



Inspiration for education

Growing together through nature

How it began

Before the **INSPIRE project**, many children in Ivano-Frankivsk Region and Botoșani County, especially children with special educational needs, spent most of their learning time indoors, with very limited opportunities to explore nature, interact with others, or learn through therapeutic and creative activities.

Teachers and parents on both sides of the border faced the same challenge: **creating safe and inclusive spaces where children could learn, communicate, and feel supported.**



New approaches

The need for cooperation became clear as both communities faced similar educational and social challenges. Schools and educational institutions in Ivano-Frankivsk and Botoșani needed new approaches to **inclusive education**, especially after the emotional and psychological difficulties children experienced in recent years.

By combining experience in inclusive and environmental education, the partners were able to develop stronger and more innovative solutions together.

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Combining their expertise ...

Executive Committee of Ivano-Frankivsk City Council, Ukraine



overall project coordination and community engagement

Botoșani County Council, Romania



responsible for project implementation in Botoșani

MO "City Children Ecological Station of Ivano-Frankivsk City Council (CCES)", Ukraine



organises the events of the project in Ivano-Frankivsk; provides support to the lead partner

Ion Pillat Dorohoi Special Professional School, Romania



organises the events of the project in Botoșani; provides support to the project partner 1

... and the project

The INSPIRE project - "Inclusive and Nurturing Spaces for Progressive, Innovative, and Responsive Education" (ROUA00253)

INSPIRE is not only about new spaces, it is about inspiring others to care about our children. It is also about building long-term cooperation, creating inclusive educational models, and giving children safer and more inspiring spaces to grow, learn, and feel supported. The therapeutic gardens and educational initiatives created within the project will continue serving local communities long after the initiative ends.

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- **Creating inclusive outdoor learning spaces** by establishing therapeutic gardens in Ivano-Frankivsk and Botoșani/Dorohoi to promote environmental education, creativity, and sensory development
- **Organizing interactive educational events** like "Ecolandia" featuring four thematic scientific stations (research laboratory, creative workshop, eco-quest, and gardening), and a simultaneous "Plant Your Tree" flashmob in both countries.
- Hosting **cross-border knowledge exchanges** including workshops, an educational conference, and mutual experience exchanges in Ivano-Frankivsk to share innovative teaching methods.
- Supporting children's well-being through **targeted online psychosocial activities** designed to improve emotional health during challenging and stressful periods.



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What changes with the project ...

In communities, children (especially those with special educational needs) gain practical outdoor experiences, leaving closed indoor classrooms to improve their communication, confidence, and connection with nature.

Inside the institutions, teachers and educators gain modern teaching methods, new equipment, and enhanced skills to facilitate inclusive and environmental education.

Across the border, Ukrainian and Romanian educational institutions build a sustainable partnership, co-creating long-term inclusive educational models that support vulnerable children.



... and the lessons learned

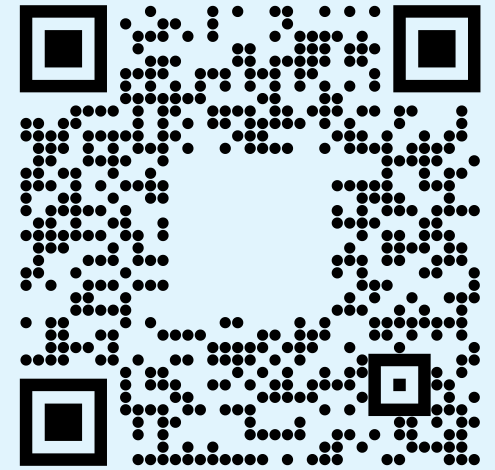
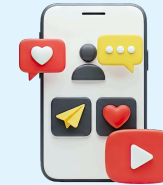
Cross-border challenges require collaborative, outdoor-based learning solutions. Adaptability and resilience are essential for maintaining cooperation during difficult historical periods. Direct contact with nature is highly effective for improving children's emotional and psychosocial well-being.

Long-term community inclusion relies heavily on giving educators the right tools and spaces to innovate.

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Project partners explain how the results will continue beyond the project and how the experience can be applied in other regions.



Scan and watch ...

Project Info

- Implementation period: 18 months
- Start / End: April-25 to October-26
- Budget: 404,141.61 EUR (363,727.44 EUR grant)
- Contact: Mr. Ihor POPADIUK – Project manager,
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INSPIRE

By building therapeutic spaces and opening minds, cross-border cooperation proves that **education has no boundaries.**

“Children open up differently when they learn in nature. We can already see improvements in their confidence, communication, and emotional well-being.”
shared one of the teachers involved in the project.

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