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PLASE
POWER OF LOCAL AUTHENTIC SUSTAINABLE EDUCATION

PLASE WORKSHOPS

The PLASE Workshops present local and transnational training sessions where educators enhanced their didactical and pedagogical skills through Place-Based Education (PBE), highlighting key activities, results, and participant feedback.



WORKSHOP: REFLECTIONS ON PBL

Overview of the Workshop

The workshop “Reflections on PBL” was held in Rørvik, Norway and brought together all PLASE project partners. Facilitated by JAMK, the session took place after a series of visits to local institutions and community organizations. These field visits provided rich, real-life examples of how education can connect with local contexts, giving participants the opportunity to observe different approaches to learning in practice.

Objectives and Key Activities

The main objective of the workshop was to help participants reflect on what they had seen and translate their observations into concrete ideas for applying Place-Based Education (PBE) in their own settings. JAMK opened the session by outlining the workshop’s goals and introducing the day’s method: moving from individual reflection to group discussion and finally to a shared plenary exchange.

At the beginning of the workshop, participants received reflection sheets containing a series of guiding questions designed to stimulate critical thinking. These questions encouraged them to consider how local resources, stakeholders, and real-world challenges could be integrated into the learning process. Each participant took time to fill out the sheet individually, capturing their immediate thoughts and impressions after the visits.





Following this, the group was divided into smaller, mixed teams combining participants from different partner organizations and sectors. Within these groups, participants shared their reflections, compared experiences, and discussed possible ways of embedding PBE principles into their teaching practice. The group discussions were dynamic and highly participatory, with JAMK facilitators supporting the dialogue and helping to structure the ideas emerging from each team. Each group then presented their ideas in a plenary session, where everyone had the chance to comment, provide feedback, and suggest improvements. The open discussion allowed participants to identify common challenges, innovative approaches, and new opportunities for collaboration.









IDEAS AND INSIGHTS

This video captures a session where participants reflected on the role of education, learning, and transferable skills. Building on their recent visits to local schools, companies, and community organizations in Norway, they discussed how these environments create opportunities for personal growth, well-being, and community engagement. The group considered the balance between specialized vocational skills and broader competencies, reflecting on how local industries, such as the salmon sector, can provide attractive employment opportunities while also presenting potential risks due to lack of diversity. Participants shared their observations about effective collaboration and networking within the local community, exploring how different agencies, schools, and businesses work together to support learners. This session emphasized the importance of connecting education with real-life contexts and inspired ideas for applying Place-Based Education principles to foster meaningful learning experiences.

CONNECTING SCHOOLS WITH LOCAL INDUSTRY

Participants explore how schools can collaborate with local industries, integrating academic and business projects. The conversation highlights how shared school spaces allow students, staff, and the principal to work together with nearby companies, integrating academic and business projects. Participants reflect on the variety of organizations involved, including public and private schools, banks, sports clubs, consultants, and national agencies, and explore how these connections bring practical knowledge and experience back to students. The session provides insights on linking education to the local community and creating meaningful real-world learning opportunities.





ACTIVE CITIZENSHIP THROUGH EDUCATION, INDUSTRY, AND COMMUNITY

This part of the workshop focused on how schools can actively respond to local needs by collaborating with industries and the wider community. Participants reflected on the importance of communication, listening to stakeholders, and understanding local contexts to ensure that education is relevant and meaningful. They explored the role of active citizenship and the need to create spaces for transition, where learners can develop both professional skills and social engagement. The discussion also highlighted cooperative models, such as the triple helix approach, emphasizing the balance between preparing students for the workforce while fostering socially responsible and engaged citizens.

Feedback and Lessons Learned

By the end of the workshop, several promising ideas had been generated, ranging from school–community partnerships to interdisciplinary projects connecting learners with real local issues. Participants agreed that the combination of field visits and structured reflection was highly valuable, as it linked theory and practice in a meaningful way.

The feedback collected after the workshop was very positive. Participants appreciated the reflection sheets as a useful tool to structure their thinking, and they valued the opportunity to exchange perspectives with colleagues from different countries. Some suggested dedicating more time in future workshops to refining and documenting the proposed learning designs.

Overall, the Reflections on PBE workshop succeeded in turning local experiences into shared learning. It deepened participants' understanding of PBE, strengthened collaboration among partners, and laid the groundwork for the development of local workshops and future learning materials within the PLASE project.













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