The Child Care and Educational system in Denmark

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Danish Daycare/educational system

0-3 years old – "Vuggestue" (nursery) or "dagpleje" (daytime care taker – in private home, 3-5 children.) (aprox. 91% of children aged 1-2 years)

3-6 years old – "Børnehave" (Kindergarten/Daycare) (aprox. 97% of 3-5 years)

Subsidised by the Government
Parents pay part of it; 2190 kr =336€ a month (Kindergarten)



6-16 years old - Primary school (10 years in total) Compulsary and free of charge

16-19 years old - Secondary education (Depending on kind aprox. 3 years) Voluntary – but most youth attend som kind of secondary education, free of charge

19 – 22 years old - Bachelor education (Aprox. 3-4 years, teachers and pedagogues), or other kinds of education. 1 education free of charge.

Candidate/ph.d./master etc. Some education free of charge, others you have to pay for, some are subsidised, others not.

"Life-Long-Education"

Diploma in various directions (after working at least 2 years in the field of the bachelor education). Lenght varies depending on education. Many different kinds of "Life-Long-Education".



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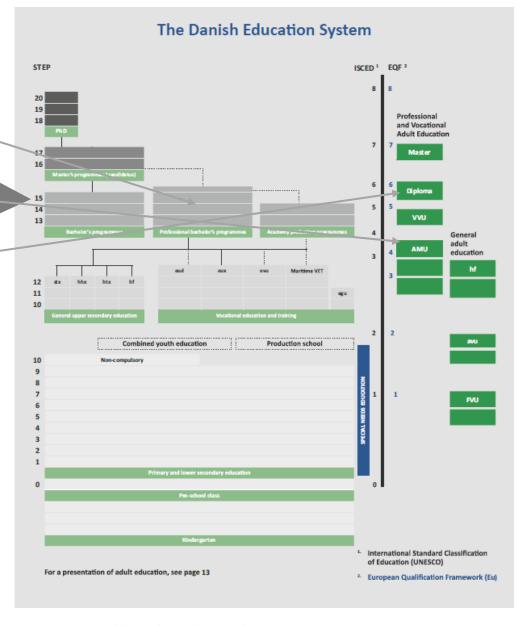
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4 out 5 pedagoges/teachers have a bachelors degree (though it wasn't a bachelor at that time we had our schooling.)

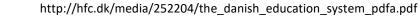
1 has a "PAU" – a one year course in childcare. "Pedagogical assistant education."

One has a diploma as well in the "Development of the Organisation and Didactics of Adults"

Furthermore we have a lot of different short courses like "Didactic of language development", "DAP courses" of Gladsaxe Municipality. "Inclusion of children with difficulties" etc.









Legal Framework: The Law of Act for Daycares and Child Care centers in Denmark

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The Danish policies for Child Care that institutions must follow is the "The Law of Act in Day Care" which states:

§ 7 Children in daycare must have a physical, psychological and aesthetic environment, which promote their health, well-being, development, learning and general education.



- •promote children's learning and development of skills through experiences, play and educational activities.
- •provide children's participation in democratic understanding and developing into responsible citizens.
- cooperate with parents about children
- •in cooperation with parents ensure a smooth transition and consistent transition



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View of the child

- That children have a mental awarenes form birth and openness to participate and communicate in social contexts.
- That the child is socially competent, an active learner and participates in the creation of knowledge and culture.

View upon learning and development are built on

- Learning and educational environment will be with opportunities to explore, study, reflect and analyze.
- An environment which encourages the children's development through variations and flexibility gives the child the opportunity to actively learn by own choice
- In an educational practice based on an appreciative fundamental assumption, where keywords like inclusion, democracy and integration become active

Before you can learn, you have to feel safe and appreciated.

We, the teachers, talk about;

"how to learn how to be"!

