team from all project partners organisations. These guidelines are suitable for teachers, showcasing best practices in Montessori Elementary key competencies building. Every competence has own chapter with theoretical background and stories from the classroom, that shows alignment of specific EU competence with activities done in Montessori Elementary classroom.



Online international conference *on the Elementary Child as a Citizen of the World*

Montessori Elementary Teachers in Action was an online gathering for guides working with children aged 6–12. Through keynotes, breakout sessions, and peer conversations, this conference created a safe, supportive space to connect with colleagues, reflect on common classroom struggles, and explore practical solutions.

There were 11 presentations:

- Carla Foster & Kyla Moren. **Elementary Child: Who Are You?**
- Nina Johansen. **Montessori + EU Competencies = A Path to Recognition**
- Amanda Kirchner. **Opening a new classroom: Building work habits when everyone is new to Montessori**
- Hanka Chramostova. **Collegial Collaboration & School Culture: Building Trust and Resilience in Montessori Teams**
- Indrė Vitkuvienė. **Building Bridges with Parents: Trust, Communication, and Partnership in Montessori Education**
- Kristyna Turkova. **Difficulty in Implementing Cosmic Education**
- Madara Spurava. **Collaboration between adult staff in a classroom**
- Radka Jandova. **Supporting Neurodiverse and Special Needs Learners**
- Veronika Kanova. **Balancing Montessori with National Curriculum or Exams**
- Veronika Kotulkova. **Time Management and Overwhelm**
- Vierka Machalkova. **Structure That Empowers: Systems and Routines for Montessori Success**

All presentations of conference are recorded and available as accompanying digital resource in our guidelines.

Project official card

Project type: Erasmus+ small-scale partnership project

Project Coordinator: UAB Montessori Akademija (LT)

Identifier: 2023-2-LT01-KA210-SCH-000184526

Duration: January 1, 2024 - December 31, 2025

EU Contribution: €60,000

Partners: Montessori Institute Prague s.r.o. (CZ) , MONTE PLUS (SK) , Montessori skoly Andilek - materska skola a zakladni skola, o.p.s (CZ) , Jolly HOMESCHOOL, s.r.o. (SK)

Project card: <https://erasmus-plus.ec.europa.eu/projects/search/details/2023-2-LT01-KA210-SCH-000184526>



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Project team: **Montessori Akademija, Lithuania**

At the heart of Lithuania, in Kaunas and Vilnius, Montessori Akademija (UAB Montessori akademija) is more than a school—it is a place where educators, parents, and the wider local network come together around shared values: respect for each child, the nurturing of authentic Montessori principles, and the cultivation of a collaborative, supportive environment.



Since its founding in February 2019, Montessori Akademija welcomes over 120 children aged 1½ to 11 years, consistently applying international Montessori curricula across its dual locations. From the very beginning, our mission has been clear: to create a space where children can thrive in mind, body, and spirit, guided by authentic Montessori methods. Under the leadership of Indrė Vitkuvienė, whose journey from academic research to Montessori advocacy shapes every aspect of the school, Montessori Akademija blends a thoughtfully prepared environment with an emotional foundation rooted in empathy, curiosity, and freedom. Creativity, exploration, and the recognition of each child’s unique pace define daily life in our classrooms.

Montessori Akademija is formally registered as both a kindergarten and Elementary school in Lithuania. The Kaunas location serves as our headquarters, while Vilnius extends our reach to more families and educators, reinforcing our community-centered approach. Montessori Akademija is also unique in Lithuania as the only school where AMI 6–12 trained guides lead Elementary classrooms. This expertise ensures that our programs faithfully follow authentic Montessori principles, while offering children rich, meaningful experiences that foster independence and collaboration.

Beyond the daily classroom, Montessori Akademija serves as a hub for learning, professional development, and collaboration. We offer short-term Montessori courses,

lectures, and mentoring programs tailored for parents, educators, and newly established schools. Active partnerships with local universities allow us to conduct educational research and strengthen the broader Montessori ecosystem in Lithuania. Through our mentoring network, we support schools in implementing international Montessori curricula, maintaining methodological fidelity, and sharing best practices. As project coordinator for the Erasmus+ initiative “Citizen of the World: Guidelines on Key Competencies Building in Montessori Elementary Classroom,” Montessori Akademija leads the creation of free digital resources for teachers and administrators, helping schools across Europe integrate EU key competencies into Montessori education.

