

# 20 QUEST

# 24

## EVENTS REPORT



CIVIL SOCIETY COOPERATION IN  
THE FIELD OF EDUCATION  
SGA 2024



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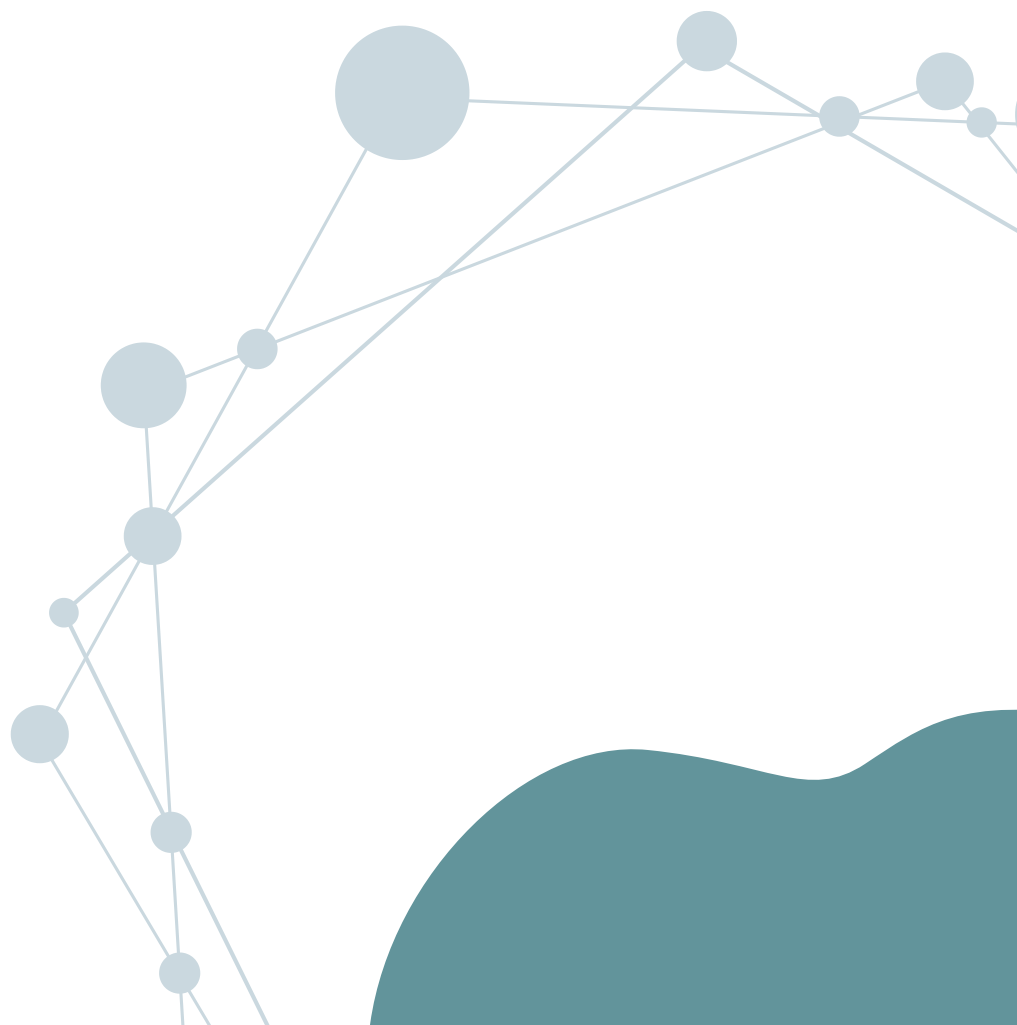
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# 1.

## INTRODUCTION

The events report includes all of QUEST's events that were held both online and in person over the year.

The events have been created to respond to the major goals of the organisation, inscribed in the yearly strategy. This means first of all to promote democratic, inclusive and sustainable education to our members, to capacitate them and train them to become more and more in line with the EU recommendations in terms of innovation in education, with particular emphasis on the European Education Area, and the Pathways for School Success document.

