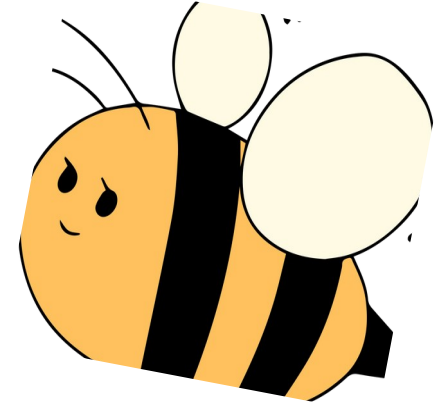




TEACHERS' FORUM

1st Edition

8th & 9th April 2024



European School: Brussels 1

Topic: Sustainable Development

Title of the project: Biodiversity & Pollinating Insects

Names of the teachers conducting the workshop:

<-- Emilia Cataldo & Marie Magni -->

Pupils/students involved:

P3 Italian and Danish students (60)

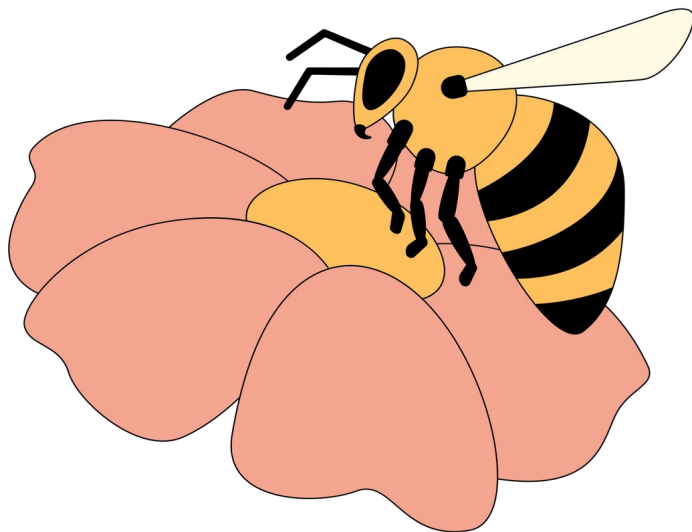


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The workshop: '**Biodiversity & Pollinating Insects**' was a **hive** of activity in which the participants were **buzzing** with excitement and **humming** with enthusiasm.

The **Queen Bees**: Emilia and Marie won our hearts instantly by inviting us to try the product at the center of their project 'honey'.

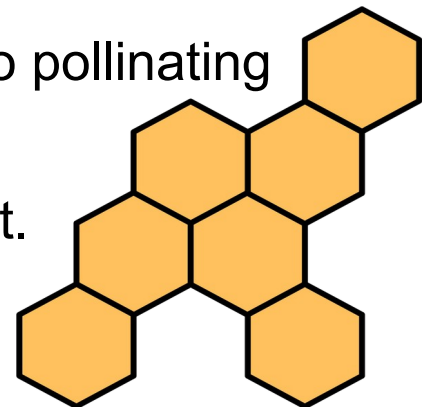
From here we then embarked on a 'sensory journey' for the next 1.5 hours...



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What are the expected outcomes for students?

- Understanding biodiversity.
- Recognise the importance of pollination in the plant reproduction process.
- Learn about bees and their social structure.
- Explore the diversity of pollinating insects.
- Identify the plants preferred by different insects, thereby promoting biodiversity.
- Designing and establishing a floral oasis dedicated to pollinating insects in the school grounds.
- Devising innovative solutions for financing the project.