Montessori Akademija is more than a place of learning. It is a values-driven, community-centered educational leader, rooted in respect, collaboration, and the authenticity of the Montessori method.



Website: <https://www.montessoriakademija.lt>

Project team: Montessori School Andílek, Czech Republic

Montessori Andílek is a school that grew out of a desire to create an environment where children learn freely, joyfully, and with respect. We are located in the heart of Prague 5 and have been offering education based on the principles of Montessori education to children aged 1.5 to 15 for more than ten years.



We believe that every child is born with enormous potential. Our role is not to fulfill this potential from the outside, but to offer children the conditions to discover what is inside them. We create a loving, safe, and stimulating environment where children learn naturally – through their own experience, cooperation, and discovery.

The history of the school began in 2008, when the Family Center was established, followed by morning workshops with children and the first group of children in kindergarten. In 2013, we launched the elementary school, and since then, Andílek has gradually grown into a vibrant community that now includes more than a hundred children aged 1.5 to 15, dozens of teachers and guides, and a broad base of parents and friends of the school. Every year, new experiences, programs, and opportunities are added.

Andílek is one of the top Montessori centers in the Czech Republic. Our entire team of teachers is trained according to the international standards of AMI (Association Montessori Internationale). We are one of only twenty schools in the world to have been selected for the AMI accreditation process – the highest possible mark of quality in Montessori education. We are also an accredited school in the Erasmus+ program, which opens the door to international cooperation and inspiration for our children and teachers. We work closely with the Montessori Institute Prague – the AMI's global training center, where future teachers from around the world are trained. Andílek is their

training school, which means that our environment and our team meet the highest standards and we are becoming a model of practice for students and professionals alike. Each of our classrooms is fully equipped with original Montessori materials and meets the needs of the given age group. In the toddler group (1.5–3 years), children take their first steps toward independence and learn to adapt to the group. In kindergarten (3–6 years), they find a richly prepared environment that develops their senses, language, and ability to concentrate. In elementary school (6–12 years), they learn to connect knowledge, collaborate in groups, and discover the world through projects and research activities. The adolescent program (ages 12–15) then provides a connection to practical life and teaching in the field and on the farm, where students take on responsibility, learn cooperation and management, and prepare for the next stage of their lives.

Our values are based on respect, partnership, and authenticity. We respect children as fully-fledged individuals who have the right to choose and take responsibility for their decisions. We believe that learning is meaningful when it comes from inner motivation. That is why we create an environment that gives children the opportunity to discover things for themselves, with adults acting as guides who support and inspire them. We also place great emphasis on community—we are convinced that children need not only teachers, but also a broad community of people who are role models and with whom they can share their experiences.

A rich community life is therefore part of our work. Every year, we organize about a hundred events that bring together children, parents, and teachers – from joint celebrations and excursions to educational programs and workshops. We introduce children to music, creativity, and a love of cooking from an early age. We emphasize independence, responsibility, and motivation for lifelong learning—not only in children, but also in the adults who make up the Andilka community. The school also runs a studio, a creative space that combines education with art, creativity, and community gatherings. It offers courses, workshops, and programs that expand school education and open it up to the public.

We work as a team that bases its activities on a clear strategy, shared values, and cooperation. Our vision and daily practice are based on respect, partnership, and

authenticity. We believe that education is a shared journey where children and adults learn from each other, inspire each other, and grow together.

As a natural extension of the school, the Andílek Montessori Academy was established—a center for the continuous education of teachers, assistants, and leaders. The academy is based on the practice of the Andílek school (more than 20 years of experience) and follows the highest AMI standards. It offers advanced courses, mentoring, and practical workshops that respond to specific classroom needs. The academy emphasizes an individual approach, professional practice, and support for personal and professional growth — with the aim of improving the quality of the Montessori environment not only at Andílka, but also in a broader educational context.

Montessori Andílek is a school for life — a place where learning is a joy and where we prepare every day for the world that awaits us.