("at lære at være" – it makes more sence in Danish, because it rhimes)





Educational learning plan/Curriculum

- Comprehensive Personal development
- Social development
- Language and communication
- Body, senses and motion
- Nature, outdoor life/recreation, science
- Aesthetics, Culture and Unison/Coexistence

Læreplanstema nr. 5: Natur, udeliv og science

- § 10. Det pædagogiske læringsmiljø i dagtilbuddet skal, jf. dagtilbudslovens § 8, stk. 4, understøtte børns læring inden
- § 11. Det pædagogiske arbejde med læreplanstemaet natur, udeliv og science skal tage udgangspunkt i beskrivelsen af temaet, if, bilag 5, og to pædagogiske mål målrettet børn i aldersgruppen 0-5 år, som er følgende:
- 1) Det pædagogiske læringsmiljø skal understøtte, at alle børn får konkrete erfaringer med naturen, som udvikler deres nysgerrighed og lyst til at udforske naturen, som giver børnene mulighed for at opleve menneskets forbundethed med naturen, og som giver børnene en begyndende forståelse for betydningen af en bæredygtig udvikling.
- Det pædagogiske læringsmilig skal understøtte, at alle børn aktivt observerer og undersøger naturfænomener i dere omverden, så børnene får erfaringer med at genkende og udtrykke sig om årsag, virkning og sammenhænge, herunde

Within these 6 skills there are 2 directions for each skill, we have to follow. For example

5: Nature, outdoor life/recreation, science

- 1) give the children exact experiences with nature, develop curiosity and joy of inquiry, evolve the first steps of understanding how to support a sustainable development.
- 2) the learning environment must support children being active observers and investigators of natural phenomenons in their surroundings, which in turn makes children recognise and express themselves about reason, effect, coherence, including mathematical attentiveness



It's important that the children are active and currious – we are talking about "how to learn to learn" and "learning by doing" (John Dewey).

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As a Forest Kindergarten how to implement the Law of Act?

We must prepare written documentation that proves we follow the Law of Act in the daily care of the children.

- Use the DAP (concept of Gladsaxe Municipality), a method of planning and evaluation.
- Make sure to focus on all skills within our Projects. Can sometimes be a challenge to find ideas and projects which covers all skills in the forest all year. We have to be creative and innovative.
- Written assesments for every year including the last year and plans for the next year.
- We involve parents and children in our planning and our everyday both parts have a great influence on how we work as teachers and what we do in the Kindergarten.
- Make a BMV every second year. BMV (Childcenteret-environmental-assesment), where we, together with the children, look upon the learning environment making sure we have a healthy physical and psychological development of each child.

Playing the story "Little Red Ridinghood and the Wolf" by Grimm. The children have heard the fairy tale read a loud many times. Now they can recount the story. This is one way we can work with "Language and communication"



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DAP – a pedagogical teaching method in Gladsaxe Municipality





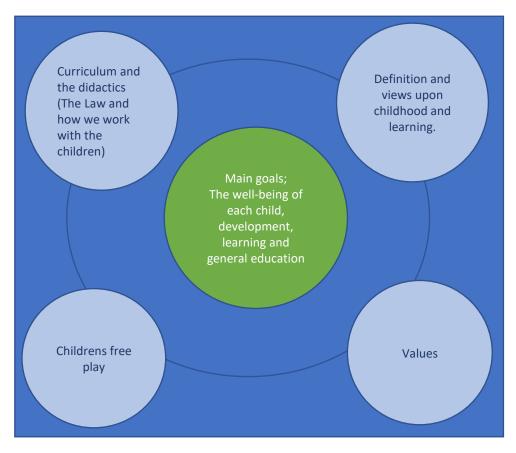
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DAP – Didactically Applied Pedagogy (education) a method.



