

Facing Global Challenges  
Environmental and Peace Education in Interreligious  
Cooperation for Religious Teacher Training

## 2nd Transnational Erasmus+ Meeting in Barcelona, Spain

*Facing Global Challenges: Environmental and Peace Education in Interreligious  
Cooperation for Religious Teacher Training  
2nd Transnational Erasmus+ Meeting, Barcelona, Spain (27 - 29 November 2024)*

Under the title “*Facing Global Challenges: Environmental and Peace Education in Interreligious Cooperation for Religious Teacher Training*”, the second transnational Erasmus+ meeting took place in Barcelona, from 27 to 29 November 2024.

The event, hosted by the Faculty of Communication Sciences at the International University of Catalonia (UIC Barcelona), brought together academic and institutional representatives from Austria, Germany, Albania, Malaysia, and Spain.

The main focus of the Barcelona meeting was to deepen the thematic connection between interreligious dialogue and water, exploring how universities and religious organizations can cooperate to promote peace and ecological awareness.



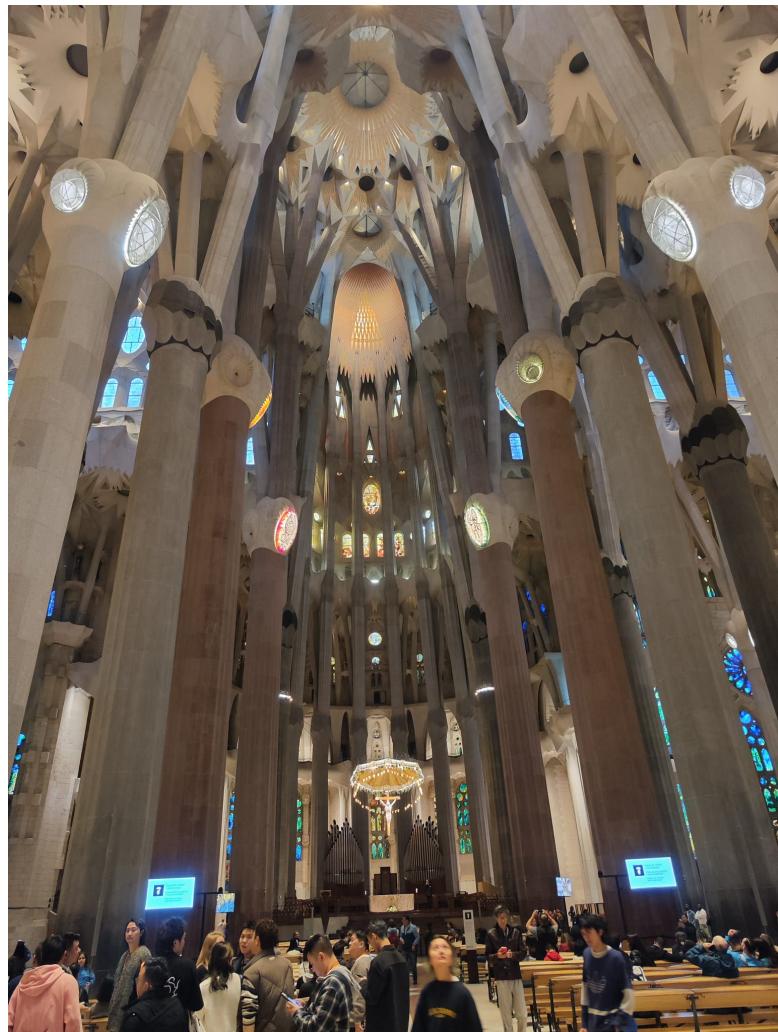
The opening sessions, held on 27 November 2024 at UIC Barcelona, began with a guided tour of the university facilities, followed by a joint working session. Representatives from each partner institution presented the progress of their research and educational initiatives related to peace education, ecological ethics, and interreligious dialogue. A general visualization session of all work packages allowed the consortium to align objectives and define common indicators for evaluation and dissemination.



In the afternoon, the group received a visit from ISCREB (Higher Institute of Religious Sciences of Barcelona), where a joint session was held to present religious education in schools.

Discussions focused on teacher training for religion (DECA) and on how to include sustainability and interreligious dialogue in school curricula. The group also discussed the challenges and opportunities of Muslim and Protestant religious education in Spain and Europe, and agreed to plan a future workshop in 2025 to design a new school module based on Erasmus+ materials.

The day ended with a visit to the Sagrada Familia, where participants reflected on sustainability and religious art as expressions of spiritual ecology. A shared dinner and a late-night reflection session offered space for informal exchange and team bonding among participants.



On Thursday, 28 November, the group travelled outside Barcelona to Manresa, a symbolic place for Ignatian spirituality. At the Cave of Saint Ignatius, participants explored how sustainability and interreligious dialogue can become transformative educational practices, inspired by Ignatian reflection and ecological awareness.



Later, the City Councillor for Education of Manresa, Ms. Pol Huget led a discussion on local educational and environmental policies, highlighting the role of municipalities and civil organizations in promoting ecological responsibility.



After lunch in Manresa, the group returned to Barcelona to participate in a working session at the Seminari Conciliar de Barcelona, in collaboration with the Interreligious Council of Catalonia (GTER). The session focused on the vision of different religions around the theme *“Water in Religious Traditions”*, one of the main topics of Work Package 3 (WP3), with the goal of creating a collective document. Several official representatives of different religions shared their perspectives on the spiritual and ethical meaning of water in their traditions, emphasizing how this shared symbol can promote cooperation and mutual understanding. The event highlighted how water, both as a resource and as a symbol, connects faith and ecology, encouraging global responsibility and dialogue for sustainability.



On Friday, 29 November, the final day took place at the Sant Cugat Campus of UIC Barcelona, where participants visited the facilities and learned about current research projects on education for sustainability. Dr. Maria Pujol presented the project *Green Dialogues*, focused on teacher training in environmental children's literature through dialogic practices, while Dr. Sílvia Albareda presented the results of the *EDUCLIMA Project*, focused on evaluating the educational impact of actions to mitigate climate change. Completed Erasmus+ projects such as *CHANCES* (Dr. Mònica Fernández) and *Kids Lab for Sustainability* were also presented, showing innovative ways to integrate sustainability and interreligious values into education. Dr. Joan Hernandez-Seret presented the idea of creating an Erasmus Friends Network, aimed at maintaining cooperation between institutions after the end of the project.



In a later session dedicated to Work Package 3, the consortium reviewed the project's content and communication strategy, including the development of the website and the visual documentation of activities. The closing session included an evaluation of the Barcelona



workshop, reflections on shared achievements, and planning for future publications and international meetings.

The Barcelona meeting showed the dynamic interaction between academia, religions, and civil society, demonstrating how education for peace and the environment can become a transformative force when based on dialogue and ethical responsibility.

The project reaffirmed its shared commitment to training educators who can connect faith, knowledge, and sustainability, helping to build a culture of peace and care for our common home.



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