Website: <https://montessorilandilek.cz>

Project team: **Súkromná základná škola Jolly HOMESCHOOL, Slovakia**

Súkromná základná škola Jolly HOMESCHOOL is a private school located at two welcoming sites in Pezinok and Viničné in Slovakia. We serve 75 children and young people aged 6–15, together with their families, in the tradition of the Association Montessori Internationale (AMI).



Our story began 11 years ago. Although the journey has not always been easy, we have moved forward with determination, hard work, and perseverance — growing steadily and with a clear vision.

Our daily educational goals are the cultivation of exemplary character, a creative mind, a global outlook, and service to humanity. Jolly HOMESCHOOL is a place where children strive to become the kindest, most thoughtful, and most capable versions of themselves. Our mission is to create an environment in which children grow into responsible future adults who will bring positive change to society.

Adolescence is a time of extraordinary energy and creativity. Our Young Community takes care of the Jolly Farm, where the special Production and Exchange program takes place. In combination with academic education, this offers adolescents a 21st-century learning experience that prepares them to become active agents of change in the world.

Since its foundation, Jolly HOMESCHOOL has been committed to building a true partnership between school and parents in the education of each child. Together, we create a rich developmental environment for children aged 6–15, where the wisdom and knowledge of the world meet courtesy, kindness, acceptance, and industrious hands that are ready to improve their surroundings.

Our approach to education is centered on fostering and sustaining a love of learning, while deepening wisdom, kindness, a sense of beauty, and responsibility. We guide children to develop self-discipline, recognize and apply their strengths and talents, and shape their lives in ways that bring them a sense of personal fulfillment.

In the future, we would like to support others in their growth and offer opportunities to learn from our story. That is why we are proud to be partners in this Erasmus program, as learning, sharing, and connecting make us sustainable and inspire continuous innovation, collaboration, and positive change.



Website: <https://www.jollyhomeschool.sk>

Project team: Montessori educational centre MONTE PLUS, Slovakia



MONTE PLUS is a Montessori educational center based in Bernolákovo, Slovakia, founded in 2016 by Hanka Horáková and Veronika Kánová. Our mission is to bring the authentic spirit and practice of Maria Montessori's philosophy closer to teachers, parents, and children across Slovakia — creating a community built on respect, curiosity, and lifelong learning. We focus on teacher education, parental guidance, and the promotion of Montessori pedagogy for children from birth to 18 years of age. Through our courses, seminars, and webinars, we help adults rediscover the joy of learning and understand the true developmental needs of children.

Our Mission and Vision

At MONTE PLUS, **our mission** is to empower adults to bring Montessori education to life — in classrooms, in families, and in communities. We believe that by supporting teachers and parents, we can create environments where every child can grow into a confident, responsible, and compassionate human being.

Our vision extends beyond teaching. We aim to build a strong Montessori network in Slovakia, where educators and parents collaborate to create schools and communities that reflect peace, freedom, and sustainability — the very principles Maria Montessori envisioned for humanity.

The Heart of MONTE PLUS

At the heart of MONTE PLUS lies a deep belief that education is a journey of the soul — not only of the mind. We see teachers not merely as guides for children, but as lifelong learners who grow through reflection, connection, and community.

Each of our programs is designed to reach both the professional and the personal side of the adult — to remind them why they chose to work with children in the first place.

In our trainings, laughter blends with deep insight, and theory meets real classroom experience. We don't just teach Montessori — we live it. In the way we speak to one another, in the way we prepare our spaces, and in the way we believe that change in education begins with the inner transformation of the adult.

Montessori Teacher Training and Professional Development

MONTE PLUS is an accredited provider of innovative and updating teacher education programs, officially recognized by the Ministry of Education, Research, Development and Youth of the Slovak Republic. Participants completing over 50 hours of training may earn a certificate in Innovative Education (Inovačné vzdelávanie). Our courses combine practical, hands-on learning with theoretical depth. Teachers have the opportunity to explore authentic Montessori materials, guided by experienced lecturers who explain not only how to use them, but why they matter — connecting educational tools to the child's development, concentration, and joy of discovery.

We offer:

- Certified in-service and innovative training for teachers
- Interactive workshops and seminars for schools and individuals
- Webinars and online programs for wider accessibility
- Programs covering all Montessori levels: 0–3, 3–6, 6–12, and adolescents

Building a Montessori Community

MONTE PLUS connects teachers, parents, and educational institutions who share the belief that true learning begins with respect for the child.