Børne- og Skolepolitikken i Gladsaxe Kommune





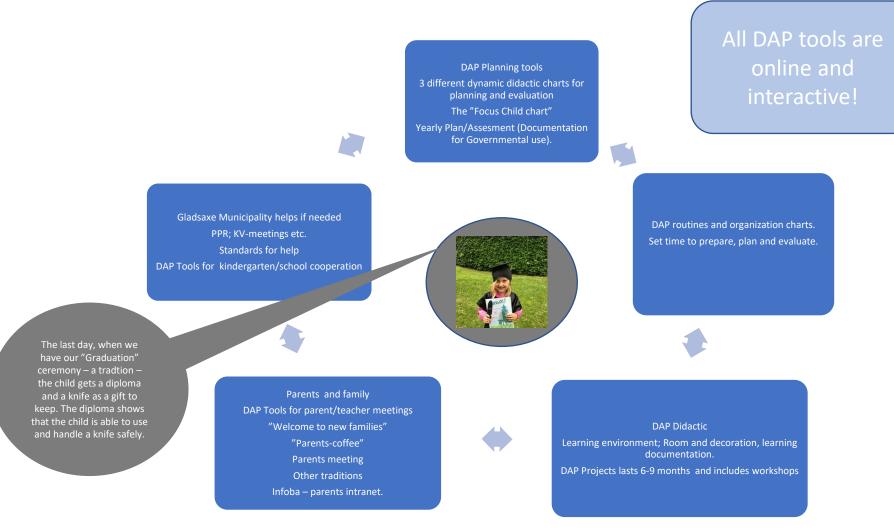


Why DAP in daycare in Gladsaxe Municipality?

- The Danish Government introduced "Documention of the educational curriculums" in 2004
- Gladsaxe commune wanted "same subject language" in each daycare/kindergarten and in the entire municipality.
- Gladsaxe wanted to have a pedagogical method which is deliberate and judicious in order to establish the best learning and development forums for children.



DAP – a circular togetherness of elements in the everyday





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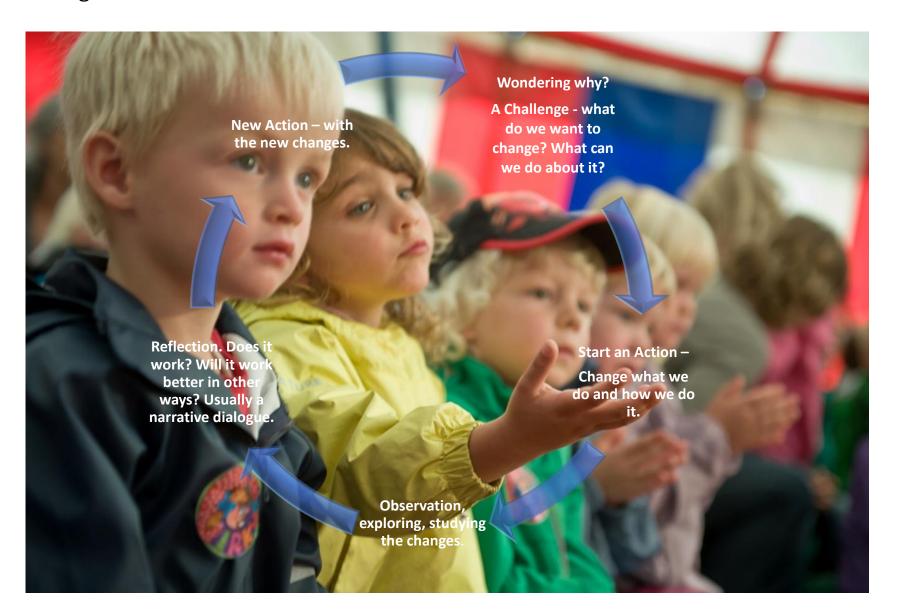
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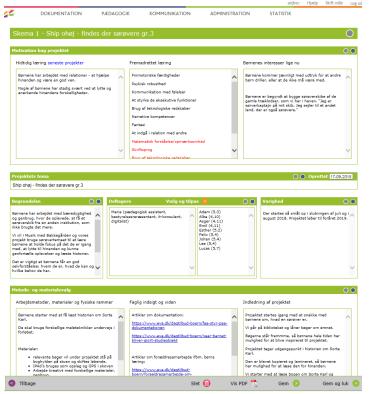
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Explore, study, reflect and analyze, how do the teachers reflect and change things?



