

**Reference of Call/topic of interest:**

**HORIZON-CL2-2026-01-HERITAGE-06: Safeguarding linguistic diversity in Europe**

**AREA OF EXPERTISE**

- Practice oriented research
- Democracy, inclusion and education
- Education policy
- Migrant and minority education
- Cultural heritage
- Inclusive education (all levels)
- Multilingualism and linguistic sensitive teaching
- Professional development of professionals in education
- Process quality in practice

**CALL RELEVANT PROJECTS**

In our projects, migrant students and linguistic minorities have been the primary participant groups. Additionally, the majority of our other research focuses on migrant education and linguistic diversity. We also maintain a network within the fields of linguistics and migration research.

Expertise in current, practice-oriented research on strengthening participation through linguistic diversity in education:

- International project SIRIUS 3.0 (ERASMUS-EDU-2022-NET; GA 101114742) - focus on multilingualism: Sirius Watch 2026: *Comprehensive Language Support – Enhancing Proficiency in the Language of Instruction and in First/Family Languages*. (<https://siriusprojecteurope.org/>)
- National project: My languages my strength (ARIS Grant No. V5-24060) - developing linguistically sensitive teaching at all levels of education.
- National project (Funded by the Ministry of Education): National evaluation of Lower Vocational Education: Further Development of Lower Vocational Education: Proposals for Systemic and Curricular Changes (Nadaljnji razvoj nižjega poklicnega izobraževanja s predlogi sistemskih in programskih sprememb) - analysis of educational policies and school practices from the perspective of migrant inclusion and language-sensitive teaching.
- 2015-2017 / financed by European Commission, Erasmus+ / KA2-SE-29/15: KHETAUN (TOGETHER): With key steps to inclusion of Romani children into quality early childhood programs (applicant).
- 2016-2017 / financed by Open Society Foundations / OR2015-24595: ZORALEDER (Stronger): with REYN Slovenia to Greater Awareness of Importance of Quality Preschool Education (applicant).
- 2016-2019 / START A good start for all: Sustaining Transitions across the early years; European Commission (EC), Erasmus+ KA2 / 2016-1-SI01-KA201-021576 - The project

START aims at improving practices for supporting children and families facing the transitions from one educational setting to another (starting from childcare, through kindergarten and to primary school) and from one context to another (eg. from home environment, Roma community to formal settings) (applicant).

- 2016-2019 / SIEUPYC: Social inclusion, education and urban policy for young children; EC, Erasmus+ KA2 2016-1-NL01-KA203-022974 / The project aims at developing intercultural competences and ensuring social inclusion. The six participating cities in this project are all facing growth of population and the need for inclusive policy and education. This includes providing the necessary conditions to support the development and education of young children and their families in the cities (partner).
- 2017-2019 / INTESYS: Together - Supporting vulnerable children through integrated early childhood services; EC, Erasmus+ KA3 / 2015-D57000-204164 / The project focuses on piloting new approaches to Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC) systems in Europe with a view to ensuring that children and families in vulnerable situations have access to high quality ECEC provided by services that are better integrated across the different sectors (education, health, welfare, etc.), professions and across age groups and governance levels (partner).
- 2017-2019 / TOY for Inclusion: Community Based Early Childhood Education and care (ECEC) for Roma Children; EC, Justice programme / JUST/2015/RDIS/AG/DISC/9352 / Fighting against the segregation of Roma children and families and achieving social cohesion at the local level, with which we aim to improve and develop services in the field of inclusive education and early childhood education (partner).
- 2018-2020 / VALUE, Value diversity in care and education; EC, Erasmus+ KA3 / 2017 – 3119 / 001 – 001; (590180-EPP-1-2017-BE-EPPKA3-PI-FORWARD) / VALUE focusses on strengthening the collaboration between all ECEC practitioners involved in the care and learning process of young children, valuing the divers background and experience of ECEC practitioners (partner).
- 2019-2021 / Toy to Share, Play to Care; EC, Erasmus+ KA3 / 2108-3188/001-001; 604448-EPP-1-2018-1-NL-EPPKA3-IPI-SOC-IN / Fighting against segregation of children and families from vulnerable groups and achieving social cohesion at the local level (partner).
- 2019-2021 / QUALIMENTARY; Implementation of quality development processes in early education and care institutions; EC, Erasmus+ KA2 / 2019-1-AT0 L-KA202-05 1457 / This project aims at raising awareness among educators about the importance of ensuring quality interactions in kindergarten and increasing their competence in this area (partner).
- 2019-2022 / TIM: Transition is Our Mission; EC; Erasmus+ KA2 / 2019-1-SI01-KA201-060586 / Raising awareness among kindergartens and school professionals about the importance of ensuring a smooth transition of children from kindergarten to school and increasing their competence in this area (applicant).
- 2020-2023 / REC: Reflection-Education-Care. Strengthening collaborative and reflective teaching practice - Increasing Quality Services in ECEC; EC, Erasmus+ KA2 / 2020-1-HU01-KA201-078764; / Raising awareness of the importance of reflection and its

positive effects on pedagogical practice in kindergartens, introducing reflective methods at the level of the entire kindergartens (partner).

- 2020-2023 / INTRANS Inclusive Transition across the Early Years; EC, Erasmus+ KA3 / 612133-EPP-1-2019-1-BE-EPPKA3-IPI-SOC-IN / The project's overall goal is to ensure that all children and families — especially the most vulnerable — benefit from warm and inclusive transitional practice in ECEC and school, by supporting professionals through action at the policy advocacy and training levels. A 5-day online training for ECEC and school professionals was developed (partner).
- 2022-2024 / PIQET: Principles of quality education for teachers; EC, Erasmus+ KA2 /2021-1-SI01-KA220-SCH-000024278 / PIQET will develop innovative methodology to help CPD educators reflect on quality, by improving their skills of self-assessment and peer-to-peer assessment, as well as aiding in the recruitment, selection, and development of CPD educators (applicant).

## **PROJECT TEAM**

- Janja Žmavc, PhD in Linguistics

Her work focuses on the role and significance of language/languages in education. Her research areas include the history of rhetoric, rhetorical theory and practice, argumentation and theories of argumentation, linguistic pragmatics and text linguistics of classical and modern languages, the didactics of classical languages, and the didactics of rhetoric.

- Sabina Autor, PhD in Philosophy

Her research areas and topics include social philosophy, the education of children with an immigrant background, questions of knowledge, and the role of education in contemporary society.

- Jerneja Jager, PhD in Educational Sciences

Her research interests are grounded in ensuring quality, equitable, and inclusive education for all children. More specifically, they include the professional development of educational and leadership staff in kindergartens and schools, process quality in education, the integration of education with other sectors and stakeholders in early childhood — such as social services, healthcare, and the local community — and care for the most vulnerable individuals in the context of access to quality, equitable, and inclusive educational programmes.

- Mateja Režek, MA in Communication Studies

Her research work focuses primarily on initiatives related to the professional development of educational staff in kindergartens and primary schools, as well as on the process quality of educational practice. She is responsible for the conceptual design of activities within the Network for Changing Quality Step by Step and conducts seminars and workshops in Slovenia and abroad on various topics related to the professional development of educational and leadership staff in kindergartens and primary schools, as well as the implementation of the pedagogical process.