

ALGARVE

BGAME Algarve – Board Games for Engaged Learning & Local Discovery

Course Duration: one week, from Monday to Saturday, 30 hours

Location: Algarve - Monte Gordo | Portugal

Number of Participants: Min. 6 – Max. 20



COURSE DESCRIPTION

In a world where learners are constantly bombarded by stimuli, traditional teaching methods often fail to engage. That's where board games come in — not just as entertainment, but as powerful tools to transform the classroom into a space of collaboration, creativity and critical thinking.

B.G.A.M.E. Algarve is a 6-day immersive course set in the inspiring coastal village of Monte Gordo, southern Portugal. Designed for teachers and educators from all levels, the course combines educational game design with the natural and cultural richness of the Algarve.

Participants will explore how board games can promote deeper learning, inclusion, emotional engagement and even sustainability education. Through hands-on game sessions, design labs, field trips to the nearby Ria Formosa and salt pans, and reflection circles, you'll discover how play can bring your teaching to life — and leave with your own classroom-ready educational board game.

✓ What's Included

- **Constant Support:** Participants are added to a dedicated WhatsApp, Viber or other chat group to ensure smooth communication throughout the course week.
- **Erasmus+ Ready:** The course is designed to align with Erasmus+ funding requirements, both in content and pricing.
- **Flexible Conditions:** We understand plans can change — we offer adaptable options with minimal restrictions.
- **All-Inclusive Learning Journey:** From interactive sessions and coffee breaks to cultural activities, we ensure a rich and well-rounded experience.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Participants to the course will learn to:

- Understand the pedagogical value of board games across disciplines
- Identify and apply different game mechanics to learning outcomes
- Create and adapt curriculum-based educational board games
- Foster engagement, motivation, and teamwork in the classroom
- Use games to promote sustainability, inclusion, and European values
- Integrate game-based strategies into lesson planning and assessment
- Connect learning with place, culture, and environmental awareness

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Day 1 Day 1 – Why Play? The Pedagogical Power of Games

- Welcome & Icebreaker Games on the beach dunes
- Presentation: “From Play to Pedagogy”
- Workshop: Matching Game Mechanics to Learning Goals
- Reflection walk along the Monte Gordo coast and pine forest

Day 2 Day 2 – Know the Game: Exploring Types & Mechanics

- Hands-on Labs: Playing 5 Educational Board Games
- Categorizing games: Strategy, Logic, Cooperation, Storytelling, Programming, etc.
- Group Discussion: Strengths and Limits of Board Games
- Sunset debrief near the salt flats of Castro Marim

Day 3 Day 3 – Create It! Game Design Part I

- Mini-training: Visual Thinking, Game Elements & Prototyping
- Group Challenge: Start Designing Your Own Educational Game
- Outdoor creative session by the Guadiana riverbanks

Day 4 Day 4 – Test & Improve: Game Design Part II

- Game Playtesting between teams
- Feedback & Iteration Round
- Building classroom facilitation materials
- Pop-up Board Game Café with the local community

Day 5 Day 5 – Bring It to School: Implementation & Assessment

- Morning Cultural & Eco Excursion: Visit to Castro Marim castle and salt pans, or guided nature walk in the Reserva Natural do Sapal
- Workshop: Guided Debate – What Can (and Can't) Be Assessed Through Games?
- Case Studies: Innovative Classrooms Using Games
- Group Presentations: Your Game & Lesson Plan
- Peer Feedback & Wrap-Up Circle under carob or olive trees

Day 6 Day 6 – Discover & Celebrate

- Lunch outdoors with local flavours and stories
- Final Circle: Reflections, Sharing & Next Steps
- Certificate Ceremony in a meaningful local spot (beach, terrace or heritage site)