1st Chart; Skema for retning – "Chart for Direction")



A planning tool for the project/theme, made in advance before the project starts – and revised whenever needed. Lasts usually for 6-9 months.

- Show us why we choose this theme
- Which children to include
- Which adults are included
- Duration
- Which skills are in focus
- The interests of the children right now, and how we progress the childrens learning from earlier projects/themes
- Planning the project, work methods, materials, setting...etc.
- Involvement of parents
- Which kind of documentation

It takes about 1-2 hours to write Chart 1, if you are fast and well-prepared.

2nd. Chart; Skema til planlægning (Chart 2 – "Chart for Planning")



Are being made for a periode of aprox. 1-2 weeks, sometimes a little longer.

- Some repetitions from chart 1; participants, reasoning, goals for skills, but now more precise/accurate for that actual periode.
- Specific children might be in focus, with different goals for skills
- Assesment of learning outcome; what happened, what did the child/children learn, what made it possible?

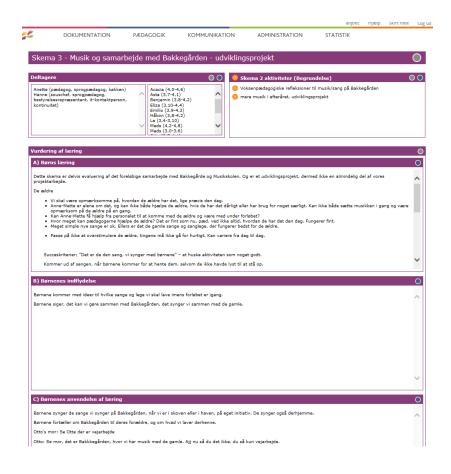
Pictures and "Focus-child-charts" are automatically included to chart 2.

Plans for the future – what is important to bring on for the next period?

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It takes about 1-2 hours to plan and get all materials etc ready for the chosen period.

3rd chart – skema til evaluering (Chart 3 – "Chart for Evaluation/Assessment.")



Assesment of learning outcome

- What have the children learned?
- How were the chidren's influence on the project?
- How do the children use what they have learned?
- What made learning possible?
- Inspiration for the next project/theme
- What have the teachers learned?
- What has the organisation learned? (How to structure the project, new knowledge, how to organize "lack of time"-issues?
- How was the involvement of the parents?
- How did we end the project and show the learning outcome, both for children and to the parents or other interested (exhibition at library etc.)?

In Chart 3 you will see all the pictures and focus-childcharts related to the project/theme.

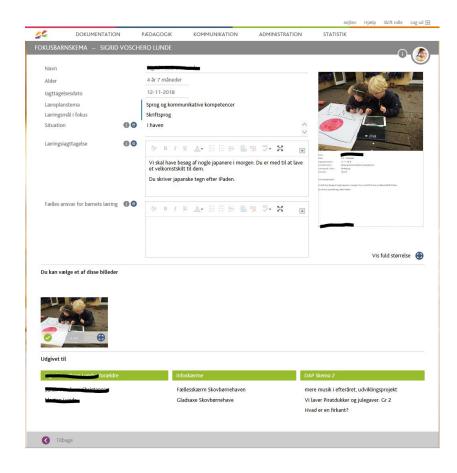
Chart 3, is the last chart to fill in for a project. It is used to evaluate, and also to plan the next project. It is important to find the links/the signs from the children to build the new project on. It takes about 2-3 hours to write this chart and are done every 6-9 months, unless if you do it during the project is running. Which makes it easier sometimes.



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Fokusbarnskema – "Focus-child-chart"



- To follow each child's development and learning approx. every 10th-14th day.
- Ensure focused and observing teaching practices and reflection based on the educational goals.
- Gather information systematically on each child's learning and development - for use by parents and development talks.
- To know each child's knowledge and skills involved when educational processes are planned.
- The teacher has a resource view.
- The parents get a notification every time their child has been in focus, to be able to talk with their child about his/hers everyday in the Kindergarten, and about what we are doing in the Kindergarten.

