

INTERNATIONAL YOUTH WORK IN HYVÄRILÄ

VOLUNTEERING PROJECTS, YOUTH EXCHANGES,
YOUTH WORKER TRAININGS, DEVELOPMENT
PROJECTS AND INFORMATION EVENTS



OVERVIEW OF INTERNATIONAL WORK IN 2023

15

International project activities implemented, including sending and hosting volunteers, youth exchanges, trainings for youth workers.

31

Partner countries worked with us this year, including EU member states, Ukraine, the United Kingdom, Turkey and Western Balkans

300

International project participants came to Hyvärilä youth centre, and over 50 Finnish participants went abroad

2600

Youth days were spent in Hyvärilä youth centre by international youth and youth workers.



4,7/5 was average rating of accommodation and meals (assessed separately) across all international groups that stayed in Hyvärilä youth centre in 2023



CULTURE:IMAGINED

STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP PROJECT, FINAL SEMINAR

Final seminar with participants from Lithuania, Finland (Liminka and Nurmes), and Spain was organized to share results of creative projects done by youth in their municipalities.

Within the project, young people participated in an online training, and a training in Spain in 2022, after which they developed their own creative projects to highlight local culture.

Youth from Nurmes organized an adventure game for primary school students, basing the adventure on Kalevala epics.

Spanish youth organized a city-wide culture treasure hunt and music activities.

Lithuanian youth made a mural with participation of guests and students of the Alytus youth centre.



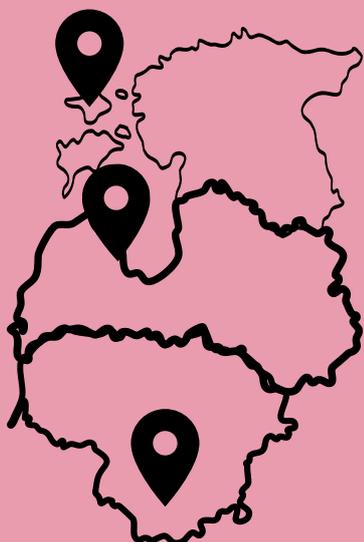
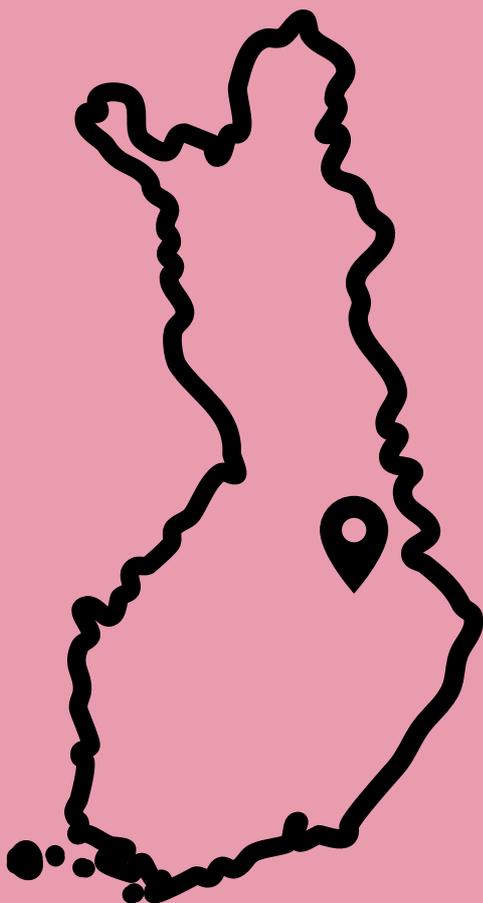
**Co-funded by
the European Union**

APRIL-NOVEMBER 2023

HYVÄRILÄ YOUTH CENTRE
KÄRDLÄ, ESTONIA
ALYTUS, LITHUANIA
MILZKALNS, LATVIA

STAY CONNECTED

SERIES OF SCHOOL EXCHANGES



Overcoming prejudice and finding friends in neighbor countries was the main theme of the project for middle school students who took part in the project.

For professionals who implemented the project it was also development of cooperation between non-formal and formal education sector, and developing knowledge of digital tools in education.

