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YE-2C

Youth Empowerment for Circular Cities

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LIVING LAB – ALBANIA

CASE STUDY I: Waste generated from the over-tourism in Pogradec, Albania.

The workshop on circular tourism was a dynamic session designed to immerse students in understanding the intricate relationship between tourism activities and waste management within a circular economy framework.

The workshop immersed students in the relationship between tourism and waste management within a circular economy. It began with exploring waste streams from tourism (plastics, paper, food, textiles) and their environmental impact. Through interactive sessions and case studies, students learned about minimizing waste, optimizing resources, and sustainable practices.



A key element was the collaborative brainstorming session, where students, guided by youth workers and local experts, created local action plans for circular tourism. Ideas included Circular Tours and Experiences, Bike and Walking Tours, Equipment Rentals, Used cooking oil to soaps, Composting food waste into plant fertilizer.

The workshop highlighted students' creativity, critical thinking, and understanding of circular economy principles in tourism, equipping them with actionable ideas and awareness of their role in promoting circular practices in the industry.

The workshop serves as a platform for students to showcase their creativity, critical thinking, and understanding of circular economy principles within the context of tourism.

CASE STUDY II: E-waste generated from second-hand electronics in Pogradec, Albania.

The workshop aimed to raise the awareness of the students on the multifaceted aspects of electronic waste (e-waste) while empowering them with actionable strategies to address this global challenge.

The session encompasses various topics such as:

1. Understanding Electronic Waste
2. Roles in E-Waste Reduction
3. Promoting Circularity and Consumer Influence
4. Empowering Individual and Community Actions

Some of the student's ideas from the workshop include:

- Transforming discarded e-waste components into artistic and decorative items.
- Repair shops where you can repair and refurbish e-waste before selling in the second-hand market.
- Re-purpose bulky waste like fridges into cabinets or ice chest
- Converting an old flat-screen TV or monitor into a smart mirror; or turn an old smartphone or iPod into a dedicated music player or wireless speaker



LIVING LAB – MONTENEGRO

Day 1-2: Theoretical Foundation:

The first two days focused on building a solid theoretical foundation. Sessions included discussions on community development, youth engagement strategies, and the importance of sustainable practices.

Facilitators also introduced concepts such as social responsibility, teamwork, and the role of young people in creating positive change within their communities.



Day 3-4: Practical Workshop – Newspaper

The training transitioned into a practical phase with a hands-on workshop on creating baskets from old newspapers. This activity not only served as a team-building exercise but also highlighted the potential for repurposing waste materials.

Participants learned the art of weaving, fostering creativity and resourcefulness. The completed baskets were not only a tangible outcome of their efforts but also a symbol of the transformative power of collective action.



Day 5-6: Application of Knowledge – Soap Making:

Building on the theme of sustainability, the next two days were dedicated to soap making using leftovers of olive oil.

Participants were introduced to the chemistry of soap production, emphasizing the ecological benefits of utilizing surplus materials. This activity encouraged critical thinking about waste reduction and repurposing, aligning with the broader goal of promoting environmental consciousness.



Day 7: Reflection and Future Action Plans:

The final day provided a platform for reflection and discussion. Participants shared their experiences, challenges faced, and lessons learned throughout the training. Facilitators guided the group in developing individual and collective action plans to implement in their respective communities. This reflective session aimed to solidify the knowledge gained during the week and inspire a commitment to sustainable practices and community engagement.

Conclusion:

The 7-day training successfully blended theoretical learning with practical applications, offering young people a comprehensive experience in local actions, sustainability, and community engagement. The acquired skills and knowledge are expected to have a lasting impact as participants return to their communities, equipped to initiate positive changes and contribute to a more sustainable and connected future.

LIVING LAB – KOSOVO

During the local actions guided by coaches Majlinda Kelmendi and Ryn Harris, the team, led by youth worker Dijesa Morina, explored the concept of circularity, concentrating specifically on the management of textile waste.

Termed the "3R" series, these local events unfolded over a span of seven days, each dedicated to a distinct facet of circular economy awareness.

The initial days provided a comprehensive understanding of circular economy principles, emphasizing their significance in daily life. The subsequent days involved hands-on experiences, including field activities such as clothes collection for recycling and the creative process of redesigning. The series also extended to practical aspects, with days dedicated to selling recycled products and insightful study visits.