A total of **20 activities** including **11 workshops and trainings** were organized by QUEST this year, covering a wide array of topics, including networking meetings with the Belgian democratic network, decolonial pedagogies, climate justice, interactive child-voting games, sustainable education in ecovillages, and training sessions on Erasmus+ KA1 and KA2 funding, as well as the European Solidarity Corps (ESC). These events also included workshops on Nonviolent Communication (NVC) for children and educators, fostering empathetic communication, and collaborative sessions such as the Speed Dating for Erasmus+ Partners to promote innovative projects and partnerships. We also participated as guest speakers in **5 international events**.

We consider that these numbers are a success for our organisation, which managed not only to fulfil its tasks, but also to provide high quality and innovative content for our members and for the external public.

In most of the cases, our members were both spectators of the events, as well as co-creators. Indeed, we invited some of our members to be speakers, so as to give visibility to innovative and pioneer members organisations that were able to share their practices externally. This formula granted stronger commitment of our members, as well as possibilities for them to get much more visibility.

The following pages are dedicated to deepen the information about our events. Some of these have already been described in the "Activities report", and in the "Communication report" (for what concerns its dissemination). Some redundancies might therefore be present, but the following pages will give more room to describe the single events organised.





## 2.

## EVENTS IN 2024

## January 27 &amp; May 14, 2024 : Belgian network meetings

In 2024 we had two networking days with the Belgian democratic network, which allowed us to meet with an important part of our Belgian members. The first day took place on January 27 at the democratic school Arbre des Possibles in Beauraing in the south of Belgium. It was a meeting between all the project leaders, where we discussed the role of this network and were able to share ongoing projects and activities. It was also the opportunity for QUEST to reflect together with the other participants on its role within the Belgian network.

The second day took place on May 14th, in the same democratic school Arbre des Possibles. This day was open to adults and children from all the schools and projects. A fun day full of activities proposed by the participants; adults and children, and informal networking moments. It was also the opportunity for other QUEST team members, like our Policy officer, to meet our Belgian members.



## May 21, 2024: Workshop on Decolonial Pedagogies

This online workshop featured experts Manel Ben Boubaker and Sandrine Gashonga. Participants explored strategies to integrate decolonial methodologies into education, including tools for addressing biases in curricula, fostering inclusive classroom dialogues, and engaging students in antiracist practices. The event attracted **38 participants** and provided practical pedagogical resources, including case studies and examples of best practices from European schools.

WORKSHOP FOR QUEST MEMBERS

Integrating decolonial pedagogies in education

Education as a tool to fight and prevent racial discriminations and injustices.

21st of May 2024

5:30PM - 7PM (CET)

Online

Free event

LIMITED PLACES AVAILABLE FOR NON-MEMBERS!

Co-funded by the Erasmus+ Programme of the European Union



## June 1st, 2024: citizen-engagement actions (child-voting games)



QUEST piloted an interactive children-voting game during the “We Make the Future” citizen-engagement event ahead of the EU elections. At its event stand, QUEST organized two interactive voting stations: one for children featuring fun activities to express their opinions on nature and their voice in society, and another for adults addressing education's role in environmental challenges and children's inclusion in decision-making. Participants received postcards with insights and climate actions, fostering reflection and advocacy. These activities marked QUEST's first public advocacy efforts to highlight children's rights, their role in the green transition, and democratic education practices.

## June 4th, 2024: Info session on Erasmus+ funding - Cooperation among organisations and institutions (KA2)

This two-hour training session was organised for QUEST members to introduce our members to the technical and practical aspects of the application for Erasmus+ KA2: formulation of the project idea, creation of the partnership, writing of the project and budgeting. The goal was for QUEST members to discover and feel equipped to apply for this great opportunity to get funding for inspiring projects in education.

