

Empowering by Themes of Art and Ecology - EKOThinkTank

Minttu Maria Nikula
Kokkolan kaupunki, Finland

Abstract

EKOThinkTank was a local implementation of an EU project consortium My stuff- Our future (Mun juttu - Meidän tulevaisuus) in Kokkola Finland. The object of the project was to empower marginalized young people by means of outsider art, heritage and ecological approaches including cycling. The aim was to provide them with creative and ecosocial education in order to support their empowerment.

At the beginning of the project the EKOThinkTank was only an abstract idea on the paper that was expected to actualize during the project period in order to produce a voluntary tool for involving the marginalized youngsters.

The big challenge of the project was first to locate and second to involve the focus group individuals in the activity; once that happened firm groups was formed.

Once the EKOThinkTank tool got started it draw on artistic workshops and ecological themes in the EkoVinge garden and at the museum premises. A permanent group Tuuni with ecological motifs was put up to meet once a week

for a year. It was supplemented by three specific artistic workshops driven by established artists.

The eco justified art-oriented activities have proved to function among these youngsters and result in activating and empowering the members. Through the EKOThinkTank tool these young people now seem to hold better control over their agency and seem to feel more part of the ecological and social system, not on the edge, not above or outside of it.

The actor in charge of the project was K.H.Renlund Museum in Kokkola.

Keywords

Ecological, Ecosocial, Empowerment, Art youngsters.