

LOOKING FOR PARTICIPANTS

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.



Velisjärvi Camp Centre
Velisjärventie 757, Kuhmoinen



25-31/08/2025



Deadline for applications
15/06/2025

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.

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.

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.

Accommodation:

Velisjärvi Camp Center is located on the shores of clear-water Lake Velisjärvi, about ten kilometers from the center of Kuhmoinen.

The main building of the Velisjärvi camp center has a modern kitchen, dining areas and two accommodation rooms. There is a maintenance building outside, where there are toilet facilities. Accommodation is available in the sheds and the yard building. The five sheds each have two bunk beds, the yard building has six bunk beds and in addition there are three beds in the main building. So a total of about 35 sleeping places. There is a campfire site, sauna, shed and a pier.

The facilities are simple but welcoming.

The participants will be preparing the meals together, following a mainly plant based diet.

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

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.

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.

Looking forwards to meeting you!