Six camps were implemented. two per each partnership between schools, a total of 80 participants:

School of Eastern Finland (Joensuu) & Varena school (Lithuania) met in Nurmes and Alytus.

Kirkkokatu school (Nurmes) and Emmaste school (Estonia) met in Kärdlä and Nurmes.

Nepenmäki school and Engure school met it Nurmes and Milzkalns.





DISCOVER WORLD

Presentations to Savonia UAS students:

- Experience of Ciao Italia Youth exchange participants.
- International opportunities offered by Hyvärilä youth centre.

MARCH 2023
JUNE 2023

HYVÄRILÄ YOUTH CENTRE

SEZANA SCHOOL INTERNSHIPS

TEAM AND INDIVIDUAL INTERNSHIPS WITHIN ERASMUS+

A group of students stayed in Hyvärilä youth centre for three weeks, learning about Karelian culture, and creating a mural on a climbing wall in Navetta building. Students of design and interior decoration practiced creating mood boards and pitching designs to a client. They finished the project with unveiling of the mural to Hyvärilä youth centre staff and a presentation of traditional Slovenian dishes.

Individual internship for a photography student took place in summer 2023. Practice included commercial photography, reporting from events, photos of interiors and equipment, as well as creative photography.





GREEN WEEK

ESC VOLUNTEERING TEAM

International team volunteering project gathered volunteers from EU and Western Balkans for two weeks to promote sustainable living and celebrate European Green Week.

In cooperation with Nurmes municipality, Nurmes museum, and a number of local organizations, a Pulaviikko was organized.

Hyvärilä volunteers were joined by:

Näre Ry, Nurmeksen and Ylä-Valtimon martat, Nurmeskotiyhdistys / Ystävän pysäkki, Maaseudunsivistysliitto, Valtimo-Seura, Hyvärilä youth centre and Nuorten Kulma youth house.

Volunteers organized workshops and sustainability-themed activities in:

- Valtimo school
- Valtimon nuokkari
- Porokylä school
- Nurmeksen lukio
- Närekartano second-hand shop
- Ystävän pysäkki



**Co-funded by
the European Union**

JUNE, NOVEMBER 2023

HYVÄRILÄ YOUTH CENTRE

TRAININGS FOR YOUTH WORKERS



“Back to the roots 2.0” training for youth workers gathered a wider geography of participants compared to the first training in 2021. Youth workers spent a week learning about environmental education methods from Hyvärilä youth centre programs and with guidance from several trainers.

Training covered the importance of environmental education and various methods: from hiking in the forest to water activities, biodiversity workshops and peer learning activities.

Youth workers from Malta, Bulgaria, Spain, Hungary, Slovenia, Slovakia, Ireland, the Netherlands, Germany, France and other countries brought home concrete methods of nature education.

“Games are not just a game” training for youth workers featured a large variety of non-formal games for reflection, cooperation and team-building, financial literacy, conflict resolution and environmental awareness.

Practical workshops allowed youth workers to discover main elements of games to develop their own ideas for games. Storytelling workshops took the new games a step further to being designed and ready to play with children and youth.



Co-funded by
the European Union



VESO-DAY

Presentations to educators from Nurmes and Valtimo schools from Hyvärilä youth team:

- Activities and services of Hyvärilä youth centre for schools.
- International opportunities offered by Hyvärilä youth centre. Stay connected project results.



SUMMER TALKOOT

ESC VOLUNTEERING TEAM

Summer Talkoot is a biodiversity initiative, started in 2021 in order to maintain a wildflower meadow growing in Hyvärilä, and spread biodiversity preservation practices across Europe by engaging volunteers and promoting practical steps and actions.

In 2023 volunteering program included also traditional craft transfer from a local artisan Martti Pellikka - an element which enriched the learning of project participants greatly thanks to extended communication together.

Volunteer activities included:

- Cutting meadow grass with scythe after learning the technique.
- Building insect hotels and learning about their significance, gifting ready hotels to guests of Römpe festival.
- Talkoot in an animal rescue farm in Juuka.
- Social media promotion of ESC program.
- Painting a bike training route in Nurmes.
- Doing Talkoot in Murtovaara museum.
- Organizing Talkoot intercultural program for Römpe festival in Hyvärilä.



