

ECOS - Environmental Consciousness and Sensitivity For and by youngsters in Europe

According to researchers, environmental issues and climate change are values that interest young people, but the establishment of concrete concepts, collective acts and volunteer work can be challenging. This may be due to the magnitude of the matter - it is draining to fight against an issue that is larger than life. Young people might as well need concrete examples, expertise and encouragement to initiate collective processes. Young people, or “youngsters” as we may call them, are the future. They are the decision-makers who will determine the phenomenons and perceptions of tomorrow. It is essential to develop transferable skills for youngsters to enable their solutions for sustainable development, climate change and the shared environment.

The aim of this Cooperation Offer is to explore and discover the most effective and convenient approaches for young people. For these approaches, we suggest different methods that could be used to pursue the dialogue with young people. There exists multiple possibilities and expertise within this project for different cultural and artistic methods. These include for instance photography, event production, theatre for development, broadcasting, Guerrilla gardening, performance art and comic book method. All the workshops and their methods can be adapted online. Due to Covid-19, we have prepared to prepare workshops that can be conducted on Microsoft Teams.

Objectives:

- Examine the possibilities and requirements for the international Leader project. Leader project’s aim is to increase the youngsters’ vast relation and recognition of nature and environment in general.
- *Find international associates in order to establish a dialogue between young people living in different countries.* All countries have their own characteristics and ecosocial issues, thus sharing and exploring them together might be helpful for the environment as well as to the youngsters’ individual growth and expansion of understanding. The aim of this project is to not only embrace the environment and seek dialogue and answers for questions on climate, but to emphasize the culture of being and growing as a human.

Procedures:

- The goal is to establish cooperation with upper-secondary schools in the Joensuu area and investigate the possible continuation of the project through dialogues and planning.
- The continuation of the project will be planned within the first part of the project in the spring and the measures of the project in terms of international cooperation will be held in video conferences.
- During this first part of the project during spring 2021, workshops for secondary school students in the Joensuu area will be arranged by MSL project coordinators. The aim of these workshops is to establish a dialogue with the youngsters and hear their thoughts on climate change and other environmental issues and how they personally would want to discuss the matters.

