



P 4 PLAY

NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 3

DECEMBER 2023



This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under the Marie Skłodowska-Curie grant agreement number 861257.



Welcome!

Welcome to the third P4Play project newsletter!

Now that we are well into the P4play research & educational programme, this year it has been time for us to reflect back over the last 3 years, and to look ahead at the same time!

This year, the P4Play project has had a wonderful year of research, collaboration, and knowledge translation, which means we have been focusing now on how the new insights and advanced knowledge on play that has been developed, can be utilised to best effect.

We finally had the pleasure of meeting with our partners in Glasgow in June, which has been an overall goal from the start of our collaboration but was badly impacted by Covid-19. Together, we had a wonderful day of presenting summary findings so far, and exploring ideas on what this might mean for play advocacy, policy, and practice. An outcome of this event was that each area of our play research (people, place, policy, and practice) now has a draft knowledge translation plan with sample ideas for how this knowledge could be used for different audiences and in different contexts.

Our P4play team presented at numerous national and international conferences, both separately and as a group, and collaborated as a consortium at

our third and final in-person training school in Sweden in August. We have hit the headlines with our groundbreaking research on Play in radio interviews, blogs, and newspaper articles! P4Play is becoming a well-known entity in the international forum of Occupational Science in Europe and beyond.

We are excited to report that one of our doctoral students completed her Viva Defence on 24th November 2023 in Sweden, making her the first P4Play Alumni.

It is an exciting time for P4Play.

So now we are looking to the future. The project has been granted an amendment, allowing us to extend the programme until June 2024. We are exploring sustainable ways to offer the P4Play programme in the future, embedding the structures and partnerships that we have created in our universities and with our partners.

We hope you enjoy this newsletter and if you want to know more about the project, please follow us on our social media channels listed in the panel on the right.

P4PLAY: People, Place, Policy & Practice



**Principal
Investigators
P4PLAY**

**Prof Emeritus Jeanne Jackson
and Dr Helen Lynch**
University College Cork
(UCC), Ireland



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Website
www.p4play.eu

About P4Play

P4Play is a European funded programme that established the first PhD in Occupational Science in Europe in 2020. The programme was devised in response to the low levels of doctoral training available for Occupational Therapy across Europe and no established discipline in Occupational Science. It aligns with the Marie Skłodowska-Curie (MSC) vision for excellence in doctoral education in Europe and is funded through the MSC Innovative Training Network programme. This enabled us to establish a collaboration between 4 academic and 15 partner organisations in Europe and the USA.

The P4PLAY research programme addresses four areas of play: People, Place, Policy and Practice (P4PLAY). Two ESRs are focused on each of the areas of P4Play: People, Place, Policy and Practice. Each ESR is affiliated to two universities in two different countries which is established as good practice for enhancing research skills and mobility of the workforce for Europe.

The overall research goal is to develop new knowledge on the occupation of play and play deprivation, the impact

of physical, socio-cultural, and policy environments on play provision, and the development of innovative solutions to address barriers and provide solutions to play provision in diverse community settings to benefit children, families, and communities.

The rationale for P4PLAY is to combine the needs of those who work with children at risk of play deprivation, with the research skills of academics who are experts in occupational science.



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P4Play Themes 1 & 2

THEME 1:

Play occupation and environmental influences on play & play deprivation

PEOPLE

Research Area A
Identifying play diversity of children at risk of play deprivation, and associated sociocultural influences for social inclusion. (2 PhD projects)

PLACE

Research Area B
Spatial inclusion: constructing new knowledge on contemporary places for play. (2 PhD projects)



THEME 2:

Enabling play and socio-spatial inclusion

POLICY

Research Area C
Informing play policy and community advocacy to ensure equity on the right to play. (2 PhD projects)

PRACTICE

Research Area D
Implementation of evidence into practice through design of assessment tools and Interventions for socio-spatial inclusion. (2 PhD projects)

Meet the Supervisors



Prof Jeanne Jackson

P4PLAY Coordinator and Supervisor at University College Cork for ESR 1, ESR 2 & ESR 6.



Dr Helen Lynch

P4PLAY Coordinator and Supervisor at University College Cork for ESR 3, ESR 5 & ESR 7.



Dr Bryan Boyle

Supervisor at University College Cork for ESR 4 & ESR 8.



