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IDEA Interactive Toolkit

English

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Chapter 1 - Introduction to the Toolkit

About the Project

Project: Improved Employability through circular economy education for Adults – IDEA

Start date: 01-02-2022

End date: 31-07-2024

Action: KA220 Cooperation partnerships in adult education

Partner Organizations

Applicant Organization:

- Fundacja imienia Braci Solunskich – Cyryla i Metodego – Poland

Participant Organizations:

- Eco Logic The Republic of North – Macedonia
- Caritas Archidiecezji Przemyskiej – Poland
- Mine Vaganti NGO – Italy
- Bosnian Representative Association For Valuable Opportunities – Bosnia And Herzegovina

Welcome to the IDEA Toolkit

The IDEA Toolkit is part of the Erasmus + project IDEA (Improved Employability through circular economy education for Adults).

As you will see, the Toolkit consists of a set of guidelines that enable educators and adults interested in transferring or gaining knowledge and skills on Circular Economy, Plastic Craftwork and Tinkering Methodology.

What will You find in the IDEA Toolkit?

1. Introduction
2. The theoretical frame of Circular Economy Education, Plastic Craftwork and Tinkering
3. The theoretical frame of the co-design process
4. Existent good practice instruments
5. Educational activity/actions produced in the Co-design Sessions
6. Materials from local activities and video tutorials
7. Conclusions

What is IDEA About?

Improved Employability through circular economy education for Adults (IDEA) is a 30 months Cooperation partnership aimed at promoting Circular Economy and Sustainability among unemployed or socio-economically vulnerable adults. The IDEA aims at fostering a greater

interaction between the European Green Deal, EU Gender Equality Strategy 2020-2025 and other relevant policies that can ensure just and inclusive transition to circular future.

General Frame of IDEA Project

As the European Union is going through a green renovation process, aiming at becoming climate neutral by 2050, many sectors will be affected, and Circular Economy will become ever more important in people's daily lives.

According to OECD 2020 Labour market consequences of a transition to a circular economy: A review paper, the impact of Circular Economy and resource efficiency will bring improvements in the employment rates and improve the conditions in terms of quality, duration and gender aspects of the jobs created.

Some studies analyzed by the report also conclude that green jobs require some up-skilling of labor forces, rather than a complete re-skilling. Nowadays, the topic of skill development has been developing particularly throughout Europe.

As stated in the European Skills Agenda, the green and digital transitions are reshaping the way we live, work and interact. The EU's move to a resource efficient, circular, digitised and climate neutral economy are expected to create new jobs, while other jobs will change or even disappear.

European priorities in the field of employment and sustainability

In the years to come, a key challenge is to ensure that the green transition succeeds in generating a new growth model that has a lower carbon footprint than at present.

Labour markets across the EU undergo profound changes as the green transition takes shape. Restructuring processes in the post-Covid recovery as well as the green and digital transitions are shaping modern labour markets and define skills requirements.

The green and digital transitions are interlinked and mutually reinforcing.

The challenge is to ensure a positive impact of greening policies on employment, and that better performing education and training systems and improved employment policies actually support the greening transition by ensuring a good match between skills and jobs throughout the green transition.

It is crucial to ensure that the green and social dimensions of Europe are creating positive synergies and contribute to successful enterprises, sustainable employment opportunities for workers and well-being of all citizens.

The EU Green Deal

The European Green Deal, the overarching political manifesto of the European Commission for the political cycle 2019-2024, was adopted in December 2019.

As part of the Green Deal-related initiatives, some recognition has been given to the need to ensure just transitions for enterprises and workers. This acknowledges the fact that concrete workers, regions, industries will be impacted by this paradigm shift and calls for multi-stakeholder partnerships to ensure no one is left behind.

The Just Transition Fund

The EU is rightly pursuing a “Just Transition” approach, to address the socio-economic effects of the transition, focusing on the regions, industries and workers that face the greatest challenges.

The Just Transition Fund (JTF) is a key tool to support territories most affected by the transition towards climate neutrality, providing them with tailored support.

