

**TURNING WASTE
INTO MEANINGFUL ART**

TRASH TO TREASURE

KAI:

Youth

Mobility

Project Code:
2024-I-PT02-KAI5I-
YOU-000199198

Accreditation Code:
2022-I-PT02-KAI5O-
YOU-000106823

Website: www.dctnpt/trash-treasure

DS PROJECT   

1.0. THE PROJECT

With the growing global concern about climate change and sustainability, it is essential for new generations to develop skills and attitudes that promote a more conscious and balanced future. Through non-formal education and the appreciation of creativity as a tool for social transformation, this project was born to address environmental challenges with innovative and collaborative solutions.

"Trash to Treasure" aimed to transform locally collected waste into artworks capable of conveying a powerful message of sustainability and environmental awareness.

Over the course of one week, 29 young people from Portugal, Estonia, Germany, Cyprus, Italy, and France gathered in Fermentelos (Portugal) at UP Pateira Hotel to take part in activities focused on waste management, conscious consumption, and water pollution.

One of the most impactful actions was the litter collection along the streets and the shores of the Fermentelos lagoon, which served as a starting point for creating artistic pieces. Through this experience, participants not only reflected on the impact of their daily choices but also contributed to raising awareness within the local community.

Thus, "Trash to Treasure" showed that creativity, when combined with environmental awareness, can be a powerful tool for inclusion, civic engagement, and social change.

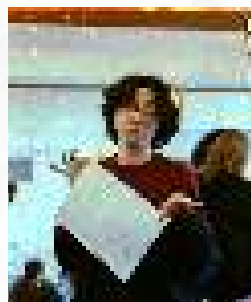


2.0. WHAT WE LEARNED

DAY 1

The project began with our participants focusing mainly on getting to know each other and exploring the development of the Key Competences [01], through group dynamics that helped explain this process.

[01] <https://www.youthpass.eu/en/about-youthpass/about/>





2.0. WHAT WE LEARNED

DAY 2



From Day 2, we started exploring the theme of pollution and excessive water consumption, analyzing the sectors that have the greatest impact on this resource, such as food (02), fashion (03), industry (04), construction (05) and technology (06).

We reflected on the lack of effective legislation in these areas and the role of politics in promoting environmental awareness. The day's activities concluded with a sharing session on waste management practices in each participant's country, encouraging an exchange of perspectives.

(02) <https://wwwstatista.com/chart/9483/how-thirsty-is-our-food/>

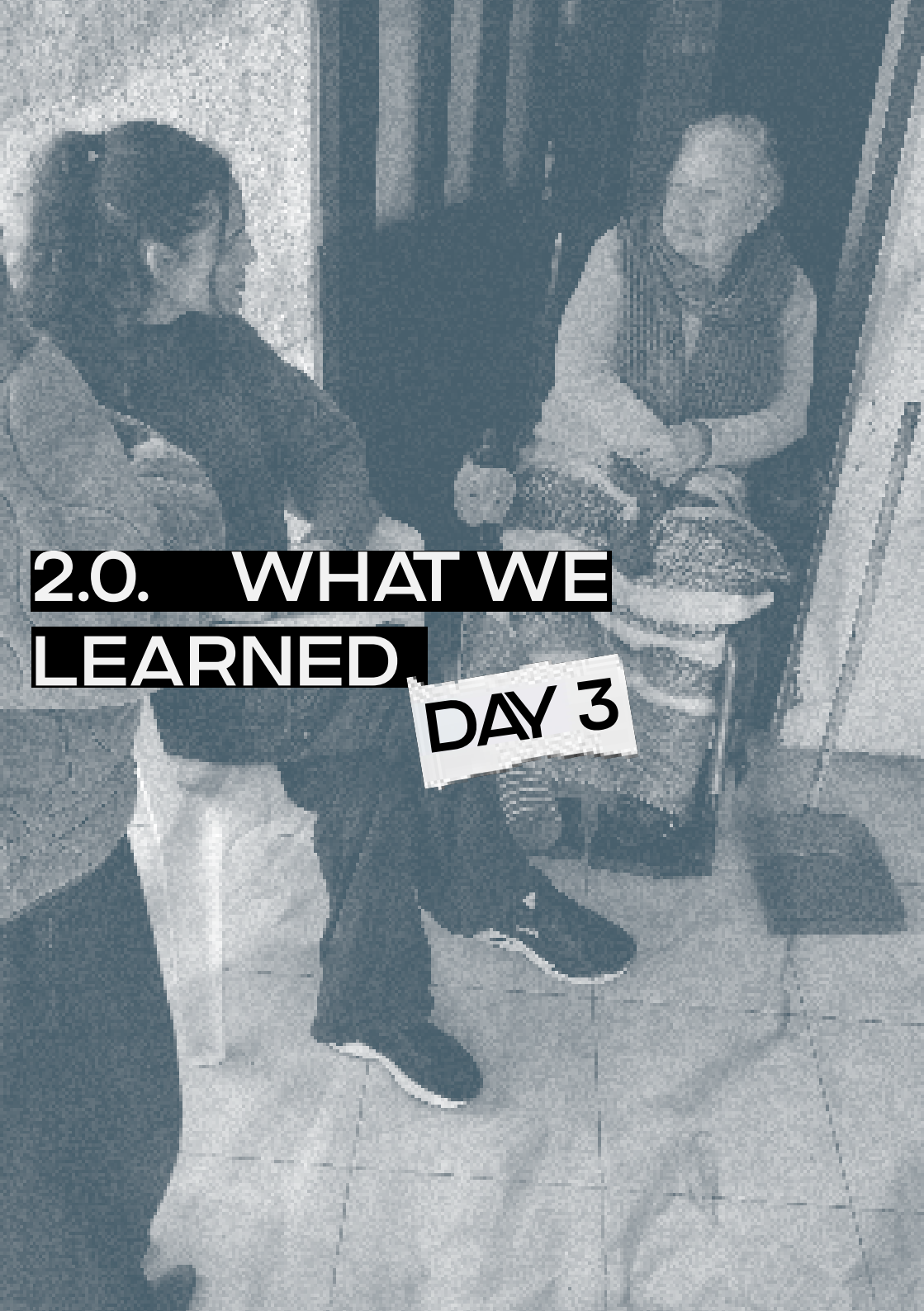
(03) <https://wwwsciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0269749124011692>