## June 5, 2024: Seeds of Change Workshop on Climate Justice

As well as serving as a member forum, this event was opened to the public in collaboration with the Office for Climate Education introduced lessons and tools for teaching global climate justice in schools. Participants engaged in role-playing games and collaborative exercises. Participants were invited to reflect on questions such as ‘What is Climate justice?’ They were handed theoretical information showing the unequal distribution of people, wealth and pollution levels in different countries, and were encouraged to actively engage through exercises and role-playing games, using an interactive and collective whiteboard in the Zoom session.



## June 12, 2024: Info session on Erasmus+ funding - Learning mobilities of individuals (KA1)

On June 12 an info session was organised for QUEST members on Learning mobilities of individuals (KA1). We invited Laurence Watticant, international project coordinator with focus on Erasmus+, as a speaker. The practical as well as the technical aspects to apply for a Key Action 1 project were highlighted in the presentation and there was room for questions from the participants. 11 members attended the info session.



## June 25, 2024: Speed Dating for Erasmus+ Partners

QUEST organised a virtual networking event aimed at helping members connect and collaborate on Erasmus+ project ideas. Participants introduced their areas of expertise and interests in breakout rooms, fostering discussions to identify potential project partnerships. This event was attended by 11 members and provided a platform for generating new collaborations in democratic education, sustainability, and inclusion.



## July 10, 2024: Info Session on European Solidarity Corps (ESC)

This session informed members about ESC opportunities, highlighting volunteering and projects for youth aged 18–30. Eleven members attended this online event. We informed them about this Erasmus+ project financed by the European Union. The initiative offers young people (18 to 30 years old) the opportunity to contribute to society, make a difference and gain valuable experience through volunteering, traineeships and projects across Europe. The aim is to promote solidarity and social cohesion among young Europeans, and to foster their active citizenship skills.



## September 22, 2024: Mobility Day in Ans



On September 22, QUEST participated in the Mobility Day organized by the municipality of Ans, in collaboration with the Belgian Climate Pact. Inspired by the children-vote game piloted on June 1, 2024, during the \*We Make the Future\* citizen-engagement event, QUEST introduced a new version tailored to the mobility theme. Flyers promoting education and ecovillages were distributed, and a document was prepared in advance to monitor children's responses during the voting game for communication and research purposes. An invitation was sent to the Ans municipality on September 16, encouraging them to observe innovative approaches to engaging children in public debates. QUEST's policy team, joined by its communication officer, adapted and implemented the game for the event. This time, responses were tracked using a Google Form, allowing for detailed data collection. By the end of the day, 34 children aged 4-12 participated in the survey. The findings were shared with the Belgian Climate Pact and the municipality of Ans to highlight the potential of involving children in public discussions. Key insights were also shared publicly via QUEST's social media channels, promoting broader awareness and engagement.





## October 2, 2024: Ecovillages and Education Event in Brussels

This in-person event was open to the public and showcased educational approaches in ecovillages, featuring stands from local organisations and eco-villages, animations, a keynote by Sophie Rabhi-Bouquet, and a panel discussion with representatives from DG EAC, a marketplace and interactive workshops,, strengthening its Belgian network and promoting sustainable lifelong learning. Call for Workshops: Ahead of the event, QUEST invited education professionals to propose workshops on sustainability and community living. The program featured six interactive workshops, covering topics such as mediation in collective settings, living collectively, outdoor education, a climate fresk, launching democratic schools, and systemic group dynamics, empowering participants with practical tools for sustainable and community-centered education. Over 60 participants attended.



## October 2, 2024: Training on NVC for Children

At the Ecovillages & Education event we organized in Brussels on October 2, we offered a workshop for children aged 5-12 on Nonviolent Communication (NVC), held during the main speaker's conference. Stijn De Neve, from our member organization Orvita, guided four children through a storytelling journey with the giraffe and the jackal. While the jackal represents competitive, unkind behavior, the giraffe symbolizes empathetic listening and nonviolent communication.

During this engaging session, children had the opportunity to shape the story and share their own experiences. They also learned how to communicate in a nonviolent way and explored the various ways to express their feelings.