Dr Maria Prellwitz

Supervisor at Luleå University of Technology for ESR 3 & ESR 5.



Prof Maria Larsson-Lund

Supervisor at Luleå University of Technology for ESR 4.



Prof Margareta Lilja

Supervisor at Luleå University of Technology for ESR 8.



Dr Sarah Kantartzis

Supervisor at Queen Margaret University for ESR 1 & ESR 2.



Dr Duncan Pentland

Supervisor at Queen Margaret University for ESR 6.



Dr Christina Schulze

Supervisor at Zurich University of Applied Sciences for ESR 3 & ESR 7.



Dr Michelle Elliot
Supervisor at Queen Margaret University



Dr Alexandra Olofsson
Supervisor at Luleå University of Technology

Meet the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Scholars & our Partners



Silvia Veiga-Seijo



Ines Wenger



Allison Mula



Fiona Loudoun



Rianne Jansens



Thomas Morgenthaler



Michelle Bergin



Sabine Vinçon





2023: The year in review

This past number of months has seen a change in emphasis for the P4Play project team. Many of our researchers are entering the final stretch of the PhD research and, as a group, we remain conscious of the commitments to share the outputs of our research for benefit our project partners and the broader community in clear and tangible ways.

Early in the year, we asked our colleague, Dr. John Barimo, from the Centre for the Integration of Research, Teaching and Learning in UCC, to come and speak to the P4Play team about knowledge transfer and how to ensure authentic community engagement and effective impact of the results of the project.

Our Early-Stage Researchers (ESRs) worked in teams, supported by members of the supervision team, to capture the knowledge generated across the four guiding themes of the project: "People, Place, Policy and Practice". The teams presented their findings at a workshop for P4Play partners in Glasgow in June, in advance of the IPA conference.

The one-day Knowledge Transfer workshop was held in Glasgow Caledonian University and was attended by several partners from the broader P4Play consortium. This workshop provided interactive opportunities to collaboratively explore some of the early findings generated by all of the ESR's and to discuss how these might be actioned such that they could contribute to meaningful change for children, families and communities.

Participation in the IPA conference 2023 in itself was a highlight of the year, with each of the 8 ESRs presenting at the conference. Scheduling the Knowledge Transfer workshop against the backdrop of the largest international conference on the topic of play offered

many advantages, none more so than providing the context for ESRs to share their work and research findings, availing of the feedback and critique of their research peers.

As an active project partner, Occupational Science Europe (OSE) invited the P4Play team to present an update on the development of an Occupational Science curriculum for PhD students in a European context at the OSE conference in Odense, Denmark, in August.

All groups continued working on their assigned theme ahead of the final P4Play Training School, hosted this year by Lulea Technological University (LTU) in Sweden.

The Training School at LTU provided an opportunity to reflect on and assimilate team members' learning from engaging in a process of thinking about how knowledge gained during the project could be sustainably used to effect desired change and the constraints in place due, amongst other things to the relatively short nature of the overall programme.

The final training school focussed on both developing ESR's vision of their careers post PhD and built upon their communication and dissemination skills. This visit also provided the entire team with an incredible opportunity to experience the life and culture of the most northerly university in Europe while gaining an appreciation of all that Northern Sweden had to offer.

Since our last newsletter in October 2022, we have been busy!

Bryan and the ESRs have worked on podcasts, telling the story of their research. >



< Fiona spoke at the Royal College of Occupational Therapists in November.

Sabine and Thomas spoke at the annual conference for the Austrian Association of Occupational Science: "Occupation as the lynchpin — PLAYING a chance for interprofessional collaboration". >

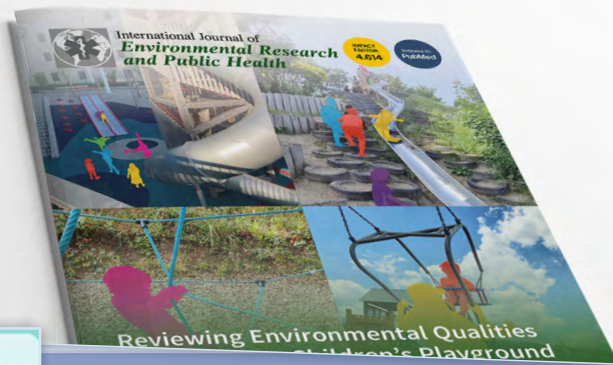


< We have had guest speakers, like Diane Parham, who spoke about about the biological, cognitive, sociocultural and transcendental human sub-systems that influence play occupation.