The JTF is to support economy diversification and reconversion of the territories, for example through sustainable investment in SMEs, creation of new enterprises, R&I, environmental rehabilitation, clean energy, upskilling/reskilling of workers, active labour market policies to support job-to-job transitions and bring the inactive to the labour market, and transformation of existing carbon-intensive installations.

2015 ILO guidelines

It is worth noting that the 2015 ILO guidelines pointed out the importance of accompanying all those who can be negatively affected – directly and indirectly – by the green transition. The guidelines also indicate that if managed well, transitions to more sustainable economies may become a strong driver of job creation and job upgrading. This can only be achieved through ongoing social dialogue at all levels, both while designing and implementing relevant policies.

European Climate Adaptation Strategy

The social aspects can also be found in the new European Climate Adaptation Strategy of February 2021. It calls for a climate resilience that is just and fair, and stresses the need for adaptation measures that help individuals adapt to changing climatic conditions by means of reskilling and requalification programmes.

Equal opportunities and Green Deal

The linkages between equal opportunities and climate change and, hence, between equal opportunity strategies and green deal-type strategies are very strong. These linkages were also touched upon in the European Gender Equality Strategy with specific reference.

«Upcoming policies under the European Green Deal, such as the Building Renovation Wave or the EU Strategy on Climate Adaptation, can impact women differently to men. As regards climate change, the role of women in particular has been remarkable in leading the push for change».

Nevertheless, these missing links have not yet been established in any meaningful way in the context of the implementation of the EGD, despite the strong commitment of the current Commission to «integrate a gender perspective in all major Commission initiatives during the current mandate».

Reskilling and Upskilling

Succeeding in the green transition will require major investments, notably to adapt the role of human work in production to new production processes. This is about investing in new company machines or work equipment that improve energy efficiency or reduce CO2 emissions.

This is about training the workforce to upskill or reskill to effectively use these new machines or work equipment and the related production methods. In this context, the potential of sustainable finance opportunities needs to be seized to support companies' and workers' adaptation to greening economies.

Investment certainly can and should support sustainability, including in the social domain, as long as the tools for this respect the different national social systems, national competences and social partner autonomy.

Chapter 2 – The theoretical frame of Circular Economy Education, Plastic Craftwork and Tinkering

Introduction

In the ever-evolving landscape of economic and environmental paradigms, the concept of the Circular Economy (CE) emerges as a pioneering force, challenging the deeply ingrained traditions of the linear “take-make-dispose” model. In the world of CE, the ethos is resolute: resources and products shall be managed with an unwavering commitment to sustainability and waste reduction. This means recalibrating the very DNA of product design, breathing longevity and recyclability into the heart of every creation.

Circular Economy

A circular economy is an economic and environmental concept that challenges the traditional “take-make-dispose” linear model. In a circular economy, resources and products are managed in a way that prioritizes sustainability and waste reduction. This means designing products with longevity and recyclability in mind, encouraging the reuse and refurbishment of items, and recycling materials to create new products.

The goal is to minimize resource consumption, reduce environmental impact, and create a closed-loop system where materials and products are continually reused, repurposed, and regenerated.

Motivation

Economic Resilience: A circular economy cultivates economic resilience by reducing our dependency on finite resources. Teaching adults about circular practices and sustainable resource management equips them with the skills and knowledge to adapt to a shifting economic landscape. In a world where resources are scarcer, the ability to maximize the utility of existing resources becomes a valuable asset.

Employment Opportunities: The transition towards a circular economy creates a demand for a new generation of skilled workers. Adults who understand the Motivation of recycling, upcycling, and sustainable design can tap into emerging job opportunities in industries related to green technologies, waste management, sustainable product development, and more.

Innovation and Entrepreneurship: Adult learners exposed to the circular economy concept are more likely to think creatively and seek innovative solutions. They can become entrepreneurs who design and implement circular business models, reducing waste and environmental impact while generating income.

Resource Efficiency: A core tenet of the circular economy is optimizing resource use. Adults trained in these Motivation are more likely to make eco-conscious decisions, both in their personal lives and within their workplaces. This will lead to reduced resource consumption, lower costs, and more competitive businesses.

Environmental Stewardship: Education on the circular economy fosters a sense of environmental responsibility. It encourages adults to consider the long-term consequences of their actions and choices. This mindset shift can influence not only personal behaviors but also corporate and government policies.