(04) <https://utulsa.edu/news/data-centers-draining-resources-in-water-stressed-communities/>

(05) <https://wwwsciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S2212982024001513>

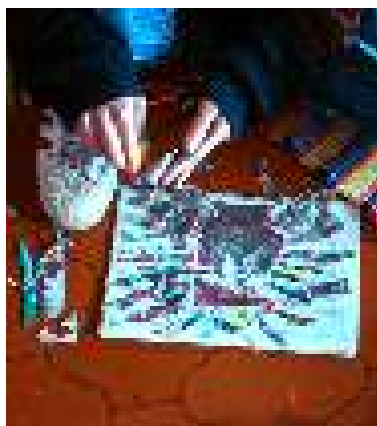
(06) <https://wwwsciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0048969719361212>





2.0. WHAT WE LEARNED

DAY 3



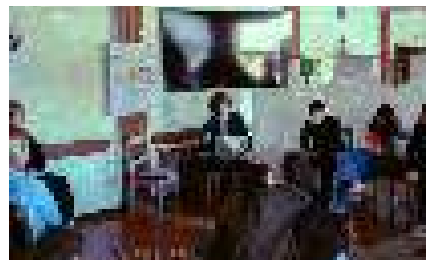
On the third day, participants went out into the streets of Fermentelos to engage with the local community on environmental issues. It became clear through these conversations that while some indifference existed, there were also people who were open and

even curious about the project. This experience revealed that, although progress has been made, there is still a lack of awareness regarding the importance of recycling and proper waste disposal.



2.0. WHAT WE LEARNED

DAY 4



The following day we explored creativity through the viewing of an inspiring video on human behavior as consumers and the urgency of rethinking consumption habits. The importance of recycling and upcycling was emphasized.

The video (7) also featured artists who transform waste into powerful visual and symbolic artworks. Inspired by this creative and sustainable approach, participants began crafting their own artistic pieces using the waste collected during the project.

(7) https://www.google.com/url?q=https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1W6ZjFtgwL_ojtlll2oocT7_nRoJVQ-3G&sa=D&source=docs&ust=1746305420063792&usg=AOvVawOH77qlsjfrLehoDOWJG8NC



2.0. WHAT WE LEARNED

DAY 5

On Day 5, participants finalized their artworks, applying the knowledge gained throughout the week. Through upcycling, they aimed to transform waste into pieces with both meaning and aesthetic value. The creations were presented in a public exhibition, delivering powerful messages about sustainability, recycling, and environmental protection in a unique and creative way.

On the next page, you can view our gallery with photos of the artworks created. The project concluded with an intercultural afternoon, where each country shared aspects of its culture, from cuisine to music, alphabets, and traditions, fostering a spirit of unity, sharing, and celebration of diversity.





3.0. ART GALLERY

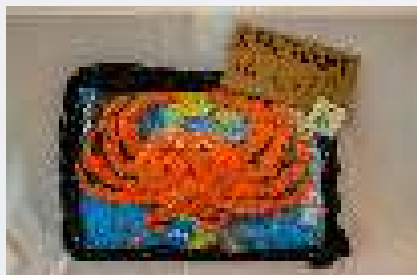


Shellution



Their Home.
Not ours.

"The greatest predator in the ocean is us. We are guests in their home, not the other way around."

