



The Power of Art in Education

Art-based methods connect education and critical cultural literacy by combining multiliteracies, decoloniality, and critical pedagogies. These innovative approaches inspire our research team to collaborate with schools and local communities, exploring activities developed in diverse contexts.

Why do we use art in our methods?

Art serves as:

- A tool for social change and protest
- A mirror of society and a platform for marginalized voices
- A medium for dialogue, empathy, and community engagement

Our Hungarian art partner, InSite Drama, conducted the #diceresearch study on the benefits of regular student participation in educational theatre and drama. Findings show that students who engage in these activities:

- Excel in creativity and problem-solving
- Are more confident in communication and stress-resilient
- Enjoy school activities more and demonstrate greater tolerance toward minorities
- Become active, empathetic citizens



More about our project:
www.expectart.eu/

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Building bridges: Stories of creativity and compassion from Hungary and Poland



In November and December, the Hungarian team visited two schools where upcoming fieldwork will take place. In a small village in Northern Hungary, where a highly segregated population of Roma children lives, an actor from InSite Drama led a unique Hungarian lesson for sixth graders. Students explored a famous 19th-century Hungarian poem on political oppression, reimagining its themes through the lens of their lives.

In Budapest's rust belt, the team visited a secondary vocational school offering qualifications in logistics, tourism, and IT. The deputy headmaster shared insights into the school's diverse student body, their social backgrounds, and the community's character. In December, the team witnessed a historic school event where students and even some brave teachers performed on stage. At this school, InSite Drama continued its sessions

with ninth and tenth graders, bringing creative and engaging learning experiences to the classroom.

In Poland, researchers from the University of Wrocław observed the remarkable charity work undertaken by students and teachers at Wojewódzki Zakład Doskonalenia Zawodowego in Opole. Their voluntary efforts exemplify community work, from assisting in the cleanup of cities affected by recent flooding in Poland to organizing charity sales and arranging activities for senior citizens. This winter, their compassion extended to the local community—or more specifically, the local “pawmmunity.” Recognizing the challenges homeless cats face in cold months, students and teachers designed and built warm, secure shelters for their feline neighbors. The results were nothing short of “purrefection”, showcasing their dedication and compassion.

Call for papers

As part of our ongoing efforts to advance critical cultural literacy in education, we are excited to announce the international **conference “Community-based research, decolonial theory and education: Challenges and opportunities”**. The conference will take place in **Budapest from June 4 to June 5, 2025**. We invite papers exploring methodological and/or theoretical perspectives on decoloniality and community-based research in education. More information about the conference is available on [our website](#).