Social and Ethical Aspects: Circular economy education goes beyond environmental concerns. It addresses social aspects like fair trade, ethical sourcing, and inclusivity. These issues are increasingly important in modern business practices, and adults educated in these areas are more attractive to socially-conscious employers.

Global Collaboration: A circular economy is a global concept. Educating adults on these Motivation fosters international cooperation and shared responsibility for sustainable resource management. In a world facing complex global challenges, adults trained in this way can participate in cross-border dialogues and initiatives, fostering a more connected and sustainable global community.

Principles

- The avoidance of harmful substances,
- The minimization of energy and resource consumption in transportation and production phases,
- The minimization of energy and resource consumption during product use,
- The design of products for ease of repair and expansion,
- The extension of product lifecycles,
- The minimization of product weight,
- The fortification of products against external adversities,
- The use of materials that can be reincorporated whenever feasible,
- The avoidance of complex, multi-material items that pose recycling challenges,
- The pursuit of simplified, modular design,
- The perpetual enhancement of processes and products.

CE Concepts in Models

- 3R model,
- RESOLVE model,
- 7R model,
- DISRUPT framework,
- Circle Economy's model,
- IMSA's model,
- and the BS 8001 standard.

Craftwork

Plastic craftwork involves the creative and artistic use of plastic materials, particularly recycled plastics, to produce a wide range of items. Craftsmen and artists transform discarded plastic objects or waste into new, often aesthetically pleasing, and functional products. This can include anything from sculptures and jewellery to furniture and household items.

Plastic craftwork not only showcases artistic talent but also contributes to sustainability by diverting plastic waste from landfills and raising awareness about the environmental impact of plastic consumption. Teaching adults plastic craftwork has several benefits, both from a personal and societal perspective.

Motivation

Environmental Awareness and Responsibility: Plastic waste is a significant environmental concern. By teaching adults how to repurpose and upcycle plastics into creative and useful items, you raise awareness about the importance of recycling and reducing plastic waste. This fosters a sense of environmental responsibility, helping to combat plastic pollution.

Skill Development: Learning plastic craftwork cultivates a range of practical skills, such as cutting, molding, decorating, and assembling. These skills can be valuable for personal creative expression and can also be transferred to other DIY projects and home repairs.

Creativity and Innovation: Plastic craftwork encourages adults to think creatively and innovatively. It inspires them to see potential in discarded materials and find unique, artistic solutions to everyday problems. This creativity can be applied to other areas of their lives, including problem-solving and entrepreneurship.

Mental Health and Stress Reduction: Engaging in craft activities, including plastic craftwork, has been shown to reduce stress and promote mental well-being. It provides a therapeutic and meditative experience, helping adults relax, unwind, and alleviate stress.

Economic Savings: Making useful items or gifts from plastic materials can save money, as it reduces the need to purchase new items. For adults on a budget, this can be a practical and sustainable way to enhance their living environment and lifestyle.

Community Building: Participating in plastic craft workshops and groups can foster a sense of community and connection among adults. It's an opportunity for social interaction and networking, bringing people together around a shared interest in sustainability and creativity.

Resourcefulness: Learning plastic craftwork instills a sense of resourcefulness. Adults become more aware of the resources available to them, making them less dependent on consumer goods and more self-sufficient.

Educational Value: Plastic craftwork can be a valuable educational tool for adults who work with children or in educational settings. They can pass on their knowledge and skills to younger generations, contributing to environmental awareness and creativity in children.

Customization and Personalization: Craftwork allows adults to customize and personalize items to suit their preferences. They can create unique home décor, fashion accessories, and gifts that reflect their individual style.

Promoting a Circular Economy: Engaging in plastic craftwork aligns with the principles of a circular economy, where materials are repurposed and their lifecycle extended. It embodies the concept of “reduce, reuse, recycle.”

Tinkering

Tinkering is an iterative and hands-on approach to problem-solving and creativity. It involves experimenting with objects or materials, making small adjustments, repairs, or modifications to understand how they work and discover their potential. Tinkering often relies on trial and error, curiosity, and a willingness to explore and learn through practical experience.