Our students worked on the international advisory group for the IPA Glasgow 2023. >

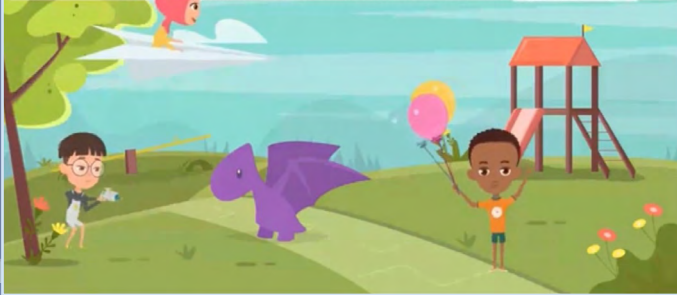


Our publications have made the front page! >



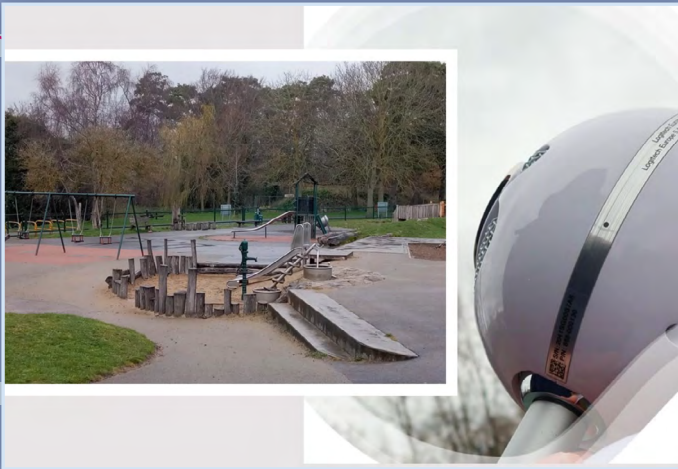
Play Creates a Space

Play, considered to be the primary occupation of children, creates a space that exists beyond the physical, a realm of endless possibilities, experience, and creation. It is in this space that children create reality, test their limitations, and make sense of who they are.



< Allison created beautiful animations to illustrate her OS conference presentation: "Gender construction through play".

Michelle's research reached out to registered OT's for primary source data gathering. >



< Ines's data collection on universal design took her on a 'walk and talk' in Dublin with the Centre for Universal Design.

Thomas blogged on outdoor play Canada about play from a child's perspective. >



< All 8 ESRs were accepted to present conference papers at IPA Glasgow!

Sabine presented her work in Ljubljana. >



< Rianne published her scoping review on Child participation and Community involvement.



And a highlight of the year was on the 5th of June when the team came together with P4Play partners in Glasgow to discuss Knowledge Translation- how we are going to put our research to use. >



< We had all of the IPA presentations, Fiona's shown here.

We travelled to Denmark for the Occupational Science Europe (OSE) Conference. >



< And we have had our third training school in Sweden, hosted by LTU. On the 28th of August the Swedish Ombudsman for Children, Elisabeth Dahlin, visited the P4Play training school in Luleå. The Ombudsman gave a much appreciated talk about the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) becoming law in Sweden.



< During the training school in Luleå the supervisors also got a chance to discuss sustainability of P4Play and Knowledge translation of the research outputs. Bryan Boyle UCC and Christina Schulze ZHAW.

After a week of hard work, we had some 'moosing' around!



Fiona Loudoun @FLoudoun · Sep 24
 🙌 Huge thanks to @AIJU_Tecnologia for hosting my secondment! Facilitating the sharing of knowledge, skills, and research in children's play in digital spaces 🇪🇺 🇩🇪 🇸🇪 @P4Play_EU @bryanboyle @malatus

@AIJU_Tecnologia @AIJU_Tecnologia · Sep 22
 Fiona Loudoun, investigadora en fase inicial del programa #P4PlayEU, en el que colabora #AIJU, ha estado en nuestro instituto, donde ha compartido, con los expertos del área #TIC, los resultados de su investigación sobre perspectivas de #juego de los niños en #espaciosdigitales.



