



FROM TRASH TO TREASURE: UPCYCLE FOR A BRIGHT FUTURE

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FROM TRASH TO TREASURE

Erasmus+ Youth Exchange Project Booklet

Project Overview

Environmental pollution and waste management are among the most pressing challenges facing modern societies. Rapid consumption patterns and increasing waste production have created significant environmental problems that affect ecosystems, communities, and future generations.

The “**From Trash to Treasure**” Erasmus+ Youth Exchange project was implemented to raise awareness among young people about environmental sustainability and responsible waste management. The project encouraged participants to rethink the concept of waste and discover how discarded materials can be transformed into valuable resources through creativity, recycling, and sustainable practices.

By bringing together young people from different European countries, the project created an international learning environment where participants explored environmental challenges, shared experiences, and developed practical ideas for sustainable living.

Project Objectives

The project aimed to achieve several key objectives.

First, it aimed to increase environmental awareness among young people and encourage responsible attitudes toward waste management and recycling.

Second, the project focused on developing creativity and practical skills by transforming waste materials into useful and artistic products.

Third, it promoted intercultural dialogue and cooperation between young people from different countries, allowing participants to exchange ideas and learn from each other's environmental practices.

Finally, the project aimed to motivate young people to become active citizens who contribute to environmental protection within their local communities.

Project Details

Project Title: From Trash to Treasure

Programme: Erasmus+ Youth Exchange

Participants: Young people aged 16–30

Duration: Youth exchange mobility activity

Participants: Young participants and group leaders from partner countries

The project brought together young people from different cultural backgrounds who shared a common interest in environmental sustainability, creativity, and social responsibility.

Participants included students, volunteers, youth workers, and young people interested in environmental activism and sustainable development.

Learning Methodology

The project was implemented using **non-formal education methods**, which encouraged active participation, experiential learning, and peer-to-peer exchange.

These methods included:

- Interactive workshops
- Group discussions and brainstorming
- Creative recycling activities
- Practical environmental projects
- Team-based problem solving
- Reflection and evaluation sessions

Through these approaches, participants were not only able to discuss environmental issues but also actively experiment with solutions.

Key Activities

Throughout the project, participants engaged in a variety of educational and creative activities designed to explore sustainability and recycling.

Environmental Awareness Sessions

Participants learned about the environmental impact of waste and explored sustainable waste management practices used in different countries. These sessions helped participants understand the global dimension of environmental challenges.

Recycling and Upcycling Workshops

One of the core components of the project was hands-on workshops where participants transformed waste materials into creative and useful objects. Through these activities, participants learned the concept of **upcycling**, turning discarded items into products with new value.

Creative Design Activities

Participants worked in international teams to design artistic objects and practical items using recycled materials. These activities encouraged creativity, teamwork, and problem-solving skills.

Community Awareness Activities

Participants developed ideas and small campaigns to raise awareness about recycling and sustainable consumption within their communities.

Cultural Exchange Activities

Cultural nights and intercultural sessions allowed participants to present their cultures, traditions, and environmental practices, strengthening mutual understanding and cooperation among young people.

Project Results

The project achieved significant learning outcomes for participants and participating organizations.

Participants increased their awareness of environmental issues and gained practical knowledge about recycling, sustainability, and responsible consumption. They also developed creative skills by producing artistic and functional objects from waste materials.

In addition to environmental learning, participants improved their communication skills, teamwork abilities, and intercultural competences through collaboration with peers from different countries.

The project also encouraged participants to adopt more sustainable lifestyles and to promote environmental awareness within their own communities.

Impact

Impact on Participants

Participants became more aware of environmental challenges and gained confidence in taking action to reduce waste and promote recycling.

Many participants reported that they had started applying sustainable practices in their daily lives and sharing the knowledge they gained with their friends, families, and local communities.

Impact on Partner Organizations

Participating organizations strengthened their capacity to implement international youth projects focusing on sustainability and environmental education.

The project also expanded cooperation networks between organizations working in the fields of youth work, environmental awareness, and non-formal education.

Wider Social Impact

Through dissemination activities and local initiatives, the project contributed to raising awareness about recycling and sustainable living among a broader audience.

Evaluation and Recognition

The project included continuous monitoring and evaluation to ensure quality implementation and meaningful learning outcomes.

Evaluation methods included:

- Daily reflection sessions
- Participant feedback surveys
- Group discussions
- Final evaluation meeting

All participants received a **Youthpass Certificate**, recognizing the competences they developed during the project.

Dissemination

The results of the project were disseminated through various channels to ensure wider visibility and impact.

These included:

- Social media sharing
- Online project reports and articles
- Presentations within partner organizations
- Local awareness activities
- Erasmus+ dissemination platforms

Looking Forward

The partnerships created during the project laid the foundation for future cooperation between participating organizations.

Inspired by the success of the project, partners plan to continue developing initiatives that promote environmental awareness, sustainable lifestyles, and youth participation across Europe.



Erasmus+

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