## December 10, 2024: Nonviolent Communication in the Classroom Workshop

At the Ecovillages & Education event we organized in Brussels on October 2, we offered a workshop for children aged 5-12 on Nonviolent Communication (NVC), held during the main speaker's conference. Stijn De Neve, from our member organization Orvita, guided four children through a storytelling journey with the giraffe and the jackal. While the jackal represents competitive, unkind behavior, the giraffe symbolizes empathetic listening and nonviolent communication.

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## EVENTS IN WHICH WE PARTICIPATED AS SPEAKERS

### January 22, 2024: Learning Planet International Festival

Screening and discussion on the 22nd of January, with Derry Hannam (UK), Charlie Moreno Romero (Estonia) and Je-anna Clements (South Africa). QUEST screened its beautiful short film "SUVEMAE - Pioneer of Possibility", a documentary about a school within a public school in Estonia.



### January 2024: EUDEC Congress, in Berlin

In January 2024 QUEST attended the EUDEC Congress to discuss the strategic lines of the network for 2025. This was an opportunity for QUEST to know other members and strengthen synergies with Umbrella organisations.

### November 15, 2024: NECE Festival in Tirana



On November 15, QUEST's coordinator Martina Paone presented on democratic education and its role in addressing (in)visible borders at the NECE Festival in Tirana. Attending from November 14-16, QUEST's team engaged in discussions on migration, climate change, and digital technologies, while networking with civic educators and institutions such as the University of Potsdam and CENESA. The event also included discovery tours, providing insights into the Roma community in Albania and Tirana's openness and dialogue center.

### November 26-29, 2024: Salto Participation Forum in Tallinn

Quest Coordinator - Martina Paone- was invited to speak about democratic education practices at the Salto Forum. The gathering, which saw the presence of more than 200 Representatives from National Agencies around Europe, Officers from European Commissions and Umbrella organizations, was an important occasion to present QUEST work in promoting children participation in schools. QUEST also collaborated with the participants in a series of workshops on how to improve participation in Erasmus+ and ESC, giving recommendations for the next programming cycle.



### December 2024: EUDEC Congress, in Berlin

In December 2024 Martina Paone attended the EUDEC work retreat in Berlin, where the Board of Directors of EUDEC joined. This was the possibility to also represent QUEST and planning joint strategy for the two networks in 2025, in particular in terms of joint advocacy.





## EVENTS QUEST ORGANISED WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF ERASMUS+ PROJECTS

### April 2024: YGBN learning exchange in Foligno, Italy

In April 2024, the Youth Going Back to Nature (YGBN) partnership convened in Foligno, hosted by Trekkify, for a three-day learning exchange focused on sustainable outdoor activities for young people at risk of social exclusion. QUEST introduced an experiential learning game to highlight green accessibility inequalities in the capitals of the five partner countries. The game featured an obstacle course simulating barriers between urbanized areas and green spaces, fostering participatory input from young people about their real-world challenges. The exercise concluded with map-based reflections, revealing links between green space distribution and socio-economic disparities. The partnership reflected on maps overlapping the distributions of green areas and population according to their socio-economical incomes, confirming the link and reflecting on its historical, geographical and societal causes. Discover the toolkit [here](#).



### May 3, 2024: Event on Democratic Education in the framework of DESC

On May 3, QUEST, in collaboration with Albero della Tuscía and IC Carducci – Busca, hosted an event on Democratic Education in Cuneo, Italy. The event attracted **over 60 teachers and educators** and provided members an opportunity to explore practices and workshops from the [DESC](#) (Democratic Education in Schools) teacher training program and engage with democratic principles in education. The event featured four speakers who shared their experiences with democratic education: Martina Paone (QUEST), Davide Antonio Martini (IC Carducci – Busca), Matteo Sturlese (Albero della Tuscía), and Aurelia Bachmann (Albero della Tuscía).