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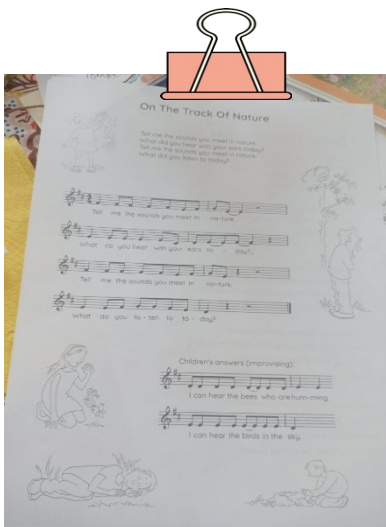
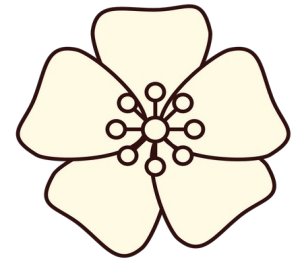
What are the teaching and learning activities proposed?

The project includes a variety of activities and covered a range of skills:

- 📖 Opportunity to meet with a beekeeper and to observe bees directly in a hive.
- 📖 Drawing on these observations, students will be able to create a detailed identity card for the insect.
- 📖 Students will taste certain products from the hive.
- 📖 Making products e.g. candles out of bees wax
- 📖 Finding 'entrepreneurial' ways to raise the funds for their garden.
- 📖 Will produce informative posters designed to raise awareness of biodiversity issues within the school community.
- 📖 *The end goal being to create a self maintained flowering oasis of plants in the school garden.*



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What are the most relevant innovation(s) proposed?

- To not forget about the 'human' element of teaching and learning – students need to see, feel, touch, hear and even taste what we are teaching them. We need to go 'beyond the screen' - returning to the basics of experiencing the world first – hand in order to really re-engage and re-connect with our students again.
- As teachers we need 'let go of the control' and not be so rigid with our planning but to scaffold and guide the students and let them 'take the reigns' when it comes to the lesson planning as this will ensure full engagement and motivation. Dive deep into the 'Inquiry Based Learning Approach'.
- Breaking free from the confines of the classroom and utilizing all the space and areas accessible. Re-building 'community' by utilizing the 'experts/human resources' we have around us e.g. school gardener.



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What are the remarkable teaching methodologies and activities?

The classroom will be used for theory, the computers will be dedicated to research, the art room will be the place to create posters and various objects, and, of particular importance, the outdoor workshop will be a place where students will be able to share their knowledge and experience.

This project sees the students 'live the curriculum' from a 360° perspective.



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What kind of contribution to the European dimension?

The project touches on several of the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals which the European Union has committed to ensuring. It sees the students not only taking ownership of their learning but also of their future.



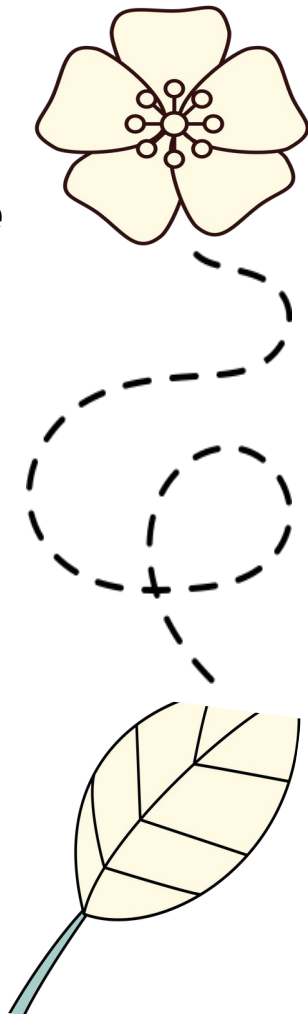
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What are the lessons learnt?

In this project students are actively participating – they are part of the process from the planning to the implementation. They **identify the problem** and it is their job, with the guidance of their teachers, to **find the solutions**.

What are the impact on the different educational needs of pupils/students?

Due to the multi-sensorial nature of the project it can be pitched at students of different ages – catering for all learning styles. Each student plays a 'role' and it gives them the opportunity to feel 'important' within the group as it offers each individual the chance to display their strengths and to pass them on to their peers.



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What are the key elements for successful replicability of the project?

- 📁 Authorisation from the Director
- 📁 Collaboration of Colleagues
- 📁 Passion and Creativity
- 📁 Money

