



# International youth work 2020

International youth work was affected by COVID-19 pandemics starting from March 2020. This report contains results of implemented international volunteering, internships and development projects. Postponed activities are not mentioned in the report of 2020.







# Activities overview

Cooperation with youth and cultural organizations  
from Cyprus, Slovenia, Germany, Belgium and Russia

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@hyvarilaininternational



# TRADE Knowledge



“There's hope for the youth. Hyvärilä youth centre organized YOUTH+CULTURE training for sharing practices of inter-generational tradition transfer”

*Ylä-Karjala,  
6.2.2020*

## 1. TRADE Knowledge



Training **YOUTH+CULTURE HOWTO** was a peer training for **culture and youth workers**. In the first days of February **12 participants** from youth organizations and museums of **Finland, Cyprus and Slovenia** exchanged their best working non-formal methods of working with youth.

Training included workshops on using digital tools in culture programs, arts and music interpretation of history, gamification of cultural heritage and transfer of traditions between generations.

As the result of the training, each participating organization is introducing **new working methods** in their practices.

Co-funded by the  
Erasmus+ Programme  
of the European Union





# 2

## Discover Finland - Discover yourself

In 2020 two international volunteers came for their long-term project in Finland. Olga Schesler from Germany and Elisa Lambot from Belgium.

### 2. Discover Finland - discover yourself

Long-term volunteering activities are organized around themes of youth work, social media activities and culture.

#### Kaupunkikuvaa talteen

Itäkaupungin  
katunäkymiä kuvaavat  
Hyvärilän  
ulkomaalaiset  
harjoittelijat.



ELISA LAMBOT KUVASI JA OLGA SCHESLER KIRJASI TIEDOT  
YLÖS MUSEON DOKUMENTOINTIPROJEKTISSA  
ITÄKAUPUNGISSA TIISTAINA.

#### Anu Saarelainen

Nurmeksen museo on tänä keväänä dokumentoinut kaupunkikuvaa valokuvaamalla. Dokumentointi on edennyt tällä viikolla Itäkaupunkiin.

Photo: Ylä-Karjala, 14.5.2020

In 2020 the schedule for volunteering activities was revised and new initiatives came to life. In May 2020 Nurmes Museum invited Olga and Elisa to help in documenting the state of buildings of Puu Nurmes - the wooden Nurmes.

In July 2020 volunteers participated in Kalevala Ryytky camp for Finnish youth organized in Kiuruvesi.

Together with Närekartano team and local community, volunteers helped take care of the community garden throughout summer.

In autumn camp school activities continued, allowing volunteers to work directly with Finnish youth in Hyvärilä youth centre, assisting youth workers.



Volunteers participated and initiated online communication with youth, reached out to the local community and supported Hyvärilä-led activities throughout 2020

Photo: Olga Schesler (Left) and Elisa Lambot (Right) in front of the hand-painted world map with research tools from EcoCase



Green School research for energy and water use was conducted by the volunteers in Navetta building.

Their findings of excessive water consumption in the bathrooms and heat loss through the main door led to improvements in the building. Replaced bathrooms equipment, insulation of the entrance area and new entrance doors are concrete results of their analysis. Follow-up research with Eco Case tools confirmed, that heat loss and water use in the building diminished due to intervention. More about Green School project on p.6.

ESC Volunteers #stayingatproject is a collection of blog entries by international volunteers from all over EU who continued their projects during the COVID-19 pandemics



Online activities were especially relevant during the lockdown, shutdown and other restrictions of COVID-19 pandemics.

Volunteers stayed in touch with the local youth via Nurmes youth house Discord channel, organized Tandem language studies via Instagram, ran solidarity campaign on Hyvärilä volunteers blog, and worked together with Metsäkartano youth centre international volunteer.

Social media allowed young people to stay connected and continue intercultural exchange. Instagram live Q&A session with Olga about ESC volunteering had viewers from Finland and other EU countries. For months volunteers shared "word of the day" on Instagram in Finnish, German, French, Creole and English.

Blog entries about staying in project during COVID-19 crisis featured volunteers from multiple EU countries.



# 3

## Green School

Hyvärilä youth centre is a partner of cross-border cooperation project between Finland and Russia (lead partner - Karelian education development fund).

Hyvärilä coordinates activities of Finnish project partners in 2018-2022.

**KARELIA**

CBC // Cross-border cooperation



- 1 Research by the youth.** Students in pilot schools and volunteers in Hyvärilä used Eco Case to determine main problems in buildings.
- 2 Suggesting improvements.** Research results are analyzed by the youth, and presented alongside with proposals for concrete improvement measures.
- 3 Improvements in schools.** Schools in Joensuu, Valtimo and Oulu replaced water taps to automatic ones, replaced school lights and started sustainability campaigns.
- 4 Improvements in Hyvärilä.** Water taps and toilet bowls were replaced in Navetta building. New entrance doors with insulation were installed.
- 5 Youth measures effects.** Eco Case tools are used again to register impact. 70% reduction in water use with new taps and toilets. New lights give more light and use less electricity. New doors help cut heating needs. Campaigns raise awareness of students and parents.