The majority of these activities took place at the textile waste management company, Serec. Participants in the YE-2C local activities actively engaged in a seven-day training program within a collaborative and experiential learning environment. This program included a diverse range of activities, workshops, presentations, and study visits. By the end of the conducted a series of local activities, Let's Do It Peja shed light upon the need to prioritize circularity within our cultural and economic landscape. This underscores the critical necessity for concerted efforts in embedding circular principles, particularly the vital 3 R's (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle), into the fabric of our society, with a specific emphasis on the textile industry, as well as, empowerment of youth as champions of circularity, actively engaging them in shaping the future trajectory of textile practices, particularly in the context of reducing textile waste.



LIVING LAB – AUSTRIA

CASE STUDY 1: CIRCULAR STEPS FOR CIRCULAR CULTURE

Day 1: Exploring Circularity: Transnational Perspectives on Waste

The session focused on E-Waste management by Dutch company In2Waste Solution and circularity in Indonesia by Aysel Aycan Aktaş. It featured eco-art by Iwan Wijono, using plastic-based materials with the Indonesian Upcycle Forum, and concluded with a discussion on circularity in cultural projects.



Day 2: EcoArt Hub: Sustainable Artistry

Özoglu presented art from reused materials linked to Vienna's Wohlmut art space. Filmmaker Yilmaz Vurucu discussed climate effects and repurposing a historical cinema. Participants gained insights into circular practices in the art sector.

Day 3: Circular Creativity: Closing Celebration and Fanzine Workshop with Deniz Beşer

Deniz Beşer led a fanzine workshop, teaching layout and folding techniques. The day ended with a party, music, and an exhibition of the fanzines created.

Days 4-7: Public Exhibition

Outcomes from the first three days were exhibited for four days, extended by a week, with youth workers engaging the local community.



CASE STUDY 2: "Sports Meets Circular Economy in Vienna's Meidling District"

How We Organized a Low-Carbon Event?

We prioritized a low-carbon event by using The Grätzlrad Cargo bikes for deliveries instead of cars. These bikes, free for community use, are supported by the City of Vienna's cargo bike funding scheme. To reduce paper waste, we created digital brochures, displayed on tablets and smartphones, highlighting differences between linear, recycle, and circular economies. We crafted a poster to raise awareness about waste life cycles and used reused and second-hand equipment, borrowing items from local shops. The park-let was transformed into the event space, with second-hand sports equipment sourced through a popular app. Treats were served using multi-use cups and plates, minimizing single-use waste.

Local organizations and individuals, including Meidling market workers, families, and young people, actively participated in our event. We organized two street fitness events and consultancy sessions with a professional sports trainer for 10 neighbors. A bike trainer installation attracted attention to our pop-up stands. We educated 14 children on circularity and organized friendly competitions, rewarding participants with treats. The grand prize, a secondhand home bike trainer, was gifted to a young neighbor. Other activities included concerts, discussions on greener Meidling proposals, street chess, and more, adding vibrancy and diverse engagement opportunities to the festival.



LIVING LAB – NETHERLANDS



During the local activities, students were immersed in engaging activities orchestrated by In2Waste Solutions. The collaborative efforts of youth workers, accompanied by recycling experts, unveiled the intricate layers of the circular economy's potential in optimizing e-waste recycling processes.

Central to the initiative was the exploration of tailored strategies for maximizing the reuse and recycling of residual materials, to align with the circular economy principles and reaching individual customer needs. The In2Waste Solutions expert spearheaded the discourse, offering bespoke solutions and pragmatic advice on waste disposal methodologies.

Following their in-depth exploration of the e-waste recycling plant's operational processes encompassing collection, separation, and treatment methods, students were immersed in a transformative hands-on experience guided by industry experts. The expert-led session delved into the intricate disassembling and shredding techniques applied to electronics, offering students an opportunity to comprehend the practical intricacies of recycling first-hand.

This experiential learning not only expanded their vocational horizons but also instilled a deep-seated commitment to advocate for sustainable e-waste management practices, empowering them to be stewards of environmental and societal well-being in their future endeavors.



All details will be published at:

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