**Co-funded by
the European Union**

JANUARY-OCTOBER 2023

HYVÄRILÄ YOUTH CENTRE

INDIVIDUAL VOLUNTEERING

WITHIN EUROPEAN SOLIDARITY CORPS



Four international volunteers from Italy, Belgium and Ukraine took part in 2-12 month long projects. Main work tasks included helping youth workers with activities during camp school season, working with international groups, social media on Instagram @volunteers_eastfinland.

On top of that, they managed to work on creative projects: a poetic performance was created by one of the volunteers, based on “The rabbit year” book, highlighting personal growth and cultural learning the volunteer experienced in Finland.

A children’s book with handmade illustrations was written and designed by another volunteer to help deal with the unknown and embracing challenges.

A charitable concert “Sing for Ukraine” was organized by the Nurmes community at the initiative of a long-term volunteer from Ukraine, raising over 3000 Euro donations to the Red Cross.



CLICA PROJECT

STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP

7 EU

Countries are members of CLICA consortium: Young climate campaigners for the European Green deal: Hungary, Finland, Cyprus, Italy, Spain, Greece and Ireland.



CLICAYOUTH.COM

Project website and networking platform for young CLICA campaigners was launched.

UP TO 30

Professionals, including facilitators, environmental researchers, artists and activists were recruited to run CLICA Open Labs for change in pilot countries.

CLICA methodology guide for facilitators was published and piloted by the consortium members, featuring concrete non-formal learning methods about the European Green Deal for youth workers.



**Co-funded by
the European Union**

OCTOBER 2023

HYVÄRILÄ YOUTH CENTRE



NUMBER OF LOCAL
COMMUNITY MEMBERS, WHO
TOOK PART IN KEKRI PROJECT
ACTIVITIES: WORKSHOPS IN
LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS AND
KEKRI CELEBRATIONS



CELEBRATING KEKRI

ESC VOLUNTEERING TEAM

Celebrating Kekri project was organized for the third consecutive year, with number of local community members participating in celebration and workshops higher than before.

An unexpected outcome of this year's project was that a Spanish teacher implemented a week of Kekri-related activities in her school with primary school students, upon learning about this Finnish tradition.

Workshops and activities were implemented around Nurmes and Valtimo as follows:

- Workshops in Kirkkokatu school.
- Visit to Ystävän pysäkki.
- Workshops in Porokylä school.
- Workshops in Valtimo school.
- Scavenger hunt for Nurmes annual scavenger hunt month.
- Building traditional fence in Hyvärilä.
- Nuorten kulma youth house visit.
- Organizing Kekri celebrations activities for children, music, international dishes for guests.



**Co-funded by
the European Union**

NOVEMBER 2023

HYVÄRILÄ YOUTH CENTRE

CIAO SUOMI

YOUTH EXCHANGE WITHIN ERASMUS+ PROGRAM

Fully designed and implemented by youth, Ciao Suomi is a follow-up exchange to Ciao Italia, implemented in 2022 in Brescia, Italy.

This time, geography of participation expanded, bringing on board youth of age 20-25 years old from Finland, Poland, Armenia, Ukraine, Spain and Italy.

Mental health and methods of maintaining well-being were chosen for the 6-day activity, including cooking healthy meals, connecting with nature, exploring meditation and yoga, movement, conflict resolution, and crafts workshops. Alongside with thematic learning outcomes, participants gained experience in preparing and implementing workshops, and taking responsibility over project management as leaders.



TRAVELLING ABROAD WITH ERASMUS+ AND EUROPEAN SOLIDARITY CORPS

ICELAND
POLAND
SPAIN
GREECE
ITALY



Short-term volunteering in Iceland: preparing slopes of a skiing resort for winter season: painting cabins and picking up trash



Youth exchange “PhotoSyntesis” in Poland: learning how to see the beauty in everyday life through photography



Youth exchange “Ruralship” for youth 13-15 years old took place in Spain. Main theme was wellbeing of young people living in rural areas



Training for facilitators within CLICA project in Italy gathered youth work professionals to present CLICA facilitation methodology



Kick-off seminar of CLICA project took place in Greece



Co-funded by
the European Union