Photos: Top: new automatic taps installed in Hyvärilä. Right: Green school project coordinators Eila Lintunen, Hyvärilä youth centre (Left) and Denis Rogatkin, Karelian Education Development Fund (Right) in Petrozavodsk, Russia.

The project is creating a Green school model as a school addressing global environmental problems in the local community by education and practical youth-led action.

The schools get a model of practical involvement of youth in environmental action. The Green school model, formulated as a result of summarizing and developing experiences of the best Karelian educators, are tested in 6 pilot schools (3 in Finland and 3 in the Republic of Karelia) and disseminated inside and outside the region.





*Project continues our work in broader cooperation between border region schools to combat prejudice and misunderstanding, and promote friendships between youth. We continue with more digital tools and innovative ideas.*

# 4

# Stay Connected

Cooperation project between border areas of North Karelia and the Republic of Karelia. Implementation period: 2020-2022. Funded by the Ministry of Education and Culture of Finland.



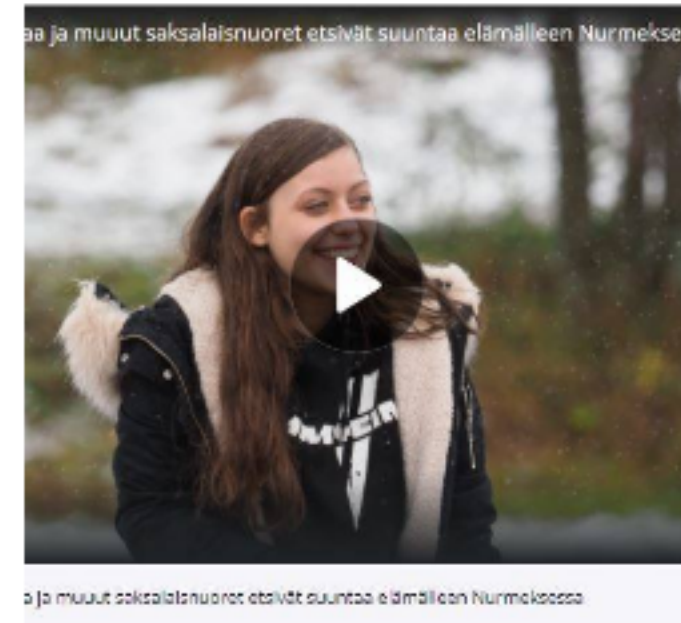


Horizontti project is aimed at young people from Germany who are looking for making a positive change in life and acquire professional skills and life skills.

**en Johanna Van Staa, 22, opettelee taitoja Nurmeksessa - korona ei ole puorisovaihtoja**

myys on maailmanlaajuinen ilmiö, johon puututaan järjes ja.

b45 Päivitetty 26.10. 14:48



ja muuut saksalaisnuoret etsivät suuntaa elämälleen Nurmeksessa

**Photo:**

**Ylä-Karjala, 21.10.2020**

In spring 2020 the 12 participants from Leer arrived to Nurmes. After the orientation and introduction week they started working in local organizations. Thanks to long-term cooperation with local partners young people worked in K-supermarkets, Kirkkokatu School, Rekula Kindergarten, Sonipal Oy, Mannen Ratsutila, RIVERIA, Hyvärilä youth centre and Nuorten Kulma Nurmes.

Due to the start of COVID-19 pandemics and closing of national borders, the flow was cut short and participants left 30 days after arrival - half-way through the intended project duration.





Funded by the European Social Fund and Ministry for Social Affairs and Employment of Germany, the project includes two annual flows: one to Finland, and one - to Italy.



Visit to Koli national park.  
Photo by Tim Friedrichs

The autumn flow of Horizontti project included a 10-day quarantine and a COVID test before beginning of the introduction program and internship activities.

12 participants and 4 group leaders stayed in Finland for 61 days in November-December 2020.

Internship placements are selected according to personal preferences in selected fields.

Interns had a chance to learn how to:

- do maintenance work in Sonipal Oy and Hyvärilä youth centre,
- assist in youth work activities in Nuorten Kulma Nurmes,
- help with running daily activities at Manne's Ratsutila,
- restock shelves in K-market in Porokylä,
- support physical education activities of Nurmes schools
- running social media in Hyvärilä youth centre
- run errands at Männiköllän Pirtti and Närekartano Ry

### Now I know a little bit more about how Finnish people survive

Today I was thinking about Finland, and how for the second year in a row Finland was chosen to be the happiest country in the world. I don't know how it is possible because it's really dark and cold here.

I asked some workers in Hyvärilä how they survive the dark and coldness. But there were two things in common that everyone told me about: that sauna and a forest walk. So I tried to walk in the forest. At first it was a bit depressing. I took some pictures and after half an hour I liked it. Then I went to the sauna to rest. It was really relaxed and after it I felt like a newborn!

-Participant feedback from internship at youth work department, Hyvärilä youth centre.



Cooperation between LeeWerk - WISA (Germany) and Hyvärilä youth centre started in 2015. Since then, over 50 young participants from Germany travelled to Nurmes and benefitted from the project activities. With guidance of 4 team members from LeeWerk - WISA and youth workers from Hyvärilä they gained new skills and experienced life abroad.

"The people in my internship makes me feel welcome, that's why the work feels easier"

*Participant feedback*



**Thank you and  
see you next  
year!**

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