We create safe, inspiring spaces for collaboration — both locally and internationally.

As a partner in the Erasmus+ project *Citizen of the World*, Monte Plus actively contributes to international cooperation and the exchange of best practices among Montessori educators from different countries.

Beyond our training programs, we organize community events, lectures, and public webinars that help bridge the gap between formal education and authentic Montessori principles. Our goal is simple: to make Montessori education accessible to as many children as possible in Slovakia.

Our Team

Our team of experienced Montessori lecturers — including Veronika Kánová, Anna Šuláková, Lucia Hudecová and other guest experts — brings together decades of hands-on classroom experience and a shared passion for quality teacher education.

Their expertise ensures that every MONTE PLUS course is grounded in both practice and philosophy, offering participants meaningful and transformative learning experiences.



MONTE PLUS – Spreading the ideas of Maria Montessori and understanding among people. We bring positive change for children, parents, and educators — one course, one classroom, one heart at a time.

Website - <https://www.monteplus.sk>

Project team: Montessori Institute Prague, Czech Republic



Who We Are and What We Do?

Montessori Institute Prague (MIP) was founded in 2013 by Miroslava Vlčková, a passionate Montessori educator, entrepreneur, and community builder. The original idea was simple yet urgent: the Montessori school that Miroslava had founded needed access to high-quality teacher training that matched the standards of the Association Montessori Internationale (AMI). Rather than wait for someone else to provide it, she took the initiative to establish a training center in Prague - one that would not only serve her school's teachers, but also become a resource for the wider Montessori movement in Central and Eastern Europe.

From those beginnings, MIP has grown into a thriving AMI training organization with a truly global reach. Today, we provide Montessori teacher training for every age level Assistants to Infancy (0–3 years), Primary (3–6 years) and Elementary (6–12 years). We deliver our courses in both online and blended formats, making high-quality Montessori education accessible to students across continents. In addition to teacher training, we also offer certificate courses for classroom assistants, professional development for school leaders and administrators, and a wide range of theme-based seminars and workshops. Whether you are an experienced Montessorian, a school director, a new assistant, or a curious parent, there is a place for you to learn and grow with us.

Our Mission and Vision

At Montessori Institute Prague, our mission is to empower adults to bring Montessori education to children everywhere. We believe that by supporting teachers, leaders, and parents, we are shaping not only schools but also communities, families, and ultimately the future of society.

Our vision extends beyond the classroom. We see Montessori education as a global movement for peace, dignity, and human potential. Every child deserves an environment where they can thrive - and every adult deserves the training and support to create such an environment.

Building a Global Montessori Community

Education does not happen in isolation. From the very beginning, MIP has been committed to creating spaces for connection and community. Each year, we host dozens of free online gatherings where Montessorians from all over the world can come together to share, learn, and ask questions. These sessions are informal, interactive, and deeply supportive. They remind us that while our classrooms may be local, our community is truly global.

We also organize free webinars with AMI trainers. These sessions bring top-quality expertise within reach of anyone with an internet connection. Hundreds of participants join us to hear trainers speak on practical and philosophical topics, ask questions, and deepen their understanding of Montessori practice.

Beyond teaching, we also recognize the need for mentorship and guidance. Many people dream of opening Montessori schools, starting parent programs, or even establishing training organizations in their countries. We have supported such pioneers through mentoring groups that focus on grant writing, project design, and community building. These groups have already helped bring Montessori to new communities, ensuring that the movement continues to spread in sustainable and grounded ways.

Professional Development for Leaders

Montessori schools need not only well-trained teachers, but also strong, values-based leadership. This is why MIP offers courses for Montessori school managers and administrators. These programs explore the essentials of financial stability, communication, and organizational culture - all grounded in Montessori principles. We believe that thriving schools are built on both pedagogical excellence and healthy, sustainable leadership.

Through workshops, online series, and mentoring, we equip leaders with practical tools to face real-world challenges: balancing budgets, engaging families, and supporting staff. At the same time, we encourage them to lead with trust, kindness, and clarity, modeling for adults the same respect and guidance we wish for children.

We help enthusiasts bring Montessori to their communities!



Website: <https://amiprague.cz>