

SCALE: Scaling Up Applied Creativity Labs® (ACLs) Across Europe.

IVE's Applied Creativity Labs® (ACLs) give children and young people the creative behaviours and thinking skills to develop innovative solutions for real world challenges, with climate change being the most urgent. The SCALE project was designed to develop the resources to enable teachers across Europe to train to deliver ACLs themselves. The aim was to enable as many young people as possible to find new ways to reduce carbon emissions and the impact of climate change, giving them both a voice and agency to act.

Applied Creativity Labs® were developed by IVE. They begin with an overview of the problem from an industry expert ie. the need to reduce air pollution explained by a local authority pollution officer. Young people then receive creative thinking training and hear more about the problem they have to solve from 'experts' from industry, business and universities. In groups young people then mind-map, select, develop & refine their ideas before rehearsing and pitching their best original, applicable solutions to the challenge formally to an Industry Panel. The best ideas are then considered or taken forward for further development.

What's involved?

The SCALE Project ran from 2020 – 2023 and produced three final outputs. Click on the links to find out more:

- [A Guide to Teaching and Learning for Creativity Competency Framework.](#)
- [A Best Practice Guide on Creative Teaching and Implementation and Best Practice Guide on Creative Learning Assessment.](#)
- A free online training resource (MOOC) for teachers and group leaders. The MOOC contains over 20 hours of self-study and enables teachers to support twelve to seventeen year-olds to develop the creative capacities to solve specific challenges in relation to the environment and climate

change, and equip them with a suite of transferable skills that address this need. [Click here to register for the MOOC.](#)

IVE worked with European partners in the UK, Latvia, Bulgaria, Belgium, Portugal and Spain. The SCALE project objectives were:

- To replicate the ACL methodology on a wider, pan-European scale.
- To lay the foundations for the implementation and uptake of the ACL methodology at a systemic level.
- To enhance critical thinking among learners, as well as parents, educational staff and other stakeholders through ACLs.
- To raise awareness of the huge potential of harnessing young peoples' natural creativity in producing innovative solutions to European environmental issues.
- To cultivate an ACL network through which teachers and trainers can exchange resources, knowledge and good practices.

What are the impacts?

By applying creativity to real-world challenges – such as air pollution – learning becomes 'real' and young people take an active part in creating their own futures. We enhance and develop the creativity of children, young people and also staff in schools. To read the #breatheleeds final impact report click [here](#).

Partners

IVE partnered with organisations in Belgium, Bulgaria, Latvia, Portugal and Spain and the UK to deliver the project.

UK – **Aspire-igen**: a Yorkshire based former social enterprise committed to changing lives for the better through learning and work.

Belgium – The Square Dot Team: an organisation who specialise in training, mentorship, and educational policy.

Spain – Gestión Estratégica e Innovación SL: an adult training organisation specialising in entrepreneurship, leadership, and online delivery.

Portugal – Município de Lousada: a local council who are focussed on interventions to enhance curriculum & coordination of education policy.

Bulgaria – Institute Perspectives: an organisation who implement European integration policies, develop, test and implement innovative methods in non-formal education and entrepreneurship including sustainable development.

Latvia – Austrumlatvijas Tehnologiju Vidusskola: School and higher education provider who specialise in STEM.

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Get Involved!

If you would like to buy IVE in to deliver an Applied Creativity Lab® to your school or youth group please contact: sarah@weareive.org.

“I thought the way you communicated with us and organised the presentation was very structured and professional. [The Labs] gave the young people a taste of a working environment which was well thought through and considered. IVE brought the young people in and gave them credit. There was respect and confidence in everyone [...] and it was a pleasure to be included!” – Industry Expert