

INFO SHEET

NATURE'S CANVAS




Co-funded by
the European Union

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NATURE'S CANVAS:

Environmental Art in the Finnish Countryside

This Erasmus+ Youth Exchange project invites young people from diverse backgrounds to immerse themselves in the pristine Finnish countryside to explore the intersection of creativity and sustainability. Over the course of 7 days, participants will engage in environmental art workshops and activities, learning how to create ephemeral, nature-inspired works that leave no lasting mark on the environment. Through hands-on experiences, cultural exchange, and guided discussions, the project will inspire participants to develop a deeper connection to nature while fostering their creative potential.

 Palvaanjärven Loma,
Palvaantie 398, 54500 Taavetti



25-31/08/2025

Deadline for applications
29/06/2025



Objectives:

To encourage creativity by using natural materials and surroundings as the medium and inspiration for art. To raise awareness about the importance of environmental preservation and the principles of Leave No Trace. To promote intercultural understanding and collaboration among young people from different countries. To explore the Finnish concept of *luonnonrauha* (peace of nature) and incorporate its values into artistic practices. To inspire participants to become advocates for sustainable living and environmental stewardship in their communities

Activities:

Workshops on Environmental Art:

Participants will learn techniques for creating art using natural, biodegradable materials such as leaves, twigs, stones, and water. These workshops will emphasize the transient nature of the works and the importance of leaving no permanent impact.

Collaborative Art Installations:

Small groups will collaborate to create temporary installations in the landscape, blending their cultural perspectives and creative ideas.

Guided Nature Walks:

Local guides will lead participants on excursions to explore the unique Finnish ecosystem, highlighting the importance of preserving these environments.

Creative Reflection Sessions:

Journaling, storytelling, and group discussions will encourage participants to reflect on their experiences and share insights.

Intercultural Evenings:

Each country group will host an evening to share their traditions, music, and cuisine, fostering a spirit of international friendship.

Expected Outcomes:

Participants will develop new artistic skills and a greater appreciation for environmental art. Increased awareness and understanding of sustainable practices and their importance. Strengthened intercultural ties and friendships among participants. Empowered young people ready to initiate eco-friendly and artistic projects in their own communities.

PROFILE OF PARTICIPANTS:

This project is open to young people aged 18-30 from Greece, Belgium, Spain and Finland. We wish to invite participants with an interest in art, environmental issues, and sustainability. Some prior artistic experience can be a benefit, but curiosity and strong enthusiasm are the main requirements. Good knowledge of English language will be useful to be able to actively participate in the exchange

Conclusion:

Nature's Canvas aims to inspire a generation of young creatives to see the world as both a muse and a responsibility. By exploring how to express themselves artistically without harming the environment, participants will leave with not only unforgettable memories but also tools and ideas to advocate for a more sustainable and creative future.

Allianssi Youth Exchanges works for intercultural learning and global understanding and has coordinated international youth mobility programs for more than 30 years. We believe in "learning by doing" and work for reaching young people from a variety of backgrounds to join non-formal learning opportunities in Finland and in other countries. We work with incoming and outgoing youth exchange programs as well as volunteering and other learning mobility exchanges. We promote European values and identity through EU funded programs and raise awareness of inclusive international cooperation and intercultural mindset.

Schedule

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1AO9OQyBQUKCFWCx_4VOTzk_nOiL1qJHX9ZCU4-p9mZw/edit?usp=sharing

Note! The schedual is subject to change

Location:

The project will take place in a rural area of Finland, surrounded by forests, lakes, and open landscapes. The serene setting provides the perfect backdrop for reflection, creativity, and connection with nature. **.Palvaanjärven Loma** is located at edge of a peaceful wilderness lake. The resort village is located on the Hamina-Taavetti mainroad about 15 km from Taavetti to Hamina direction. Peaceful, beautiful nature and wilderness-like resort village is on south opening point; There is 350 m of waterline and wood heated sauna and electric sauna.

Accommodation:



The accommodation will be shared and mixed gendered

<https://palvaanjarvi.com/english/>

What to bring:

The weather in Finland is quite unpredictable. The summers are fairly warm (from +10 to +25 degrees), but the weather changes quite quickly. Some days it rains, or the weather is a bit chilly, but other days might be really warm and sunny. For this reason, we need you to prepare yourself with proper clothes for both warm and chilly weather. You also need working clothes that can get dirty.

