

## Learning European Citizenship Through the Landscapes 31.1.2017 - 29.9.2017

### Description of a project

This project is on empowerment of youngsters who are alienated of their natural environment and nature. The special focus is on youngster transitional needs and citizenship skills. The main aim is to help to develop the youth capacity for situations like where youngster wants to move on to live on their own from residential care or when they try to find a perspective for learning for their future professions.

### *The goal*

*The goal for learning is on learning of Citizenship skills, that is a result of holistic interaction on cross-cultural settings. The discussions that we have gone through with these youngsters since the end of 2015 till this moment show that the youngsters are willing to share their empowering experiences on their landscapes of action. They are willing to do this in practice because no words can describe of how individual relates into his/her environment or social group on a novel setting. During the journeys the social and other challenges rise from the landscapes where rationalities of topography and nature set the rule.*

### The theme

*The theme for this youth exchange is on tolerance and social participation. We are trying to reach this goal be recognizing and acknowledging the participants special skills and dispositions. When being on a way the youngsters learn to set their interests and goals. On these journeys the participant cultures and life stories are reflected on the landscapes. The youngsters find their possibility to share their special places and life circumstances with other European youngsters who have had to be especially adaptive to be able to manage with their everyday lives.*

### The participants:

The youth who participate into this project come from diverse situations and cultures. For example in Finland the participants come from different religious backgrounds, or have totally different socio-economic statuses. All of the youngsters are interested of their differences because they experience that they are not doing the mainstream. The issues to be dealt with them are connected to Youth Rights and responsibilities; their motives, expectations, the ways how to be and behave - social participation. The roles to be taken on "being on a way" depend on what kind of roles are applied, and what is the impact of a novel setting and the elemental nature. During our common trip we will discuss of these issues when sharing common space on a tent or on a residence.

It is possible to build up a healthy outdoor community on explicit setting that would show participants of the journey their former values. The proper facilitation on this helps youngsters to adapt to the new element in foreign environment. The main idea of "being on a way" is to give a way the power of an instructor for the youngsters when it's possible. The locus of control should be on youngsters. Being on a way with these youngsters mean recognizing their resilient skills in emancipatory way.

### About profiles of partners:

The German youth need to be encouraged for the new experiences. The needs of Austrian and Slovenian youngsters are more on social support and rehabilitation. The youngsters of Finland want to explore their being on a way through cross-cultural settings. All of the youngsters participating on this are the students of specialized education or use the services of Youth-socialwork and therapy. What they all have in common is their need to integrate to their communities and to learn learning. During the project the youth learn to share, and interpret their experiences with strange language in novel settings.

## Choosing of partners

We met our project partners in the end of 2014 on international Outdoor Conference in Iceland about Outdoor Education and in the beginning of september this same group met 2016 in Outdoor Education Conference "Changing Horizons" in Salzburg Austria. We also have had one meeting in Germany at the end of 2015 where we discussed about our youngsters needs.

We recognized that we share the same interests to develop our working methods with youth at risk. We established a permanent interest group inside of EOE network and this is called "empowered by adventure"-group. The partners have different goals of work depending on the work context and the youth trasferral needs. What is common to us is deep interest to be in nature:

## General information of participants :

There are two phases in this project: The planning meeting 15.-16.2.2017 where the aim is to plan the common project together so that there would be participating one adult and one youngster from each participant organization. The youth meeting 15.-20.5.2017 would be about reflecting the social and elemental spaces of nature between the participants. The program would deal with social issues dealing with youth territories and sharing of cultural differences.

*In each group the youngs are between 13-17 years old. Age, skills and developmental phase has been taken into account in all activities. We will carry out all the activity in small groups, in that way that there is both, boys and girls in each of the group and participants from each participating countries.*

*The project is divided into a two phase; Planning phase, which takes place in Helsinki 15.-17.2.2017 (+2 travel days). one leader and one participant is going to attend for the planning meeting from each of the participating country.*

*Actual Youth exchange is going to take place 15.-20.5.2017. Youth exchange includes that the participants from Finland will present their own living area and culture in Helsinki and kayaking trip into a North-Karelias Jongunjoki. In the beginning of both of two phases there will be one days cultural integration day .*

## Learning outcomes:

The project aims to help youngsters to develop their key-competences:

- 1. Communicating with their native languages. In the beginning of the meeting the youngsters express the emotions attached to the place and say their greetings in their own language.*
- 2. Communicating with strange language during the meeting to learn of each other cultures.*
- 3. Mathematical and nature scientific approach to the natural phenomena are promoted on when exploring new landscapes. The method for this is based on place based learning.*
- 4. Digital skills through electronic learning environment that is closed of audience because of many of the participants are in hostage on social welfare institutions residential centres. Adults support this.*
- 5. Developing learn to learn ability. The project is of learning of Citizenship skills. The work method is therefore a holistic one.*
- 6. The project promotes entrepreneurship through the outdoor activities.*
- 7. Cross-cultural interactions that happen when the youth are on the move*

## Use of evaluation instruments

Because for many of our youngsters the evaluation means the end of happiness, the evaluation tool used for this is based on youth empowerment. The empowerment method developed by Richard Grinnel goes along with the phases of Landscape Learning

We will use Youth Pass!