< Fiona on Secondment in Spain with Aiju.

Silvia received an award from UCC for Public Engagement of the Year 2023 >



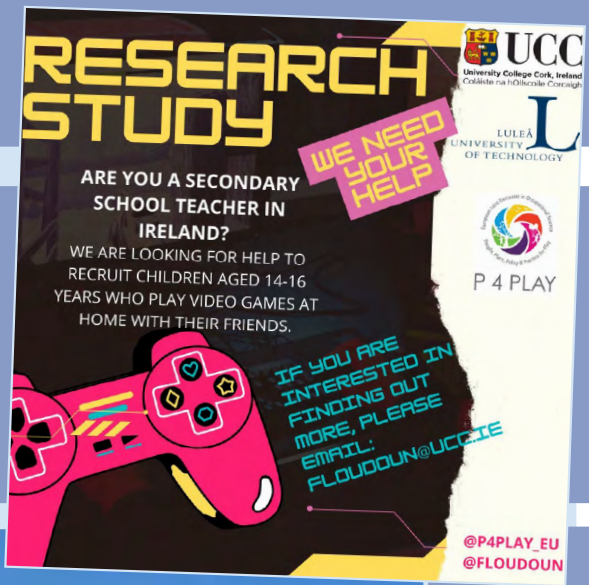
< Allison's research exploring how children, through their play occupations, conceptualise, communicate, challenge, and reinforce social discourses of gender was Highly Commended in the Promotion of Equality and Diversity Award.



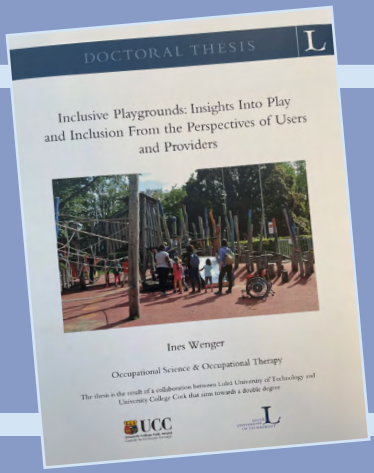
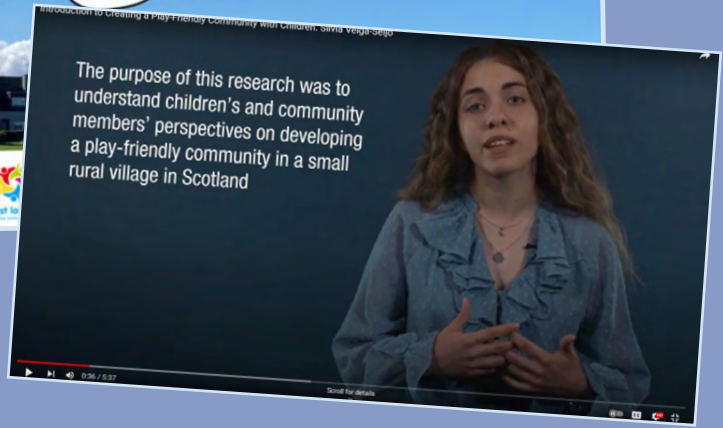


< Michelle hit the headlines with her most recent article

Fiona is continuing her research children's perspectives of their participation in play in digital spaces. >



^ Silvia launched her Youtube channel. >



< And Ines prepared for her viva, the defense of her thesis.

All of this took place in the backdrop of Business As Usual: Play and OS Class, secondments, research, submission of articles and final theses being prepared!



P4Play Training School 3: Playing at the Top of Europe

Within touching distance of the Arctic Circle the Norrbotten County in Sweden was the playground for the play researchers and academics that comprise the P4Play project. After three years on this EU funded project, it was finally time for Lulea Technological University (LTU) to host the P4Play consortium and the third and final training school for all our Supervisors and Early-Stage Researchers.

The most northerly University in Europe is also home to the Department of Occupational Therapy who alongside their research expertise in areas such as play, technology enhanced OT practice and elderly care, serve as one of the major learning centres for OT in Sweden.

A powerful and moving opening presentation by the Swedish Ombudsman for Children set the tone for the week reminding all of those present of the importance of research guided by children's rights and of the enormous challenges faced by children and families across many parts of the work.

