



Summer School Recap



At the summer school in Krzyżowa, Poland, we discussed decoloniality, cultural literacy, critical pedagogy, community-based research and art-based methods with students from all over Europe. We chose an approach based on the combination of several complementary methods to engage with the themes of summer school and the project in the broadest and most open way possible. Our experience shows that integrating lectures as a space for the exchange of theoretical knowledge, open discussions, and artistic methods of teaching fosters the co-creation of an inclusive learning environment.

On the first day, we focused on integration and building mutual understanding, beginning with activities such as the “Belgian dance,” a well-known integration practice in Poland that fosters group cohesion.

The second day began with morning reflections of the previous day – a practice that subsequently became a regular element of our daily routine. After lectures and discussions on arts education, decoloniality and critical cultural literacy, the rest of the day was filled with artistic workshops. We created “trash books” and linocuts, demonstrating that artistic methods not only foster collaboration and provide a space for reflection, but can also be sustainable – creative learning does not need to be expensive, as it can draw on diverse and repurposed materials while encouraging ecological awareness.

On the third day, the lectures covered critical pedagogy and art education. Afterwards, we took part in glass art workshops, working in groups on our own sculptures as well as co-creating a large collective





More about our project:
www.expectart.eu/

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piece together with the local artist Katarzyna Krej. The next workshop introduced innovative methods based on our report "**Identification of Innovative Methods**". In the evening, we enjoyed a concert of Irish music prepared by Łukasz Potoczny.

Day four began with a guided tour of the venue - Krzyżowa Palace. This visit inspired a debate on the history of Central and Eastern Europe and questions of decoloniality, providing an excellent introduction to the subsequent lectures and workshops, focusing on anti-discrimination and decolonial feminism. After a day of intensive learning, our intellectual appetite was fulfilled, but our appetite for food soon took over. We launched a "workshop of national cuisines," where we rolled up our sleeves and learned to prepare delicious dishes from Central and Eastern Europe - with varying levels of culinary success, but an abundance of joy and collaboration.

The next day took us on an excursion to Wrocław to visit our cultural partner, Wrocławski In-

stitut Kultury, and a guided tour of the Four Domes Pavilion after. There, we discussed the history of the site and explored the works of Magdalena Abakanowicz. Inspired by her creations, we then had the chance to produce our own artworks.

Day six marked our final day. We met with Jacek Wasik, Head of the Regional Representation of the European Commission, and discussed cultural education in the multicultural society, focusing on the culture-creating and outreach activities carried out by the European Parliament. Afterwards, we attended lectures with the student group "Archeo" on topics such as the colonization of prehistory, the decolonization of North American art, and the historical use of artifacts of power to legitimize authority. The day concluded with a campfire and an Archeo-Etno party!

We would like to sincerely thank everyone who participated. Yet, this is not truly a goodbye - it is more of a "see you soon."





EXPECT_Art at the ECER 2025 in Belgrade



Our consortium participated in the European Conference on Educational Research in Belgrade, a city whose community is currently alive with student protests, democratic aspirations, and a strong participatory spirit.

We hosted a panel discussion titled *“Decolonizing Curricula through Art Education: First Steps of the EXPECT_Art Project in Affecting and Being Affected by Schools”*, with members of the EXPECT_Art Project representing Slovenia, Denmark, Hungary, Germany, and Spain. We shared experiences around concepts and approaches to fieldwork. The discussion reflected a strong sense of cohesion among partners and introduced interesting perspectives under a shared framework. One of the central topics was how decoloniality informs research methods

and its practical applications in the field. Some reflections that emerged included the idea that decolonizing is not exclusively tied to the histories of our countries, but rather an approach applicable to any context where power relations are at play.

The panel also reflected on the work of the Cultural Partners, noting that some of their artists and art educators belong to minorities or non-hegemonic white cultures and have extensive experience working with diverse marginalized groups, highlighting another way of engaging with decolonial processes.

In addition, we joined a symposium on cultural literacy and arts education alongside two sister projects: *Dialoguing Arts* and *Cultural Literacies’ Value in Europe*.

A farewell and a new chapter

The decision to leave Facebook and Instagram since these two do not resonate with our values anymore. We are grateful for the many meaningful connections we’ve made, and for every one of you who followed, supported, and engaged with us on these channels. From now on, you can find us on [Bluesky](#) and [Pinksy](#)!

