



Science and Sustainability through Outdoor Learning

How do we learn about the world around us? Can we deliver better learning using the outdoors? How can science help to change behaviours towards a more sustainable world? These are just some of the questions that the Real World Learning Network is exploring.

Conference Themes

Outdoor learning is widespread across Europe, taking the form of science through to sensory based learning. The conference will explore how to deliver successful outdoor education. Through keynote speakers, workshops and discussion we will explore two key areas in outdoor education: effective teaching approaches and how to assess learning. In doing so we will be asking ourselves:

- Which teaching approaches are most effective?
- How can we provide better outdoor education?
- How do we know if we are being successful?
- What criteria should we measure ourselves by?
- Is assessment relevant?

Who should attend?

This conference is for anyone involved in outdoor learning: education providers, teachers, centre managers, education decision makers.

How will the conference be organised?

- **Keynote** speakers will share their thoughts and inspiration.
- **Workshops** will enable participants to test out new ideas and practical approaches.
- **Outdoor** activities to try out new ideas.
- **Forums** to debate the latest developments.
- **Exchange** of ideas and creativity to inspire and inform...tell Europe what you are doing.

European Conference Slovenia

27th to 30th November 2013

Full funding available

Funding is available to attend the conference from the EU. Funding covers the conference fee, accommodation and travel. See below for more details.

Where?

The conference will take place at Planica Outdoor Centre. The centre is located in the beautiful Julian Alps, a short journey from Ljubljana.



What is the Real World Learning Network?

The Real World Learning Network is a consortium of outdoor learning providers across Europe. Our goal is to explore and share successful approaches to outdoor learning that increase action for sustainable development. We believe that outdoor learning offers one of the best approaches for young people to engage with the world around them, and provide a stimulating context to explore how we can all contribute to a more sustainable present and future.

Language

The conference will be in English.



Costs and Funding

The conference fee is €320 and includes all conference materials and a copy of the conference report. The accommodation fee is €170 and includes all meals and accommodation in twin rooms, local travel and local transfers.

Funding is available for EU citizens to attend the conference through a Comenius In-Service Training Grant. The grant covers the conference fee, accommodation and travel. The conference is registered on the EU training database and can be found at this link:

<http://ec.europa.eu/education/trainingdatabase/index.cfm?fuseaction=DisplayCourse&cid=33648>.

Alternatively search the database using the reference number UK-2013-1974-001 at

<http://ec.europa.eu/education/trainingdatabase/search.cfm>.

You need to contact your National Agency to apply for funding. A list of National Agencies can be found at http://ec.europa.eu/education/lifelong-learning-programme/national_en.htm. Some National Agencies require a letter confirming your place at the conference. We are very happy to send you a letter confirming this. Should you need any assistance in your application please email the conference secretary at global@field-studies-council.org.

You must apply before the 30th April 2013.

Conference Contacts

Email: global@field-studies-council.org

Website: www.rwlnetwork.org

Phone: +44 1743 852126



Keynote Speakers

We will be joined by leading practitioners of outdoor education. We are pleased to announce the following keynote speakers...see our website for updates as new speakers are confirmed.



Anthony Thomas has worked for 37 years in the field of learning outside the classroom with 25 years as the Chief Executive of the Field Studies Council and now board member of the Council for Learning Outside the Classroom. He has been instrumental in establishing quality criteria for outdoor learning in the UK, and led outdoor education workshops in Slovenia, Slovakia, Serbia, Hungary, Poland, India and China.



Barica Marentič Požarnik is a leading environmental educator from Slovenia. She is the national coordinator for the OECD Environment and Schools Initiative, and was professor at the Faculty of Arts in Ljubljana, teaching educational psychology, psychology for teachers and experiential learning.



Michela Mayer is a member of the Italian UNESCO commission for the Decade of ESD. She has been President of ENSI, member of the PISA Science experts group, and of the UNECE experts group for the development of ESD indicators. She is responsible for research in the Italian National Institute for the Evaluation of the Educational System and involved in international projects related to EE and ESD, with a special focus on evaluation.

Workshops

Quality and Assessment

A series of workshops will explore how we assess the delivery of outdoor learning and what quality criteria should be used. Participants will be able to learn from good practice across Europe, try them out and add their own ideas.

Approaches to Outdoor Learning

A series of workshops will explore how to deliver effective outdoor learning that helps support behaviour change. Through activities, discussion and debate participants will identify which approaches work best.

Open Workshop Sessions

We will be launching a call for workshops from participants...more details soon.

Programme

Day 1 Arrive

Evening meal – followed by evening event so participants get to know each other.

Day 2

- 0900 Opening of the Conference and welcome by CSOE Director (Mrs Alenka Kovšca)
- 0930 Keynote Speaker 1
- 1030 Coffee break
- 1100 Workshop session – quality criteria and assessment
- 1300 Lunch
- 1400 Keynote Speaker 2
- 1500 Coffee break
- 1530 Workshop session – quality criteria and assessment
- 1700 Plenary and review of the day
- 1900 Evening dinner
- 2000 Evening programme of events

Day 3

- 0930 Keynote Speaker 3
- 1030 Coffee break
- 1100 Workshop session – approaches to outdoor learning
- 1300 Lunch
- 1400 Keynote Speaker 4
- 1500 Coffee break
- 1530 Workshop session – approaches to outdoor learning
- 1700 Plenary and review of the day
- 1900 Evening dinner
- 2000 Evening programme of local music and dancing

Day 4

- 0900 Keynote speaker 5
- 1000 Coffee Break
- 1030 Open workshop sessions
 - Session One – 1100-1200
 - Session Two – 1200-1300
- 1230 Plenary
- 1330 Lunch & Close

About the Conference Venue

Planica is located in easy travelling distance from Ljubljana Airport and cities in the region. Conference participants will benefit from a free transfer service to/from the conference venue.

Planica is the cradle of ski jumping and flying. For many people it also presents one of the most beautiful Alpine valleys, surrounded by mighty walls of Mt. Mojstrovka, Mt. Ponce and Mt. Jalovec.

The centre is only 200 m away from the ski jumps and is ideal for the outdoor school. In the winter Alpine skiing and cross-country skiing prevail but we also sledge and enjoy in games on the snow in the ski pistes near the Planica centre. When the snow disappears we explore various kinds of screes and moraines, the Nadiža waterfall, the Zelenci wetland and Rateče, the oldest village in the Upper Sava valley. We go climbing to the natural wall in Tamar, cycle along more than 40 km long cycling trail from the border crossing with Italy to Mojstrana and conquer peaks in the Triglav national park.

