

Sandra Jovišić

Kindergarten “Cvit Mediterana”, Split, Croatia

e-mail: sandra.jovisic@gmail.com

Fostering Social Sustainability in Early Childhood Education and Care: A Case Study

This paper explores social sustainability as a foundational element necessary for achieving the other two dimensions of sustainable development: economic and environmental sustainability. While the importance of social sustainability is increasingly acknowledged, scholarly definitions vary. One widely accepted perspective views it as the capacity to build inclusive, equitable, and cohesive communities that promote individual and collective well-being, active participation, and social justice. Nevertheless, academic discourse on the concept remains diverse and evolving.

Presented here is a case study of the international eTwinning project “Let’s Come Together in Sweet Harmony”, which brought together partner kindergartens from 11 European countries. The project aimed to nurture a wide range of competencies through different shared activities appropriate to young children, with particular emphasis on fostering social and civic competencies.

Through play, creativity, and meaningful interaction, children develop essential life skills for functioning in modern society. The project also strengthened collaboration between early childhood institutions across Europe. Most importantly, it empowered children to become young ambassadors of culture, tolerance, and friendship, thus contributing to the advancement of social sustainability.

Keywords: collaboration, competencies, eTwinning