



Learning biodiversity through play: Biodiversity and RiBaS

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Playing with biodiversity is an effective way to learn how to protect the environment. As part of the activities of Spoke 7 of the National Biodiversity Future Centre (NBFC), IRET_Naples has developed several educational activities ideal for schools and families to foster nature education. These activities include:

“Biodiversity: exploring urban biodiversity” is a board game that transforms urban biodiversity into an educational adventure, raising awareness about the protection of city environments. The game is designed as a semi-cooperative experience. Focused on urban biodiversity and the impact of human activities on city ecosystems, the game requires participants to manage urban spaces by balancing human well-being with nature conservation, all while exploring the resilience of the urban system. The target audience is 14+, and it can be used for game-based learning experiences in secondary schools or within families, promoting dialogue and awareness. It was presented in Naples in May 2025 at a dedicated workshop and in various contexts such as Play Bologna, Modena, Lucca Comics, and Partenoplay. Compared to the initial version, the visual design has been enhanced with graphics by Claudio Labriola, and it has been enriched with two booklets explaining the impacts of various human activities and the different animal and plant species that inhabit our cities alongside us.

"Researchers in the Classroom (*Ricercatori fra i Banchi di Scuola – RiBaS*)" involved 53 classes from 'D'Ovidio Nicolardi-E.A. Mario' school in Naples. In every lesson, the classroom was transformed into a laboratory—a space for reflection, brainstorming, creation, and the reworking of knowledge to achieve a common goal. The lessons followed a hands-on, cooperative approach designed to spark interest, engagement, and curiosity among students while enhancing their creativity. Throughout the various meetings, the students playfully explored numerous biodiversity-related concepts, including the creation of 'Biodiversity Snacks'.