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THE ESCAPE ROOM APPROACH IN NATURAL SCIENCES
ESCAPE ROOM ПРИСТУП У ПРИРОДНИМ НАУКАМА

Katerina Rusevska, Marina Stojanovska

Ss. Cyril and Methodius University in Skopje, Faculty of Natural Sciences and Mathematics

Arhimedova 3, Skopje, Macedonia

krusevska@pmf.ukim.mk

One of the most significant challenges in contemporary education is sustaining students' active engagement and intrinsic motivation during classroom activities. A game-based learning approach offers an effective strategy to address this issue, fostering a student-centered environment where learners take greater ownership of their educational journey. Through collaborative group work, students share ideas, discuss solutions, compete playfully to succeed, which simultaneously generates enjoyment and facilitates meaningful knowledge construction. This interactive process not only enhances motivation but also supports the development of critical thinking and creativity.

Among innovative game-based methods, educational escape room activities stand out as a highly adaptable format suitable for any subject or topic. Increasingly integrated into teaching practices, escape rooms captivate both educators and students alike. By shifting away from conventional instruction, these immersive challenges allow learners to explore and internalize concepts in dynamic, non-traditional ways, cultivating a supportive and enthusiastic atmosphere conducive to deeper learning.

As part of the project "Diversity in Science towards Social Inclusion – Non-formal Education in Science for Students' Diversity" (DiSSI), a series of escape room activities has been developed, covering a variety of topics within the Natural Sciences curriculum. In this presentation, the ecology-focused activities will be presented.

Keywords: Game-based learning, Ecology, Student engagement, Science education