

## PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Project SEEDS (Science Education and Environment Ethics) is the fruit of the collaboration between Italy and Spain in the field of scientific education. Its aim is to provide supplementary teaching methods for scientific education in secondary schools, that is to say new tools and ideas which will, on one hand, make it easier for students to learn and, on the other, will assist teachers in their job.

SEEDS wants to be a supplementary teaching method, ideal to stimulate a deeper level of scientific knowledge starting from the base, particularly considering how crucial scientific education has become nowadays and, at the same time, how traditional teaching methods seem to be running into hundreds of problems.

The project focuses on a specific aspect of scientific education, and sets up to create a deeper awareness on environmental sustainability, a theme which has recently acquired primary and global importance and has become a connecting factor between the educational system and the environment, a banner standing for concepts like development, culture and the future of generations to come. As a point of reference to support this choice, the Project draws on “*The Ethical Charter drawn up by the Departments of Environment Education (CEA) of the Province of Parma*”, a document on which the Province of Parma -leader and author of the SEEDS Project- has been working constantly since 2003 through actions, projects and thorough analysis, in synergy with the other territorial authorities.

Thus, with its principles and values, the Ethical Charter becomes at the same time starting point as well as destination of a journey of debate and in-depth study, and it's meant to allow students to eventually pass from theory to action through the Decide Kit, specifically created for the purpose.

Based on this assumption, SEEDS aims to create an easy-to-use teaching kit, made available to all secondary schools in the area, and encouraging discussion on values, principles, and on the consequences of individual behaviour upon the environment. To attain this purpose, an innovative, open kit has been created, that is involving as a game, and capable of arousing intellectual curiosity and so hopefully having a positive effect on students' scientific knowledge.

Started in August 2013, the project was completed in June 2015 with the creation of the kit that is now available. It is the outcome of a discussion which has gone on among the various partners in Parma in order to find the right strategies, solutions, and the more appropriate tools to deal with the theme of environmental ethics.

Each secondary school in Italy was asked to develop its own teaching project based on one or more points of the Ethical Charter. This work has produced ideas, proposals and solutions towards the creation of an interactive and multidisciplinary kit. All this material has been worked out again and merged by our work group so as to obtain the best final tool for our purpose. Eventually, the end product has been discussed with our Spanish partners who, in their turn, had dealt with the same subject in their own country. On this meeting different ideas, proposals, experiences and planning have been shared, leading (though keeping in mind the different backgrounds) to the creation of the final kit, painstakingly put together piece by piece like a jigsaw puzzle.

SEEDS is the name of a project carried out by the Province of Parma (Italy) and the Province of Granada (Spain). It is funded by: the PROVINCE OF PARMA, Dept. of Environment Education; C.E.P. GRANADA; SCIENCE PARK; Municipality of [Alhendin](#); [Junta de Andalucia](#); the Italian schools [Liceo A. Bertolucci in Parma](#), [Itas Bocchialini in Parma](#), [Liceo Marconi in Parma](#), [Ist Paciolo D'Annunzio](#) in Fidenza (PR); the Spanish schools IES Aynadamar, IES Alhendín; the associations [Googol](#) and [ANISN \(National Association of Natural Science Teachers\) of Parma](#).

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