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From Digital Gaps to Green Impact: Transforming Adult Education for a Sustainable Future

[2025-1-DE02-KA122-ADU-000331623]

OER-05: Green Competences for Adult Learners

Reflections from Erasmus+ Mobility in Osijek, 18-29.01.2026

Part of the OER series:

Learner Perspectives from Erasmus+ Mobility SHORT-01 (Osijek, Croatia)

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Introduction

This Open Educational Resource (OER) reflects on experiences from the Erasmus+ learning mobility SHORT-01, which took place in Osijek, Croatia from 18 to 29 January 2026.

The mobility was organised within the project:

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During the programme organised by the host organisation Edura, participants explored how sustainability and environmental awareness can be integrated into adult education.

A central topic discussed during the workshops was the concept of green competences — the knowledge, skills and attitudes that enable individuals to act in environmentally responsible ways.

Understanding Green Competences

Green competences are increasingly recognised as an important part of lifelong learning.

In adult education, these competences can help learners:

- understand environmental challenges
- develop responsible consumption habits
- participate in community sustainability initiatives
- support environmentally responsible practices in workplaces.

During the sessions in Osijek, trainers emphasised that green competences should not be presented only as theoretical knowledge. Instead, they should be connected with everyday life and practical behaviour.



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Learning through Practical Activities

One of the most effective learning approaches observed during the mobility was the use of hands-on activities related to sustainability.

Participants worked with simple materials and everyday objects to explore topics such as recycling, reuse and resource efficiency.

These activities helped learners understand that sustainability can be practiced through small, concrete actions.

For example, discussions about waste reduction were linked with practical examples such as reducing packaging, reusing containers and finding creative uses for everyday materials.

This practical approach made the topic more accessible and engaging for participants.

The Role of Adult Education

Adult education institutions can play an important role in supporting the development of green competences.

Adults often influence decisions in households, workplaces and communities. By increasing environmental awareness among adult learners, educational programmes can therefore contribute to broader social change.

Participants discussed how adult education organisations can integrate sustainability topics through:

- workshops and short learning modules
- community-based learning projects
- collaborative problem-solving activities
- reflection on everyday environmental practices.

These methods help learners connect environmental knowledge with real-life behaviour.



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Reflection

Participating in the mobility in Osijek helped participants see sustainability from a practical perspective.

Instead of focusing only on environmental problems, the workshops encouraged participants to explore possible solutions and everyday actions that can contribute to a more sustainable future.

This approach demonstrated that green competences are not only technical skills. They also involve awareness, responsibility and willingness to act.

Learning Context

This resource was developed as part of the reflective learning process of the Erasmus+ mobility activity SHORT-01 – Osijek, Croatia, implemented within the project:

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