

NEWSLETTER



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First Local Eco-Art Workshop in Cēsis, Latvia

The first local "TrashArt" workshop was successfully hosted by the Cēsis City Art School from February 2nd to February 3rd, 2025. This intensive two-day session brought together local art educators and school staff to practically test and implement innovative upcycling art techniques using household and industrial waste. The event served as a foundational step for cascading ecological awareness and sustainable artistic practices down to regional school students and the local community.



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ECO-ART WORKSHOP IN CĒSIS, LATVIA

The inaugural local workshop within the framework of the Erasmus+ maza mēroga partnerības projekts "TrashArt" was successfully executed by the Cēsis City Art School from February 2nd to February 3rd, 2025. This intensive two-day national pedagogical training event was designed to translate the overarching transnational environmental goals of the project into actionable, localized educational practices.

The primary operational objective of the workshop was to equip local art educators, pedagogical practitioners, and school staff with innovative upcycling methodologies. By utilizing household, consumer, and industrial waste as primary artistic media, the workshop established a baseline framework for incorporating environmental

sustainability directly into the regional art education curriculum. The event laid the essential pedagogical and practical foundation required to successfully cascade ecological awareness down to school students, institutional partners, and the broader local community.

Day 1: Theoretical Framework and Material Exploration

The first day of the workshop commenced with an institutional briefing led by the project coordinator at Cēsis City Art School. The morning session focused on establishing the conceptual intersection between contemporary visual arts and ecological responsibility. Educators engaged in a critical seminar reviewing global trends in "Trash Art" and upcycling, analyzing how waste generation can be subverted into creative resources to stimulate critical thinking in young learners.



The afternoon session shifted into a practical laboratory environment focusing on material auditing and sourcing. Participants brought in various clean consumer waste streams, including discarded single-use plastics, cardboard packaging, textile scraps, and structural scrap materials.

The core activity involved evaluating these materials not merely as waste, but through their formal aesthetic qualities—texture, structural integrity, translucency, and potential for sculptural transformation. Under the guidance of senior art educators, participants developed initial experimental compositions, testing diverse non-toxic binding agents and assembly techniques that are safe for a standard classroom setting.



Day 2: Practical Implementation, Methodology Development, and Peer Review

The second day was dedicated to the advanced technical synthesis of the materials explored on Day 1 and the development of reproducible lesson plans. The morning workshop challenged the participating teachers to work in

collaborative teams to construct multi-dimensional mixed-media art pieces and pedagogical models. The physical focus was on spatial transformation turning flat, rigid waste components into fluid three-dimensional sculptures and sustainable texture samples.

The afternoon session culminated in a structured peer-review forum and curriculum-mapping roundtable. Each team presented their physical outputs along with a draft pedagogical blueprint outlining how these specific upcycling techniques could be integrated into existing art classes for different age groups (ranging from elementary school children to youth). The educators evaluated the scalable difficulty, necessary timeframes, and required safety protocols for each activity, ensuring that the developed "TrashArt" methodologies are fully prepared for real-world classroom deployment.

Sustainability, Exploitation, and Future Outlook

The local workshop in Cēsis provided key qualitative insights and practical lesson plans that will feed directly into the final "TrashArt" project booklet and methodologies shared with partners in Cyprus and Greece. The event demonstrated that regional art schools can act as effective hubs for ecological change. The generated documentation and curriculum drafts will serve as a sustainable reference point, ensuring the long-term impact of the Erasmus+ investment beyond the project lifecycle.



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