

VALIDATION WORKSHOP REPORT

- CROATIA -

Hosting partner: City of Trogir

Title of the event: Ethical education in schools and kindergartens

Venue and date: 12th of June 2019, Trogir town hall (ceremonial hall – second floor)

Participants: Kindergarten teachers, University professors from University of Split, primary school teachers and deputy mayor of Trogir

Program of the event:

15 – 15:15

Greetings and Introductory word from Deputy Mayor Ruža Kovačević Bilić

15:15 – 15: 30

Introduction game “Let me tell you about him/her”

15:30 – 15: 45

Introduction to AVAL project

15: 45 – 16: 15

Presentation of AVAL Handbook

16:15 – 17

Workshop – Animals in captivity

17 – 17:15

Coffee break

17: 15 – 17: 45

Workshop – Empathy

17: 45 – 18

Feedback on workshops

18 – 19

Workshop Design thinking “What we need for ethical education”

19 – 19:15

Feedback on workshop and closing word

Feedback and results

Validated workshop took place in City of Trogir and most of the participants were from Trogir and some came from neighboring cities Zadar and Split.

Participations were pedagogical experts, pre-primary and secondary teachers as well as University professors that are involved in methodology and bioethical education. Deputy Mayor is also

philosophy teacher and on current position is working very hard to invest time and resources in educational system.

Participations were introduced to AVAL's online Handbook and commented that it is very clear and simple to use.

Additionally, they concluded that learning materials are much more adaptable for pre-primary education as curriculum is much more flexible to adjust.

On the other hand primary schools have very strict curriculum and for that reason it might be hard to incorporate the materials in existing lessons. Nevertheless some materials could be used in free activities or parts of methodology could be implemented in similar subjects – especially in environmental education which for most part is incorporated in biology.

Some of the materials have very basic approach and in that line didn't bring any new methodologies in working with children, but they can be useful for educational beginners or parents when they are spending quality time with their children.

One the other hand some of the materials provide new methodology and clear step by step plan to reach the set up goals.

The methods are appropriate to age groups but timeline of some materials are not too realistic which means that teachers should adjust time frame of some materials according to their school class schedule.

Altogether the conclusion is that education in Croatia should take ethical turn towards critical and creative thinking and that AVAL Handbook is providing first steps towards that goal.

Design thinking strategy game provided a feedback on what teachers need in order to implement ethical education in their everyday work (see recommendations to be included in guideline document).

Recommendations to be included in the general guidelines document:

- To emphasize the flexibility of adjusting materials and time line when implementing them in school subjects
- To emphasize the need of teacher trainings when it comes to ethical education
- Need for technical literacy of teachers for today's education through annual seminars or trainings (which is lacking more and more)
- Work on teachers confidence and self-awareness in order to work on ethical topics with children
- To provide a strategy how to include AVAL learning materials in school subject