Focus-child-chart takes about 10-15 min. for each chart. Made usually every day after lunch. Each teacher makes 1-2 charts a day.



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What have the children learned? Easier to remember, when you see the pictures and read all the Focus-child charts







Theories based on Vygotsky, also refered to as ZPD and scaffolding whitin Vygotskian thought

To take the childs perspective; what is the intention of the child and what is it about to learn? How do we support the child/children in the best way? We talk about : To "lead the way", to "walk beside" or to "walk behind" the child?



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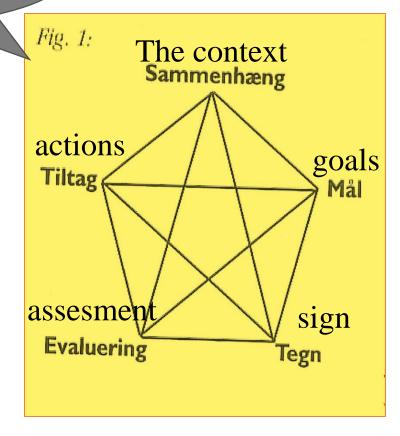
Set time for planning, documentation, reflections and dialogues,;

- 10-20 min. each day for Focus-child-chart, usually after lunch.
- 1,5 hours once a week in teams, (2 teams, with 2 teachersthey take turns).
- 1 hour once a week, for individual planning.
- 3 hours a month for all teachers.
- If more time needed, we arrange it.

A dynamic, didactic thinking: "Sign is something you decide "SMTTE"

Every time you focus on one goal and looks for signs for this particular goal, you will evidently miss out on other goals and signs – we have to be aware of that.

- Sammenhæng: the context
 - Describe and give reasons to provide the background for the process, qualifications, status and intention
- Mål: the specific goals
 - Describe the direction for development and learning;
 value- and goal-oriented, not claim-fulfilling
- Tiltag: action and plan, methods
 - The plan for what to do to achieve a wanted development and learning process
- Tegn/sanseindtryk: signs and experience
 - To select specific signs and impressions referring to practise actions and specific learning and goals for early childhood developments.
- Evaluering: assessment
 - Strategy for educational documentations, methods, intentions and focus. How to substantiate the claims



From the Danish book: "Tegn er noget, vi bestemmer" by Frode Boye Andersen. JCVU

DAP – Chart of routine/everyday

Rutineark for Gladsaxe Skovbørnehave senest revideret 11.09.17-01.03.18

Det forudsættes, at der forud for udfyldelse af de enkeltstående sekvenser (modtagelse, projekt/værksted osv.) i arket er foregået en dialog ved hiælp af metoden: Refleksion i pædagogikken.

Dagstruktur Er opbygget kronologisk; kan udfyldes i foretrukken rækkefølge	
Hvad er formålet? Hvilke pædagogiske mål? Hvorfor?	En god modtagelse om morgenen, hvor vi meder alle børns behov; får vinket med dem, der har brug for det, talt og evt. trøstet. Børnene skal føle sig set og hørt om morgenen, så vi får en god start på dagen. Vi er opmærksomme på at tale med de forældre, der har brug for det. Alle modes med et smil og "godmorgen". Vi lægger vægt på en rolig morgen, hvor vi staler lidt lavt sammen, og leger stille og rolig tog fordeler os i flere rum så støjen ikke eskalerer. En stille og rolig morgen, hvor vi ser lale, giver en bødere dag.
Hvilke funktioner/aktiviteter skal tilgodeses?	Omsorgsposition: Hijelbjer bornene med at sige farvel till forækfre, og evt. trøste. Pædagggiek position: Hijelbjer børn i gan med at lege og sørge for at legen bliver rolig og afdæmpet, taler med lille stemme og sørger for at børnene leger så fordybet som muligt. Fordybetes position: Indimellem kan vi sætte tillag i gang som enkelte børn kan lave, f.eks. tegneopgaver. Sørger for at børnene bliver: legen så længe som muligt. Planposition: Der kan være tid til at løse korte skriftlige opgaver, laminere og printe tidligt om morgenen, inden der kommer for mange børn.
Hvem gør hvad? Hvomår?	§17 stoles der ned og laves evt. kaffe. Begge indmødtig skiffes til at moditage børn og evt. lave andre opgaver indt der kommer flere børn (ca. 745), de sterre børn går på dueslaget haf det er passende, all flet for hvor mange der e kommet, for at sørge for at der er roligt i stuen. Når der kommer flere børn, er begge voksne på modtagelsen af børn. Ved 8.30 tiden senset begynder børnene oppridning i dukkkergo ett. §18,30 kommer 3. voksne og