## July 2024: YGBN learning exchange in Klaipeda, Lithuania

In July 2024, QUEST participated in a Youth Going Back to Nature (YGBN) learning exchange in Klaipeda, hosted by the Lithuanian Sea Museum. The three-day training focused on sustainable outdoor activities for young people with intellectual and physical disabilities. QUEST introduced a nature-based activity designed to relax the nervous system by stimulating the vagus nerve. The exercises consisted in breathing and tapping exercises that can be easily conducted in nature and by the target group. The activity has been specifically designed to regulate stress, anxiety and other involuntary processes that might hinder the in-nature experience for a young person with disabilities. Discover the toolkit [here](#).

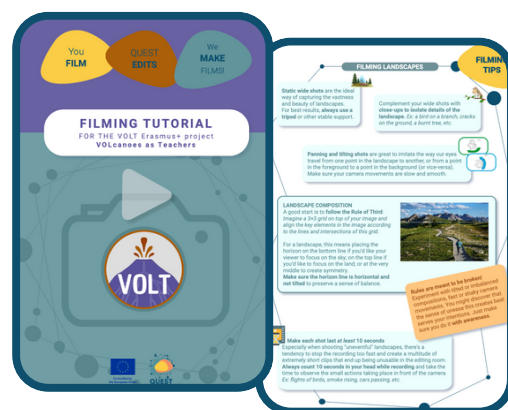


## September 2024: Youth Participatory Action Research (YPAR) training

In September 2024, QUEST delivered a Youth Participatory Action Research (YPAR) training as part of the YOU-CARE project, aimed at empowering youth through participation and increasing their agency as a way of addressing eco-anxiety. [A toolkit](#) from the training is available on QUEST's website.

## October 2024: VOLT project training session I

In October 2024, QUEST conducted a training session as part of the VOLT project, focusing on Inquiry-Based Learning (IBL) in STEM education. The session aimed to empower teachers with theoretical knowledge on IBL, self-assessment tools for exploring classroom power dynamics, and an interactive workshop on implementing IBL in practice. This was done within the framework of the "Volcanoes as Teachers" partner schools across three different contexts. The training was recorded and is available [online](#).



## November 21, 2024: VOLT project training session II

On November 21, 2024, QUEST conducted a training session as part of the VOLT project, focusing on documentary video filming. The session included a comprehensive toolkit for teachers and students, featuring tips on video and sound recording with a smartphone, guidance on planning, interviews, outdoor documentary styles, and legal considerations such as reusing news footage and obtaining consent forms. The training also included an interactive segment, allowing participants to co-create the main focus of the final documentary to be filmed by the students of the VOLT project. A toolkit and an online checklist are available [online](#).



This report focused on all of QUEST's events that were held both online and in person over the year. The events have been created to respond to the major goals of the organisation supported by the yearly strategy.

As a summary, a total of **12 events** were organized this year, covering a wide array of topics, including networking meetings with the Belgian democratic network, decolonial pedagogies, climate justice, interactive child-voting games, sustainable education in ecovillages, and training sessions on Erasmus+ KA1 and KA2 funding, as well as the European Solidarity Corps (ESC). These events also included workshops on Nonviolent Communication (NVC) for children and educators, fostering empathetic communication, and collaborative sessions such as the Speed Dating for Erasmus+ Partners to promote innovative projects and partnerships.

We decided to offer our members the opportunity to co-host some events with us, thus giving visibility to many of the pioneer organisations that are members of QUEST. This was a really successful ingredient that allowed more engagement, member retention, closer connection, and great visibility for some of our members.

Being in our second year of our Operating Grant, and being willing to allow as many people as possible to benefit from the innovative content provided, we opted for a mixed formula of having some events open to everyone and others only dedicated to QUEST members. We consider that in the next year, the amount of events open to everyone will diminish in favour of events that will only be open to our members in order to favour membership retention and continuity.

All in all, we consider that these numbers are a success for our organisation, which managed not only to fulfil its tasks, but also to provide high quality and innovative content for our members and for the external public.

In 2025, we will have the experience gained this year to support us even more in the organisation, taking stock of the feedback gained in every session, and the continuous improvement culture that leads all our actions at QUEST.





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