It can be applied in various contexts, from repairing household items and DIY projects to educational settings where it fosters innovation, critical thinking, and the development of practical skills. Tinkering encourages individuals to think creatively and adaptively while gaining a deeper understanding of the objects or materials they are working with.

Motivation

Promotes Self-Directed Learning: Tinkering is often self-guided, allowing individuals to pursue their interests and passions. This self-directed approach promotes motivation and a love for learning.

Enhances Problem-Solving Skills: Tinkering often involves solving real-world problems, whether it's fixing a broken appliance, building a model, or creating a new invention. This process hones problem-solving abilities, which are valuable in various professions.

Encourages Resourcefulness: Tinkering often involves working with limited resources, which promotes resourcefulness and the ability to make the best use of what is available. This skill is invaluable in a world with finite resources.

Strengthens Resilience: Tinkering can be frustrating at times, as not all experiments or projects will succeed on the first try. Learning to persevere through setbacks and failures is an important life skill.

Promotes Interdisciplinary Learning: Tinkering often draws from various fields, such as science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics (STEAM). It encourages cross-disciplinary thinking and fosters a holistic understanding of the world.

Facilitates Practical Knowledge: Tinkering provides hands-on experience that complements theoretical knowledge. It allows individuals to gain practical skills that can be applied in everyday life, from fixing household appliances to building and repairing items.

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Cultivates Environmental and Sustainability Awareness: Tinkering encourages individuals to repurpose and upcycle materials, reducing waste and promoting a more sustainable approach to resource use. This aligns with the principles of a circular economy and environmental consciousness.

Nurtures a Growth Mindset: Tinkering instills a growth mindset, where individuals view challenges as opportunities for growth and improvement. This mindset is essential for personal development and adaptability in an ever-changing world.

Enhances Collaboration and Communication: Tinkering projects often require teamwork and communication. Individuals learn to collaborate, share ideas, and work effectively with others, essential skills in both personal and professional settings.

Benefits

Artistic Expression: Recycled plastic art allows artists to express themselves creatively while also promoting sustainability. Artists can create unique and visually appealing pieces of art that resonate with environmentally conscious consumers.

Eco-friendly Products: The demand for eco-friendly and sustainable products is on the rise. By crafting products from recycled plastic, individuals and businesses can tap into this growing market and cater to consumers looking for environmentally responsible options.

Education and Workshops: There is a growing need for education and awareness about recycling and sustainability. Artists and craftspeople can offer workshops and classes to teach people how to repurpose plastic waste into beautiful and functional items. This not only generates income but also contributes to environmental education.

Local Job Creation: Recycling plastic art/craftwork can be a source of local job creation, especially in areas with access to plastic waste. As businesses and artists expand their operations, they can hire individuals to help with collection, sorting, and crafting processes.

Collaborations: Collaboration with other businesses and organizations in the circular economy can open up opportunities. For example, partnering with sustainable fashion brands to create accessories or collaborating with eco-friendly hotels for decor can lead to increased exposure and revenue.

Online Marketplaces: The rise of e-commerce and online marketplaces provides an excellent platform for selling recycled plastic art and crafts. Entrepreneurs can reach a global audience and build a customer base interested in sustainable products.

Public and Private Commissions: Governments and private entities often invest in public art installations and sustainable initiatives. Artists and crafters can seek commissions to create large-scale recycled plastic art pieces for parks, buildings, and other public spaces.

Product Design: Industrial designers can specialize in creating sustainable, recycled plastic products such as furniture, lighting, and home decor. These designs can appeal to consumers looking to furnish their homes with environmentally friendly items.

Artisanal Brands: Crafters and artists can establish their own artisanal brands focused on recycled plastic products. Building a brand around sustainability and quality craftsmanship can lead to a loyal customer base.

Research and Innovation: Tinkering with recycled plastics can lead to innovative solutions for recycling and repurposing materials. Researchers and inventors in this field can patent new methods or products, creating opportunities for licensing and commercialization.

Environmental Advocacy: Those involved in recycled plastic art/craftwork often become advocates for the environment. This can lead to opportunities for public speaking, consulting, and collaboration with environmental organizations.