The warm welcome by Faculty staff from LTU highlighted the similarities between the various institutions participating in the P4Play project and emphasised the commitment that staff at LTU had to ensuring the sustainability of the successes of the project.

The final P4Play Training School set-out to build on the delivery of high-quality, industry relevant, transferrable skills for the Early-Stage Researchers (ESR) in the project. Focussing on building communication skills, engaging audiences beyond academia and curating their post-PhD brand the training school provided individual and group learning opportunities over the course of a very busy week.

Early-Stage Researchers had a chance to develop their 'on-camera skills' by scripting, filming and editing a short video presenting their research for mainstream, non-academic audiences.

With a focus on life after completing their PhD, there was an emphasis in the Training School programme on looking at opportunities such as future funding opportunities, building partnerships and networks and how to write successful grant applications.

Time was provided as well to give Supervisors a chance to meet, discuss progress, chat with ESR's and firm up plans for the next few, final months of the project.

Needless to say, the Training School was not just about work, but of course provided plenty of opportunities for 'play', the highlight of which was probably a visit to the Cape Wild Moose Farm on the outskirts of Lulea.

P4Play participants had plenty of time to discuss and debate the differences between moose, reindeer and elk.

Despite all the love for moose, thankfully all were safely left behind in their northern homes as ESR's and project staff bade farewell to the staff of LTU and returned to their host institutions in Scotland, Switzerland and in Ireland.



Tokyo Metropolitan Government

Visit to Cork & P4play
September 2023

On 8th September 2023, our P4play researcher Rianne Jansens coordinated a special visit to Cork from a team from the Child-Oriented Policy office, Tokyo Metropolitan Government of Japan.

Ms. Biwa Matsuda and Ms Kato Nanase visited Ireland on behalf of the Tokyo Metropolitan government, to explore ideas about supporting children's participation in urban planning and provision. This was closely aligned with Rianne's research in an Irish context, particularly as it relates to playgrounds.



Ms Biwa Matsuda and Ms Nanase Kato with Cork Healthy Cities Coordinator, Ms Denise Cahill, at the Marina Park, September 2023.



Tara O'Donovan (Social Capital & Activities Lead, Crann) Maura O'Keefe (Programme Manager OT & Independent Living, Crann Centre) & Aisling O'Kane (Activities Assistant) with Rianne Jansens

BACKGROUND:

Tokyo Metropolitan Government (TMG) is the largest municipality (city council) in Japan, which has 14 million population. Two of these 14 million inhabitants of Tokyo are children/young people in a dense multicultural city in the most-ageing country in the world.

There seems to be an increasing awareness that attention needs to be paid to children and to young families as the birth rate is so low.

Therefore, to strengthen connections with children and young people within their communities, TMG established the Liaison Office for Child-Oriented Policies in 2022 to aim to achieve the society 'filled with children's smiles'.

Ahead of the establishment of the Liaison Office, the TMG Basic Ordinance on Children came into effect in 2021. This ordinance aims to promote children's policies from children's points of view in accordance with the spirit of the United Nations Convention of the Rights of the Child.

THE IRISH VISIT:

As part of the programme of work to develop such child-oriented policies and practices, Biwa and Kato visited Ireland early September to find out more about how we approach this work here:

- They had meetings in Dublin with people from DCEDIY, with Dublin City Council, with Dublin Comhairle na nOg, with Hub na nOg.
- In Cork, they met with our P4play and play colleagues in the Cork City council, and in Crann. Our colleague Denise Cahill (Cork Healthy Cities and Child Friendly Cities) explained and showed how grass roots developments in our city led to innovations and creating greenery and playspaces for example Blackrock Pier and Marina Park.

- In Crann Centre, the Head of Crann, Pádraig Mallon and colleagues showed the visitors the centre 2023, including the play and leisure area which was a project that was co-designed by the children and young people of Crann; and explained how a family-centred approach is practiced, and how they provide services fitting to the families' needs in participation.

As part of their work in Tokyo so far, the visitors have developed leaflets explaining children's rights together with children and young people. Here in Ireland, they were looking for examples on how to practice children's participation in decision-making processes for themselves as policy makers as well as for the young people who will form the Comhairle na nOg of Tokyo.

Biwa and Nanase will follow up on this first visit with a second visit to Ireland in March 2024. This time they are considering visiting Cork on Friday 29th March 2024 with 10 young people between 12 and 18 years old, and plan to visit Cork City council and Crann again.

