



Green Care for NEETs and Youth Workers Seminar

KA1 Youth Worker Mobility

Venue: Piispala Youth Centre, Kannonkoski, Finland

Dates: November 2018 (to be confirmed)

For: 40 participants, recommended for Youth workers, Youth leaders

From: Erasmus+ Youth in Action Programme countries

Working language: English

Duration: 5 days + 2 travel days

Travel cost: According to Distance Calculator approved rate

Organizer:

Piispala Youth Centre is the biggest national Youth Centre in Finland supported by the Ministry of Education and Culture. Piispala was founded in 1982. Piispala has years of experience in youth work, social youth work and international youth work. In addition Piispala has conducted environmentally based youth work and education.

One of the main goals of Piispala is to maintain the development of the local, national and international youth work and to serve as a multi-sided center of sport activities and education. In all of Piispala's activities the emphasis is on holistic wellbeing and wellbeing is one of the key elements that Piispala promotes. Piispala runs several projects that support young people with fewer opportunities or young people in NEET situation. The projects offer help to support young people e.g. with their overall wellbeing and employment. Piispala's staff members include several professional youth workers.

Piispala has conducted Green Care activities since 2016 when Piispala's Animal Home Pihka was founded. Pihka has several animals and a small garden. In the Animal Home is conducted Green Care activities with different types of groups. Piispala's pedagogical and international team will be in charge of coordinating the seminar and together with partners they will create the seminar content. Piispala has a strong network with Green Care organizations in Finland and outside Finland and has the contacts and skills to produce a high quality seminar. Piispala wants to share, spread and pass on the knowledge and methods that Green Care is able to provide. Piispala has a Green Care Quality Label that is granted by Green Care Finland.



Description of the seminar:

Idea is to organize a 5-day seminar for Youth Workers and Youth Leaders who work with NEETs, that would enable them to learn new skills, create new networks, and find empowerment from nature and animals. The themes of the seminar are based on Holistic Wellbeing, NEET, Nature and Animals and the program is built around Green Care methods and activities. Seminar will include practical, hands-on and non-formal learning, in addition there will be several workshops and exchange of good practices. The seminar will also include expert lecturers from partners and non-formal educators from Piispala and partners. Participants will be able to learn and hear the latest research information related to effects that nature and animals have on human wellbeing.

Green Care (or Care Farming) methodology exists in many countries, however is not widely known yet. Piispala wants to share its experience in order to increase the interest of the concept and raise awareness of it nationally and internationally. In short, Green Care means wellbeing from nature and animals. Green Care methods help to sustain and increase human wellbeing. The 3 key elements of Green Care are responsibility, professionalism and goal orientation.

This seminar wants to provide the participants ways and tools to quiet down in one's self, empowering one's self and finding strength in one's self for work. Piispala is located in the rural part of Central Finland by the Lake Kivijärvi. The surrounding nature and the quietness offer an amazing place to calm down, and to find peace from the darkness that embraces Finland many months every year.

Themes of the seminar:

Holistic Wellbeing, Youth, NEET, Nature and Animals.

Specific objectives of the seminar:

- Green Care Methods and Knowledge
- How to sustain and increase holistic wellbeing?
- Nature and animals
- NEET

Potential partners and partner profile:

Each partner will send 2-3 participants. They should be Youth Workers, Teachers or Youth Leaders with experience in supporting the disadvantaged or excluded young people and who are interested in new approaches, and with a good working knowledge of English. Participants should be aged 21 or above. There is no maximum age limit.