

GENIAL
GENERATIVE AI
FOR INCLUSIVE AND ETHICAL
EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION



Co-funded by
the European Union

Project Announcement

GENIAL – Empowering the Educators of Tomorrow: Generative Artificial Intelligence for Inclusive and Ethical Early Childhood Education

The University of Crete participates in the new European project **GENIAL**, which aims to support early childhood educators in responsibly and effectively integrating Artificial Intelligence (AI) into their teaching practice.

The project develops:

- educational activities and learning resources enhanced with AI,
- a pedagogical framework for the ethical and critical use of AI,
- multilingual open educational resources (OERs),
- practical tools and applications that promote creativity and children’s holistic development.

GENIAL places particular emphasis on **inclusion, sustainability**, and the protection of **human agency**, following international guidelines for responsible AI in education.

◆ **Project Objectives**

- Prepare educators for the digital transformation and the emerging demands of AI in education.
- Strengthen critical thinking and ethical awareness regarding AI use.
- Design and evaluate innovative tools and applications for early childhood learning.

- Ensure equitable access to high-quality digital resources for all children.

◆ **Project Duration**

September 1, 2025 – August 31, 2027

◆ **Funding**

The project is funded by **Erasmus+ (KA2 – Higher Education)** with a total budget of **€250,000**.

◆ **Consortium Partners**

The project is implemented by a consortium of universities with expertise in educational innovation, early childhood education, and artificial intelligence:

- **UiT The Arctic University of Norway**, Tromsø
- **Western Norway University of Applied Sciences**, Norway
- **University of Helsinki**, Finland
- **University of Primorska**, Slovenia
- **University of Crete**, Department of Preschool Education

◆ **Principal Investigator (University of Crete)**

Dr. Stamatis Papadakis

Assistant Professor, Department of Preschool Education

 stpapadakis@uoc.gr

 **Project Website**

<https://blogs.helsinki.fi/genial-project/about/>