

# Landscape as a classroom

Tropea, Italy, 3-5 October 2018 Sinikka Kunttu FEE Suomi /Finland

#### Education is always connected to the environment around it

• The environment – and the landscape – has an influence on education, even if we are not aware of it.





#### How the European Landscape Convention defines landscape?

"Landscape means an area, as perceived by people, whose character is the result of the action and interaction of natural and/or human factors."

## The landscape is not the same for everyone

- It is rather a personal experience: everyone perceives it differently
- First, there is the environment, and when a person sees, feels and observes it, it becomes the surrounding landscape



#### Landscape and identity

్ట

- How does this landscape act as the building block of my identity?
- What is the landscape's significance to me?
- What is my place in this landscape?

#### Palmer's Tree Model (Palmer J.A. 1998)





#### Teaching and learning outdoors

#### Teaching and learning outdoors

- When education teaching and learning – happens outdoors, the connection to the landscape is essential.
- Landscape sets limits and opportunities for learning and play.
- It contributes to the culture and local identity.
- At the same time, it inspires!





When leaving the classroom and going outside for lessons...

 Then the landscape takes an even larger role: it is more than just "wallpaper" or scenery. It has an influence on actions, thoughts and ideas. That is something that can rarely be reached in a classroom.

#### Why outdoors?

- Improves children's health;
- Engages them in learning;
- Leads to a greater connection with nature;
- Encourages teamwork and creativity;
- The nature and outdoors is both a calming and activating element.



Almost any teaching and learning can be done outdoors

• For example, in Finland during recent years there has been a growing interest in teaching mathematics outdoors.





### Case example: Outdoor Classroom Day

#### Outdoor Classroom Day

- A global campaign to promote and inspire outdoor learning and play;
- On the campaign day, thousands of schools around the world take their lessons outdoors;
- The campaign is led from Great Britain by *Project Dirt* in partnership with Unilever, as part of their *Dirt is Good* movement.









outdoorclassroomday.com

#### How does this campaign work?



outdoorclassroomday.com

GET INVOLVED

ABOUT RESOURCES GET INSPIRED





20,259 SCHOOLS INVOLVED IN 2018 SO FAR...

outdoorclassroomday.com



"Most of our parents work a full-time job an live in small town houses. We believe that children need the opportunity to move and be active." Teacher, #SouthAfrica. #Teachers, why will you get involved in #OutdoorClassroomDay? https://t.co/WAYCXjBosr https://t.co/6NHWMtGmkP



OutdoorClassDay

here is no such thing as bad weather, just bad clothes. #OutdoorClassroomDay 1st Nov 2018 https://t.co/40Q4uqZsgm

believe tha

tial learr



#TBT to when @TheWorldsLesson was taught in #Bhutan- how's that for an @OutdoorClassDay #OutdoorClassroomDay #ThursdayThoughts https://t.co/SWUpbjnaXL



Media coverage of our collaboration with





There is always the landscape behind all that happens

How well do we know our own landscape?





#### Thank you!

#### Sinikka Kunttu Executive director FEE Suomi /Finland sinikka.kunttu@feesuomi.fi

