



SCIFine – Scientific Capacity through Inquiry for Foundational Impact and Networked Engagement

Fostering Scientific Literacy and Foundational Skills in Children through Inquiry-Based STEM Education

Acronym: SCIFine

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Funding programme: Erasmus+, Forward-Looking Projects (ERASMUS-EDU-2025-PI-FORWARD)

Coordinator: Mentortec, Portugal

Consortium: A consortium of 11 organisations from Croatia, Slovenia, and Portugal, including UNIST.

Duration: 1 March 2026 – 31 August 2028

Project description: SCIFine aims to develop scientific literacy and foundational skills in preschool and primary school children through inquiry-based STEM education, fostering curiosity, critical thinking, creativity, and problem-solving. Emphasis is placed on hands-on learning, exploring everyday challenges, and developing innovative, sustainable educational practices.

The initiative draws on constructivist learning theory, where children actively build knowledge through experience, inquiry, and experimentation, and the concept of *open schooling*, which connects educational institutions with families, the scientific community, and various stakeholders, including public institutions, NGOs, associations, and the business sector. Activities include developing educational resources, training educators and teachers, and establishing SCIFine Learning Hubs to support the long-term use and wider adoption of the approaches developed.

The University of Split (UNIST), through its Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, coordinates Work Package 5 (WP5) – *Learning Hubs in Action*, focusing on implementing and evaluating the educational model in Croatia, Slovenia, and Portugal. Through its involvement, the Faculty contributes to innovative educational practices and stronger collaboration between science, education, and local communities.

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