What you need

- Practical clothes, which can get wet or dirty
- Water bottle you can refill
- Clothes for different kinds of weather; warm, rainy, cold
- Swimming suit, towel and clothes for free time
- Waterproof shoes and coat
- Hat or scarf is recommended
- Personal things and your own medication
- Something to share from your country
- Good mood and open mind

Please notice that it is against the Finnish law to possess, sell or use any kind of drugs.

How to the accomadation /Travel instractions:

We hope you will have a good journey to Finland. You are expected to find your way to the meeting point on the arrival day.

For information about Finland check <http://finland.fi>

For information about Helsinki check <https://www.myhelsinki.fi/>

On this site you can also find links to other sites about Finland and travelling in Finland.

Travelling by train or bus in Finland:

- Train timetables can be found at <https://www.vr.fi/en> (prices are remarkably cheaper if you book well in advance by internet)
- Bus timetables (also in English) can be found at <https://www.matkahuolto.fi/en>

Please note: foreign students are not entitled to student discounts on train or bus tickets in Finland.

Public transport in the Helsinki region: <https://www.hsl.fi/en>

Distance	Amount	Green travel
0-99 km	28 €	56 €
100-499 km	211 €	285 €
500-1999 km	309 €	417 €
2000-2999 km	395 €	535 €
3000-3999 km	580 €	785 €
4000-7999 km	1 188 €	-

Important ! Keep all your boarding passes and receipts from all the ways you traveled, cause we need them to be able to reinberse you your travel costs. If you dont provide us with it we will not be able to process th reinbursment

How to get to the meeting point:

The best route to the accomodation is the 0B6 bus that you can take with in a 10min walk from the Helsinki central station . The stop will be in Rantsilanmäen liittymä I (Rantsilanmäki junction) and from there you will be piced up by car to the acomodation

CONFIRMATION OF PARTICIPATION

We expect you to arrive at the project on the first day and stay for its whole duration.

Please confirm your participation, estimated time of arrival and means of transport as soon as you have booked your journey, and at least one month before the camp starts. Inform us also if you have a special diet, allergies or health information we need to know. If you cannot participate in our project, please let us know immediately.

Confirm your participation by filling in the form here:

<https://www.nuorisovaihto.fi/allianssi-youth-exchanges/volunteering-in-finland/international-work-camps/workcamp-finland-participation-conf/>

IMPORTANT INSURANCE INFORMATION

You need to have an insurance card or other document as a proof that you are insured for the entire duration of the camp. You cannot participate the camp without insurance. This document can be attached to the form above

If you are a European Union citizen, you should in addition to the travel insurance bring your European health insurance card (EHIC), which allows you to get service from the public health care system of Finland. You will get it from your national social insurance office. More information

<https://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=559&langId=en>

SUSTAINABILITY

Sustainability is a vital core value to our organisation, thus we wish all the volunteers taking part in a work camp in Finland to take this into consideration. Both the hosts and the volunteers should do their best in taking care of i.e. sorting the waste, saving energy, not littering, supporting local products and respecting local culture. The little things do matter, and we welcome your contribution and ideas in making the world a better place to live, also in the future. Most of the food on our volunteering camps is vegetarian or vegan. We would like to encourage you to travel to Finland by bus or train in order to reduce your CO2 footprint.

You can find more information on sustainability and green travel here:
<https://www.nuorisovaihto.fi/allianssi-youth-exchanges/sustainable-participation/tips-on-sustainable-travel/>

Sustainability Measures:

All materials used for art will be gathered responsibly from the surrounding environment and returned to nature after the activities. Workshops will include lessons on sustainability and minimizing ecological footprints. Meals and accommodation will prioritize local and eco-friendly practices.

SOCIAL MEDIA AND WEBSITE

You are very welcome to visit our page on **Facebook!** Like us to browse photos from the camps etc. <http://www.facebook.com/AllianssiYouthExchanges>

You can also follow us on **instagram:**

<https://www.instagram.com/nuorisovaihto/>

We also have interesting information and videos from earlier camps on our website. Please check <https://www.nuorisovaihto.fi/allianssi-youth-exchanges/>

Join the Whatsup group

so you can get real time updates in all things Natures Canvas
,before ,during and after the project

<https://chat.whatsapp.com/LoPGAnXFSbL9PgdpG4Vift>

Pre departure training

It's important for everyone to feel confident and well-prepared before the project — both in terms of travel and knowing what to expect from the host country (our beautiful Finland, in this case).

We also want you to get familiar with the project's theme, meet the facilitators, and start connecting with the other participants.

To support this, we'll be organizing an online preparatory meeting in mid-July. Keep an eye on the WhatsApp group chat for more details and the exact date!

Looking forwards to meeting you !