Waste Reduction and Upcycling: By actively participating in the circular economy, individuals and businesses contribute to reducing plastic waste and conserving resources. This aligns with the broader goals of sustainability and waste reduction.

Sum up

Recycled plastic art/craftwork combined with a tinkering methodology not only offers creative outlets but also presents significant economic opportunities within the circular economy. It allows individuals and businesses to promote sustainability, create innovative products, and contribute to a more environmentally responsible future while generating income and employment.

Chapter 3 – The Theoretical Frame of the Co-Design Process

Co-design in the context of the Circular Economy goes beyond the traditional linear model of product design and manufacturing. It recognizes that sustainability cannot be achieved in isolation; it requires the active involvement of consumers, businesses, policymakers, and other stakeholders to create products and systems that are regenerative, restorative, and resilient.

In each case, co-design leads to more effective, sustainable, and user-centered solutions by involving stakeholders in the design and decision-making process.

Value of Co-Design

Co-design is essential for creating solutions that are tailored to the needs of users, innovative, and well-aligned with the expectations of stakeholders.

It promotes a collaborative and inclusive approach, ultimately resulting in more successful and sustainable outcomes

Co-design streamlines the process, identifying and addressing issues early on.

Collaboration provides a holistic understanding of the problem, leading to targeted solutions.

Co-Design Techniques

Brainstorming: A technique used to generate ideas in a group setting. Participants are encouraged to share their ideas without criticism or judgment.

Mind mapping: A technique used to visually organize information. Participants write down ideas on a piece of paper and connect them with lines or arrows.

Prototyping: A technique used to create a preliminary version of a product or service. Prototypes can be physical or digital and can be used to gather feedback from stakeholders and end-users.

User testing: A technique used to evaluate a product or service with end-users. Participants are asked to perform tasks using the product or service while researchers observe and take notes.

Brainstorming

Brainstorming is a creative problem-solving technique that encourages individuals or groups to generate a large number of ideas, often in a short period of time.

It's a structured process designed to foster creativity, encourage free thinking, and stimulate innovation.

During a brainstorming session, participants are encouraged to express their thoughts and ideas without judgment or criticism, creating a safe and open environment for idea generation.

Key principles of brainstorming

The key principles of brainstorming include:

Quantity Over Quality: The primary goal is to generate a large quantity of ideas, regardless of their feasibility or practicality. Later, these ideas can be refined and evaluated.

Freewheeling: Participants are encouraged to let their imaginations run wild and think outside the box. There are no wrong or bad ideas during a brainstorming session.

Combining and Building: Participants can take inspiration from each other's ideas and build upon them to create new concepts or solutions.

Deferred Judgment: Criticism and evaluation are postponed until after the brainstorming session. The focus is solely on idea generation during the session.

Brainstorming – steps

Steps to help you conduct an effective brainstorming session:

Define the Objective: Start by clearly defining the objective or problem you want to address during the session. Make sure all participants have a clear understanding of the goal.

Select the Participants: Invite a diverse group of individuals with different perspectives and expertise related to the problem. Ensure that everyone feels comfortable contributing.

Set the Ground Rules: Establish ground rules to create a positive and productive atmosphere. Common rules include:

- No criticism or judgment during the session.
- Encouragement of wild or unconventional ideas.
- Building upon each other's ideas.
- Focusing on quantity of ideas.

Choose the Right Environment: Select a comfortable, quiet, and neutral space that minimizes distractions. Ensure that participants have access to materials like whiteboards, sticky notes, or digital tools for idea capture.

Assign a Facilitator: Appoint a facilitator to guide the session and keep it on track. The facilitator's role is to ensure everyone has an opportunity to speak, enforce the ground rules, and manage time.

Warm-Up Activity: Start with a warm-up exercise to get creativity flowing. This can be a simple word association game or a quick brainstorming round on a less critical topic.

Generate Ideas: Encourage participants to generate as many ideas as possible within a specific time frame. Use prompts or questions related to the objective to kickstart the ideation process.

Promote Divergent Thinking: During this phase, encourage participants to think broadly and explore a wide range of ideas, even those that may seem far-fetched or unconventional. Encourage participants to build on each other's ideas.

