

Toy-Free Month Newsletter



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Toy-Free Month Training Activity: Inspiring Creativity and Sustainability in Early Childhood Education

The Toy-Free Month partners gathered in Dobrna, Slovenia, for a **three-day international training** that brought together kindergarten teachers and trainers committed to fostering creativity, sustainability, and experiential learning among young children.



Participants explored hands-on workshops, classroom observations, and outdoor sessions demonstrating how recyclable and natural materials can be transformed into engaging learning experiences.

The training also featured best practices from Slovenia, Austria, Greece, and Poland, highlighting diverse approaches to sustainable education already thriving across Europe.

A key highlight was the opportunity to observe the Toy-Free Month method in action - seeing children collaborate, create, and problem-solve with self-made and nature-based materials. Teachers left inspired, equipped with practical ideas, and ready to design their own toy-free initiatives. Many expressed enthusiasm for implementing the practice in their kindergartens, noting strong motivation, valuable peer exchange, and the power of experiential learning as standout elements of the event.

Feedback from participants was overwhelmingly positive. They praised the organisation, the warmth of the hosts, the exchange of good practices, and the abundance of new ideas they can bring back to their classrooms. Challenges such as planning, material collection, and engaging staff and parents were acknowledged, yet teachers felt more confident and supported in overcoming them.

The training marks an important step toward developing the upcoming guide **"Sustainable Play: A Guide to a Toy-Free Month"**, which will further support educators in embedding sustainability into early childhood education.



The **Toy-Free Month Training Activity** not only strengthened international collaboration but also reaffirmed a shared commitment: nurturing the creative, environmentally conscious citizens of tomorrow – one playful, sustainable step at a time.



About the project

The Toy-Free Month initiative empowers kindergarten teachers to replace synthetic toys with nature-based activities and sustainable play materials for an entire month (or more). By engaging young learners in hands-on, eco-friendly experiences, the project cultivates environmental stewardship, creativity, and critical-thinking skills from an early age.

 [Toy-free month Erasmus+ Vrtec Dobrna](#)