## Practical arrangements:

Participants will travel in the country that they are visiting with public transportation, airplane, busses and trains. Short distance trips with groups will be travelled with small bus rides covered by organizations.

## Youth Exchange time tables

The planning meeting in Finland for one adult and one youngster from each organization 15.-16.2.17 in Finland. (+ two travel days) The meeting consist of a) journey to ice-skating to romantic landscape by the lake of Tuusulanjärvi. 15.2. b) planning meeting by the Suomenlinna Castle 16.2

The Youth Exchange 15.-20.5.17 consist of a) getting to know youngsters culture and life in Helsinki 2 days. b) The wildriver paddling trip In North Carelia that is 600 km north of Helsinki.

## Preparation for this:

We have done some exercises with youngsters concerning the preparation phase. We have arranged a field trip with the group of young in September 2016. During that, we discussed about places that the youngsters have felt empowered. Youngsters have prepared presentations about their favorite landscape with in few meetings. In each country the participants has been reading the descriptions of youngsters favorite landscapes and themselves. Based on these descriptions youngsters from each different country has been able to declare their willingness to participate in the project.

The basis for these youth exchanges is that young people themselves plan and prepare their food. Different groups will become aware of different diets and way of living, they gain experience also of taking responsibility and organize their activities independently.

All of the leaders are experienced outdoor educators and skilled professionals and guides for trekking, kayaking and climbing. They are also qualified social pedagogues and educational professionals.

## Main Activities

1. In dreaming phase of youngster the expectations and motivation are created. Our aim is to support the growth of the youth. Youngsters will create open images about, what it means to act in different culture.
2. In the preparation phase we will already search for the map and plan for the trip. The tension of the activity will be created in this point
3. The operational phase is already intensive phase with getting to know the culture and the romantic landscape.
4. The evaluation is based on sharing of photos between the group members.

## The basic Elements:

This consist of activities on cultural and nature concepts:

The planning meeting in Finland for one adult and one youngster from each organization 15.-16.2.17 in Finland. (+ two travel days) The meeting consist of a) journey to ice-skating to romantic landscape by the lake of Tuusulanjärvi.15.2. b) planning meeting by the Suomenlinna Castle 16.2

The Youth Exchange 15.-20.5.17 consist of a) getting to know youngsters culture and life in Helsinki 2 days. b) The wildriver paddling trip In North Carelia that is 600 km north of Helsinki.

The working methods are based on adventure based learning

## Expected Impact

*The project brings breath of fresh air on the Helsinki youth centers eg . Jakomäki youth center. At local level, the Ivalo region's entrepreneurs will benefit financially of the operations there. The effects are similar in Austria. Youth hostel Entrepreneurs will benefit from the activities financially. This also has a invigorating effect in a local level concerning youth work in all participating countries.*

## Dissemination of the results:

On Plymouth EOe Conference 28.6.-2.7.2017

## Project summary:

Learning European Citizenship Through the Landscapes 31.1.2017 - 29.9.2017

The main idea is that young people with fewer opportunities are alienated of their natural environment and nature. When they participate in wilderness based program the motivation based on their natural need of lifelong learning becomes central.

The method of facilitated learning is based on social construction rather than on instructive methods. The needs of youngsters between 13 – 17 years of age are put forward rather through their transitional needs than of their developmental needs. This would help to support them on where they are good at.

The method of facilitated learning is based on social construction rather than on instructive methods. The needs of youngsters between 13 – 17 years of age are put forward rather through their transitional needs than of their developmental needs. This would help to support them on where they are good at.

The project has two phases: The preparation meeting 15.-16.2.17 that introduces the idea of landscapelearning for the participants of the planning meeting. The youth meeting 15.-20.5.17 itself that happens on cultural setting of Helsinki and on one of the the favourite landscapes chosen by youngsters of Helsinki, Jongunjoki the river in wilderness in the North Carelian district of Lieksa.

The partners for the project are Bsj Marburg Germany, IOA Austria, Slovenian ZGOJNI ZAVOD KRANJ and City Of Helsinki in Finland.