Use Idea Generation Techniques: Employ various brainstorming techniques to stimulate creativity, such as mind mapping, analogies, or the "Six Thinking Hats" method.

Record Ideas: Document all ideas on a whiteboard, flip chart, or digital tool visible to all participants. This visual representation helps participants see the collective progress.

Clarify and Refine: After the initial brainstorming phase, discuss and clarify the generated ideas. Participants can ask questions for clarification and explore potential combinations or improvements.

Evaluate and Prioritize: Once you have a list of ideas, evaluate and prioritize them based on feasibility, impact, and alignment with the objective. This can be done through voting or group discussion.

Action Items: Identify action items and next steps. Determine how to implement or further develop the selected ideas.

Follow-Up: After the brainstorming session, follow up with participants to ensure that the selected ideas are being implemented and evaluated for their effectiveness.

Document the Session: Keep a record of the brainstorming session, including the list of generated ideas, evaluations, and action items. This documentation can be valuable for future reference.

Mind mapping

Mind Mapping is a powerful and versatile visual technique used for organizing, representing, and generating ideas or information in a nonlinear and hierarchical format.

It is a graphical representation of thoughts, concepts, or tasks, typically centered around a central idea or topic.

Mind maps are created by branching out from the central idea into subtopics, related concepts, or specific details, forming a tree-like structure.

Mind mapping – steps

To create a Mind Map, follow these five steps:

- Begin by placing the title of your subject or project at the center of the page and encircle it with a circle.
- Extend lines outward from this central circle to represent subheadings, crucial facts, or tasks related to your subject. Ensure these lines are appropriately labeled with the respective subheadings.
- Delve deeper into your subject to uncover the subsequent layer of information, which may include related subtopics, tasks, or facts. Connect these elements to the corresponding subheadings.
- Repeat this process for the next level of facts, tasks, and ideas. Extend lines from the relevant headings and make sure they are appropriately labeled.
- Continuously update your Mind Map as you come across new information or think of additional tasks. Insert these elements into the Mind Map at the relevant locations.

Mind mapping – tools

While drawing Mind Maps by hand is appropriate in many cases, software tools and apps that can improve the process by helping you to produce high-quality Mind Maps, which you can then easily edit or redraft. Like:

- Mindmeister <https://www.mindmeister.com/>
- MindGenius <https://www.mindgenius.com/>

Prototyping

Prototyping is a critical phase in the product development and design process that involves creating a preliminary, tangible, and often simplified version of a product, system, or concept.

The primary purpose of prototyping is to test and validate design ideas, functionality, and user experiences before investing significant resources into full-scale production or implementation.

Prototyping in co-design serves as a bridge between ideas and tangible solutions, enabling collaboration, feedback collection, risk reduction, and user engagement.

Co-Design Tools

Resources

- MURAL: <https://www.mural.co/>
- MIRO: <https://miro.com/>

Website of CO-CREATE PROJECT

Webpage contains results of European cooperation project (ERASMUS+) that create and distribute a brand new curriculum on co-design: a set of valuable design skills that has gained increased relevance in recent years and can no longer be ignored. The curriculum will allow education institutions across Europe to provide their students with all the hands-on knowledge they will need to apply this process to their future professional practice.

<http://www.cocreate.training/>

Circular economy examples

<https://ellenmacarthurfoundation.org/topics/circular-economy-introduction/examples>

Circular economy case studies

<https://www.circulardesign.it/case-studies/>

Chapter 4 – Existent Good Practice Instruments

Existing Good Practices

The Plastic Recycled Circular Economy emphasizes the importance of reusing, repurposing, and recycling plastics to minimize their negative environmental effects.

At the same, innovative artists and educators work on to make discarded plastic materials into useful works of art and practical objects.

The impact of these good practices extends beyond individual growth; it resonates on a broader societal scale. By empowering adults with the ability to transform discarded plastics into valuable products or art, these initiatives reduce plastic waste, conserve resources, and promote responsible consumption.

As communities witness tangible changes brought about by these practices, they are inspired to embrace sustainability in their daily lives.

The project consortium of the Improved Employability Through Circular Economy Education for Adults (IDEA) chose 6 good practices on Plastic Craftwork and Circular Economy.

