

TFK programme, funded projects 2025

Project title: Advancing Psychosocial Wellbeing and Resilience in Early Childhood Education in Ukraine	
Coordinator Hämeen ammattikorkeakoulu Oy (HAMK) Johanna Tervo, johanna.tervo@hamk.fi	The AWARE project aims to strengthen early childhood education (ECE) in Ukraine by developing inclusive, trauma-informed training for educators working with war-affected children. Responding to Ukraine's new Law on Preschool Education, national reform goals and the urgent need for psychosocial support for Ukrainian preschool children, the project enhances institutional capacity, improves educator competencies and promotes psychosocial wellbeing and resilience in ECE settings. The project is implemented by Hryhorii Skovoroda University in Pereiaslav (HSUP), V.N. Karazin Kharkiv National University (KGNU) from Ukraine, and Häme University of Applied Sciences (HAMK) from Finland. It focuses on co-creating two new 3 ECTS modules: one for the master's level and one post-diploma module for in-service educators. HSUP leads the MA module, integrating psychotechnologies and training to build teachers' competencies in identifying and supporting war-affected children. KGNU leads the post-diploma module, focusing on applying trauma-informed pedagogy in real-world ECE settings. HAMK coordinates the project, facilitates joint module curricula planning and staff mobility to Finland, and leads quality assurance and knowledge dissemination activities. The activities include: 1. A jointly conducted needs analysis. 2. Two benchmarking and planning visits to Finland for Ukrainian staff, with visits to institutions and NGOs, expert meetings, and hands-on learning. 3. A teacher needs assessment in Ukraine to inform content development. 4. Five structured online module planning sessions led by HAMK, involving co-creation of competence frameworks, curriculum design, evaluation tools, and institutional integration strategies. 5. Development of an online learning platform and digital resource repository to support scalability and continued professional development. 6. Production of a co-authored open-access journal article. 7. Establishment of a joint Management Team and a monitoring and evaluation framework to oversee implementation and quality. The anticipated results include improved educator preparedness, increased capacity of HEIs to deliver high-quality, trauma-informed ECE training, and enhanced national alignment with international standards.
Partners V. N. Karazin Kharkiv National University (KGNU), Hryhorii Skovoroda University in Pereiaslav (HSUP)	

	Graduates of the new modules will be able to identify trauma symptoms, provide psychosocial support, and create safe, inclusive learning environments, contributing to better developmental outcomes for children. The project supports the long-term transformation of Ukraine's ECE system by promoting more equitable access to quality education, narrowing gaps related to gender or socioeconomic status, and reinforcing the role of HEIs in national education reform. It also strengthens academic partnerships, research culture, and knowledge production between Finnish and Ukrainian institutions. The digital infrastructure and training models developed will remain in use beyond the project's end, ensuring a long-term impact.
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