

WE INVITE TO JOIN OUR WEBINAR SERIES:

Local Peaks, Global Learning

ABC of Environmental Learning 5

7.4.2026 at 13 PM CET

Mountain oriented education within the ESD concept

The first part of the lecture addresses the issue of mountainousness and the role of mountains in society throughout history and today. The second part emphasizes the role of mountains among Slovenians throughout history and today, and how mountains have shaped Slovenian identity. Next, we will focus on aspects of education in and with mountains within education for sustainable development. We will consider the opportunities and challenges of education about and in mountains and highlight the importance of mountain landscapes in outdoor and nature-based teaching.

Matej Ogrin

Matej Ogrin is a lecturer at the Department of Geography, Faculty of Arts, University of Ljubljana, and is currently Head of the Department of Geography. Among other topics, he also teaches courses in Geography of Mountains and Protected Areas, Climatology, and Landscape Ecology. Since 2009, he has also been President of CIPRA Slovenia, the Society for the Protection of the Alps.

9.4.2026 at 9 AM CET

"Where Is the Glacier?" – Exploring the Arctic-Alpine Landscape

The Tromsø region in Northern Norway has become an international tourism and geopolitical hotspot. Surrounded by an Arctic landscape of mountains, glaciers, fjords, and valleys, it offers almost endless possibilities for outdoor experiences and education. How can we, in adult education, work with embodying sustainability values in a playful way? This talk will explore the landscape and what we can learn by walking through it from sea to summit with students? Along the figurative way to a glacier and back we will explore science on the move and reflect on Norwegian perspectives and the history of "friluftsliv" in education and developing skills through play. We will consider the landscape as a developing ecosystem and connect these insights to the broader picture of outdoor learning.

Jan Höper

Jan Höper works as a senior lecturer in science education at UiT - The Arctic University of Norway, Campus Tromsø. He has a background as a biologist, museum educator, and chemistry and science teacher. His research interests revolve around species knowledge, outdoor education in general, and the integration of chemistry and Sámi perspectives into science and outdoor education.

Cecilie Harr Moen

Cecilie Harr Moen has a versatile background from nature guiding in tourism and teaching adults at Svalbard, Norway and Greenland. Her research interests include play and learning with nature as the setting, Sámi perspectives in outdoor recreation, and sustainability in physical/outdoor education. Currently Cecilie is working as a university lecturer in outdoor- and physical education at UiT - The Arctic University of Norway, Campus Tromsø.

10.4.2026 at 9 AM CET

On Reading Maps: Metaphor, Materiality, and Adventures into the Unknown

Anyone who has walked through a wild or unfamiliar place knows the usefulness of a map. My work at the High Mountain Institute in Colorado involves teaching young people how to use maps to navigate through the mountains and canyons of the American West. As a literature teacher, I also rely on conceptual maps (syllabi, lesson plans, etc.) to guide my interactions with students inside of the classroom. In this talk, I want to consider how we make maps and how we read them from the perspective of an experiential educator. I hope to explore some of the otherwise transparent assumptions, trade offs, and questions happening implicitly whenever we reduce a complex reality to a two-dimensional plane.

Jacob Sheetz-Willard

Jacob Sheetz-Willard is a teacher, writer, ultrarunner, and wilderness guide living in the Rocky Mountains of rural Colorado, USA. As a teacher and school leader at the High Mountain Institute, his work engages students with the natural world through multi-week wilderness expeditions, rigorous academics, and place-based community programming.

16.4.2026 9AM CET

My Meetings with the Himalayas

This talk traces the lifelong mountaineering journey of Viki Grošelj from his first climbs on local Slovenian hills to the highest peaks of all seven continents, with a special focus on the Himalayas. The lecture follows a path from early beginnings in the Central Alps to pioneering ascents of some of the world's most challenging mountains. Drawing on decades of expeditions and experience gained far from home, Grošelj reflects on what the great ranges of the world have taught him - about risk, perseverance, responsibility, and humility.

Viki Grošelj

Viki Grošelj (born 1952) is a Slovenian alpinist, Himalayan climber, pedagogue, mountain guide, and mountain rescue professional. He has taken part in more than thirty expeditions outside Europe and has summited ten of the world's fourteen eight-thousand-meter peaks, mostly without supplemental oxygen. He is the first Slovenian to complete the Seven Summits and the author or co-author of over forty books. His work has been internationally recognized for both mountaineering excellence and humanitarian engagement.

17.4.2026 9AM CET

Skills for Dwelling - Knowledge production and cultural change through participatory action research in the Italian mountains

Are there specific knowledge and skills requirements to deal with changing socio-ecological mountain landscapes? Is it possible to develop specific capabilities in this regard? How can social research support these processes? In this talk, researchers from the Groupe de Recherche en Education à l'Environnement et à la Nature at the University of Valle d'Aosta will present their anthropological and sociological case studies of participatory action research in the Italian Alps and Apennines. They will discuss the role of innovative, targeted, and spatially embedded initiatives in strengthening awareness and territorial rootedness in mountain areas, especially among young people. The session will highlight the mountains as a place of mutual learning and knowledge co-construction, where new residents, local communities, and institutions interact to imagine and build shared futures.

Montagne in Movimento (MIM)

Montagne in Movimento (MIM) is an applied anthropology program that promotes active engagement, learning and education in mountain contexts through participatory action-research. MIM is part of the Groupe de Recherche en Éducation à l'Environnement et à la Nature (GREEN), a multidisciplinary research group at the University of Valle d'Aosta, focused on nature education, environmental pedagogy, affective ecology, and ecopsychology.

In this webinar, we will meet five MIM-GREEN researchers:

Giulia Mascadri, Andrea Membretti, Gabriele Orlandi, Valentina Porcellana, and Roberta Clara Zanini

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