All of these good practices are meant to empower unemployed low skilled adults, but at the same time are inclusive and can also be used among diverse range of learners, regardless of their prior educational backgrounds or professional experiences.

These good practices focused on plastic recycling and craftwork apart from being important for the labor market it can be a meaningful hobby for unemployed adults and in general people from all ages.

Plastic Craftwork

The “Pure Art” initiative, organized by Nestlé Adriatic in collaboration with the Center for Art and Artistic Education “ArKA” in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina during Autumn 2021, contributed in transforming 250,000 kg of plastic waste into five unique art pieces. These creations not only served as a powerful tool for environmental awareness but also served as a donation of seedlings to local schools, emphasizing the importance of preserving nature through recycling and art.

Expected outcomes:

The project successfully repurposed 250,000 kg of plastic waste into five visionary art pieces, showcasing recycling and artistic expression. Nestlé donated over 3,000 seedlings to schools in Bosnia and Herzegovina, contributing to environmental preservation

Circular Tailor Workshops, Circular Fashion, Circular Chemist's, Circular Carpentry Workshops, Circular Bikes, Circular Jewellery

The workshop was focused on circular aspects using tinkering mode. First example was based on a making some useful things using basic environmentally friendly products like cleaning powder, washing liquid, bath bombs, simple soap or a natural fragrance. Some chairs and a table were also repaired during the breaks.

The goal was to increase environmental awareness and to promote zero waste.

Expected outcomes:

The participants to learn that Circular Workshops are a great possibility to change the way of thinking about the things we buy, we use, we give, we throw away. The aim is also to share the knowledge about circular economy in the simple and friendly way

Training for Adults “Ekokreacje” – Creative Recycling Workshops

This good practice is from Poland and it is a training for adult residents of the Kościerzyna powiat introducing the secrets of up-cycling – forms of recycling, which results in handmade products with a higher value than before. Up-cycling is not only a pleasure, but above all, it significantly reduces the consumption of raw materials for the production of artistic objects, as well as reduces the amount of waste.

The methodology used was a combination of workshops and lectures covering waste management and upcycling techniques.

Expected outcome:

The training resulted in an increase in participants' awareness of waste management. Beautiful trinkets were created, which quality and appearance do not differ from those bought in the store. Participants realized how dangerous excessive consumerism is, both socially, ecologically and in terms of intellectual development.

Art Cycle of Recycle

Art Cycle of Recycle is an initiative that is making a significant impact through creative approach to plastic craftwork. With a passion for transforming plastic waste, particularly discarded bottles, into eco-friendly jewelry, Elena had a workshop for a non-formal group named Smetlana on the art of reusing plastic waste. Her innovative jewelry not only is beautiful but it also reminds us that plastic can be a valuable and precious material, and waste is not trash. This initiative resonates with people of all ages interested in preserving the environment and offers a creative way towards sustainability

Expected outcome:

Participants are likely to develop a heightened awareness of plastic pollution and its impact on the environment. They will acquire practical skills in transforming plastic waste into eco-friendly jewelry. They will learn techniques for cutting, shaping, and assembling plastic pieces, which can be applied to future projects. It also encourages creative expression through the creation of unique jewelry. Participants may discover their artistic talents and use this platform to express themselves artistically.

Precious Plastic Salento

The project involves the reuse of plastic waste through a chain of production and reproduction of the plastic material from the waste material. The project is articulated through the handcrafted creation of machinery that does the work of shredding the various types of plastic, and molding new objects made on handcrafted molds. The methodology of problem-solving and experimental research is used to stimulate participants' understanding of the correlations between the environment and human activities.

Participants can gain awareness of the value of plastic waste. They will realize that plastic can be a valuable resource for creating new objects than simply being discarded as waste. Participants can learn techniques for processing and upcycling plastic materials into new valuable objects. They can acquire practical know-how about machinery construction, mold creation, and plastic processing, which they can then share with others. Participants can encourage others to reduce waste and reuse plastic materials.

GOZ Akademia

The Circular Economy Academy, known as Akademia GOZ, is a valuable initiative offering webinars and courses aimed at fostering understanding and practical implementation of circular economy principles within the EU. This academy provides accessible knowledge and practical solutions to a diverse audience, including both employed and unemployed individuals of all age groups.