The Day is devided into shorter periods of time, for example: "In The Morning" and the way we greet the children and parents in the mornings; Which purposes are there for that particular period of time, our goals and why? Which functions do the teachers have to fullfill, be a part of? Care – teaching sessions - involved/focused activities (if possible) – planning activities (if possible).

- The DAP chart on routines; we are discussing these on our meetings frequently.
- The routines are written down, and everyone knows them and has agreed on them.
- New teachers, trainees etc. are informed about how the routines are.
- The routines are the basis of our everyday.
- The structure, which makes things easier for both adults and children.
- The routines have to work properly, have to be discussed and to be agreed upon, and have to be followed.
- If we don't do, what we have agreed upon anymore, we have to make a mutual decision weather we want to change the routine/schedules, or we want to stick to the routines and rules we have made together there have to be good reasons to make alternations.
- Everytime we discover we don't do what we have agreed on, we talk about weather it is a single time, because of a particular reason, or if it has to be changed permanently.
- WE DO have a lot of written down agreements and we do things more or less in the same way all of us. This is especially important regarding safety issues, and when we talk with the parents and children about "rules" and when we are matching expectations.



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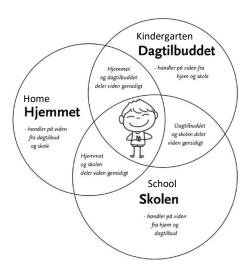
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DAP, the interior, decoration and areas for learning/playing

- The way we choose to decorate, and set our areas for learning and playing is important for the childrens possibilities to concentrate and stay focused.
- To "tidy up", is a general thing you have to learn.
- The things we have on our walls is documentation to expand the learning of the children. And to show parents, grandparents etc. what we do and how the children play to learn, and learn to play.
- It is part of the DAP concept, to reflect upon and discuss how we use the indoor and outdoor room.

DAP, the joint responsibility for the children



The parents and the kindergarten have a joint responsibilty for the childs well-beeing, learning outcome, development and general education. When the child is about to start school, this joint responsibility includes the school-kindergarten-parents as well.

We HAVE to share knowledge about the child all of us. It is part of the Law of Act, and helps the child develop into a healthy adult with the help of parents and teachers.



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DAP – the continuity in the childs learning and well-being – a method to follow



Moving on from Kindergarten to School

The last year in kindergarten, the children have to do some special activities, which will be brought on and used in the school and after-school-daycare.

- A drawing of their family
- A drawing of their school
- A digital book (Book-creator App on Ipad) with pictures of their drawings, pictures of how they measure themselves, and they have to tell what they are good at and how they have learned this particular "super-power".
- A treasurebox with some games and songs they know, to be used in class.
- We also have to fill in a chart together with the parents, about how we have worked to develop the child in the best way.



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Årsplan – Yearly plan and assesment – also a chart



Made every year – about 30 pages of documentation Incl.:

- A description of the Kindergarten and our visions
- How many children, teachers
- How we have worked with the curriculum, incl. observations and reflections of the learning outcome.
- Description of Strategies and Organisation.

 What is our main goals for the next year

 How will we fulfill the goals

 How do we fulfill the curriculum
- How do we include childrens perspectives (BVM)
- How do we include parents perspectives, and results of parents satisfactions questionary.
- How do we work with APV and the well-being of the teachers – the work environment and general methods of development of the teachers.
- How do we work with sustainability and UN sustainable goals. https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/?menu=1300
- ETC. ETC. ETC.