On behalf of the TMG, we would like to thank Denise and Pádraig (and other colleagues from Crann Centre): the Tokyo visitors were very pleased and happy with what they have heard and seen.

Although the Tokyo context is very different from Cork, they really appreciated opportunities to hear how others have established structures/processes for creating child-friendly developments with opportunities for listening to children's voices.

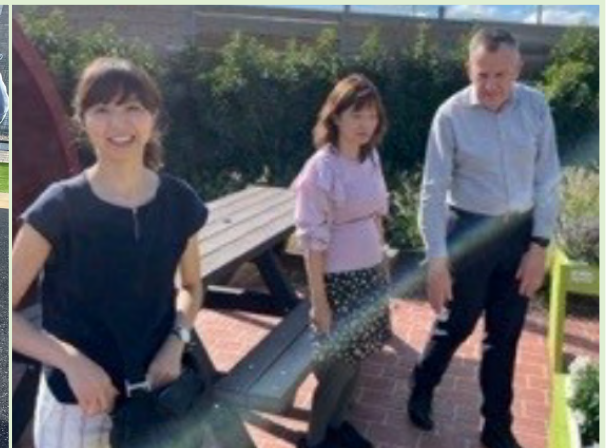
'Hearing children's voices and reflecting the voices to policies are the most important things in Japan too. However, we have only a few facilities, parks and urban developments with children's point of view in Japan.

We think if children in Tokyo are able to visit such facilities, parks or urban developments during their stay in Ireland, their understanding of children's rights will deepen more'

REPORT BY RIANNE JANSENS, P4PLAY ESR 5



Maura O'Keeffe (Programme Manager OT & Independent Living, Crann Centre) Aisling O'Kane Activities Assistant, Pádraig Mallon, Crann CEO with Rianne Jansens



Ms Biwa Matsuda and Ms Nanase Kato, visit Crann with Mr Pádraig Mallon

Publications in 2023

P4Play is committed to Open Access research and is taking part in a European Commission pilot on Open Access to Research Data.

All publications from the P4Play project are freely accessible and published in an open-access data repository on Zenodo to enable future researchers to access, exploit, reproduce and disseminate our data.

This repository is validated as Open Access by OpenAIRE, with an associated OpenAIRE project page. All our research publications, datasets, and related communication materials can be found here: [P4Play H2020 Project Repository](#) →

A sample of our publications from 2023, (all links are clickable →)

<p>Crossing boundaries: Children's perspectives of play across spaces →</p>	<p>Humans and Technology: a complex assemblage in daily occupations →</p>		<p>Belonging on playgrounds: focusing on children's play occupations to enhance inclusive design →</p>	<p>Creating inclusive environments for play: Can Universal Design address children's needs and wishes? →</p>
<p>Experiences of municipal staff when children share their views for (re) designing a local playspace →</p>	<p>Considering play in schoolyards as collective occupations to generate practice possibilities focused on creating community →</p>	<p>The Contextualized Collective Nature Of Children's Play Choices In Schoolyards →</p>	<p>Irish Traveller Children's Play: A Scoping Review →</p>	<p>Making secret hiding places: An occupation of childhood →</p>
<p>Children's experiences of playground characteristics that contribute to play value and inclusion: Insights from a meta-ethnography →</p>	<p>The Representation of Children's Participation in Guidelines for Planning and Designing Public Playspaces →</p>	<p>Irish Schoolyards: Teacher's Experiences of Their Practices and Children's Play- "It's Not as Straight Forward as We Think" →</p>	<p>Environmental Qualities That Enhance Outdoor Play in Community Playgrounds from the Perspective of Children with and without Disabilities →</p>	<p>Outdoor Play Canada Unpacking children's desires and wishes in outdoor play on playgrounds – Insights from a scoping review →</p>

Looking forward, in the last phase of the project, we will concentrate on supporting our PhD students to complete their research and we will write four reports on the outcomes of the P4Play programme, with a view to ensuring the results are capitalised by policy makers, practitioners and families.



Thank you to everyone involved in P4Play



Our Partners



theresacaseyconsultancy

n|w University of Applied Sciences and Arts Northwestern Switzerland School of Social Work

Our Beneficiaries



This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under the Marie Skłodowska-Curie grant agreement number 861257.