Expected outcomes:

Participants can gain increased awareness of the principles and objectives of circular economy practices. They will acquire a comprehensive understanding of circular economy regulations, tools, and strategies, which will make them do informed decisions and implement sustainable practices in their businesses. They will learn practical solutions and tools for businesses to transition toward circular economy model.

Chapter 5 – Educational activity/actions produced in the Co-design Sessions

Session 1: Flower Pot

Number of participants	6
Duration	3 hours
Materials	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Plastic bottles and taps – Spray and acrylic colour – Scissors and snap blade knife – Rope – Hot Glue Gun – Board markers and pens – Plants – Soil – Ruler – Hot Glue
Description	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Cut the plastic bottle in half and use the upper part – Cut the bottom part of the plastic bottle, make a hole where the bottle neck will fit in – Cut small holes in the tap so that water can pass through, and then close it to conclude the bottom part of the plastic pot – Glue the parts to each other to create the pot by using hot gluegun – Paint the pot with spray acrylic paint – Make the paint dry – Cut different shapes from the other half of the bottle – Color / decorate with paint or with small brushes the shapes created – Glue the different shapes of flowers created from the rest of the plastic bottle and if needed use the rope – Combine the lower part (where the excess of water will end)with the upper decorated part of the bottle – Mix the soil and seeds and prepare it for planting – At the end, plant your seeds and flowers in your pot – The final recycled product is ready!

Session 2: Plastic Vase

Number of participants	15
Duration	2-3 hours
Materials	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Plastic bottles - Scissors - Scalpel - Acrylic painting - Brushes - Till(for decoration–pom poms) - Glue-Super glue
Description	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cut 1/3 of the upper part of bottle - Decorate it by using scissors (cut the upper part round or square shaped) - From the cut part of the plastic bottle, make decorative ornaments as desired and stick them on the vase - Paint the vase using acrylic painting and brushes - Make flowers out of till material and stick it on plastic stick

Session 3: Gnomes

Number of participants	15
Duration	8 hours
Materials	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Clothing - Fabric scraps - Scissors - Glue - Sewing machines - Needles
Description	<p>Repurposing old clothes into handmade gnomes can be a fun and creative DIY project. Instead of discarding old clothing, it can be transformed into adorable decorations for home.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Examine the old clothes to identify areas with interesting patterns, textures, or colors suitable for crafting gnomes. - Carefully cut the fabric following a template or a simple pattern to create the

	<p>body, hat, and arms of the gnomes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Use a sewing machine or needle and thread to secure the edges and ensure the fabric pieces are neatly finished and durable.
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Session 4: Plastic Jewelry

Number of participants	30
Duration	2-3 hours
Materials	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Old plastic bottles or cups, (collected in advance) - Bottle caps - Scissors - Scalpel - Candle - Sandpaper - Thread, Metal thread - Needle - Waterproof Acrylic paints and brushes - Super glue - Safety gloves and goggles
Description	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Emphasize the creative potential in upcycling bottles into jewelry pieces. Discuss proper tool usage and handling. - Finally get to the techniques of cutting the plastic bottles. Discuss the importance of sanding for a polished final product. - Encourage participants to sketch their ideas on paper. Provide templates and stencils for those who need inspiration. Discuss how to plan and incorporate different bottle parts into the design. - Let participants put their designs into action by cutting, shaping, and assembling the bottles. Provide assistance and guidance as needed. Encourage creativity in decorating the pieces using acrylic paints. - Discuss final touches and refinements to enhance the artistic value of the creations. Have each participant showcase their finished artwork and share their creative process. - Discuss the importance of recycling and reusing materials in every day life. Provide information on local recycling program and

	<p>centers for participants to continue their eco-friendly efforts.</p> <p>The task will be to make usable plastic jewelry.</p> <p>Preparation and process:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Participants should make sketches of their jewelry design so they can shape plastic as they wish- Cut plastic bottles or cups in different shapes and smooth their edges with sandpaper or lighter/candle- Participants can connect pieces by using thread or metal thread- For decoration, use acrylic paint and paint jewelry with waterproof transparent paint
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