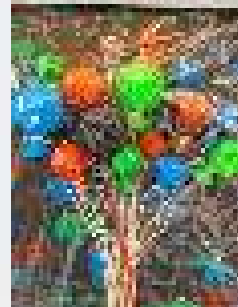


Crap, turned to CRAB



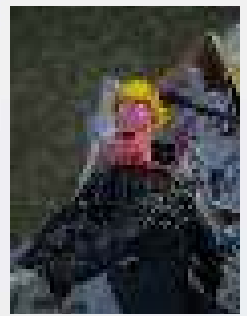
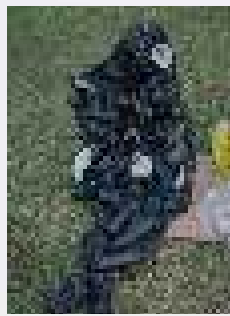


*“The importance of caring
for the planet starts with
our local community.
Every small step matters,
so that we can implement
changes in our daily lives
and do our part with care
and attention.”*



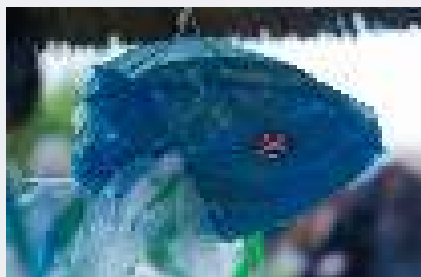
In this group, participants built musical instruments and created
a painting to be donated to a local primary school.





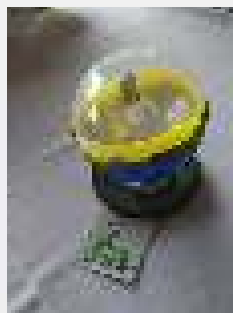
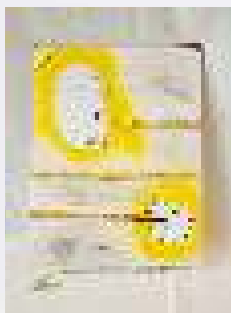
This artwork conveys the idea that our waste is contributing to the death of marine life. The aesthetics were inspired by local fishermen who fish in the Fermentelos Lagoon.





A project designed to raise awareness of the dangers of plastic to marine life, combining a simple and fluid aesthetic.





The creation of artistic ashtrays aimed to prevent cigarette butts from being discarded on the ground. By combining functionality with creativity, the project promotes more responsible behavior while raising awareness of the environmental impact of these actions.





“Each of us must take responsibility for how we treat the world. Otherwise, our homes and the nature around us will soon turn into a garbage dump.”



Last Light

*A representation
of the place
where the
participants
stayed and
carried out the
project.*



62%

Now better understand how they can have a voice in society regarding climate change.

92%

Recognize the importance of Erasmus+ projects and the European Union's role in combating climate change.

88%

Expressed interest in taking part in more Erasmus+ projects



Did this project
provide new and
useful information?



"Absolutely! After the project, I started being more careful about how I deal with waste. I created a small recycling system at home and talked to my housemates about separating plastic, paper, and metal."

"Yes, I started reducing single-use plastics, recycling more properly, and I even joined a beach cleanup with friends."

"I definitely reassessed my consumption habits. I clearly remember the poster we made about what daily actions we can take or change to have a smaller environmental impact."



5.0. PARTNERS

**because without them, none
of this would be possible!**

Associazione Echollective

Echollective is a social promotion association founded in July 2023 in the Valle Bormida region of Liguria, Italy. It is dedicated to artistic and musical promotion, with a focus on social and territorial inclusion. It is based on the values of Creativity, Innovation and Inclusion, organizing events that connect the present with the future of the Bormida Valley.

Dreaming Openly

Dreaming OPENly e.V. is a youth organization based in Leipzig, Germany, which promotes the development of young people through non-formal learning and mobility opportunities, both in Germany and abroad. Since its foundation, it has developed activities within the framework of the Erasmus+ program, including five youth exchanges, a training action, a small-scale KA2 project and sending participants on more than fifty mobilities.

Rae Youth Center

Rae Youth Center is a youth center that promotes inclusion and equality, offering a space open to all young people. It focuses on promoting equal opportunities, fair partnerships, education, entrepreneurship and playful learning, with attention to well-being and social inclusion. It hosts foreign volunteers through the European Solidarity Corps and actively participates in international projects under Erasmus+, including youth exchanges, small-scale projects and youth worker mobility.

PlanBE

PlanBe, Plan it Be it is a non-profit NGO based in Nicosia, Cyprus, dedicated to empowering young people and promoting positive social change through non-formal education. It focuses on areas such as entrepreneurship, creativity and environmental awareness, with special attention to combating climate change and promoting sustainable lifestyles. It develops workshops and projects on sustainability, circular economy, outdoor activities and agriculture, helping young people to acquire practical skills and contribute to a greener future.

Rakonto

Rakonto is a French non-profit organization that uses art and non-formal education to promote social and environmental change. It seeks to reshape the collective narrative, offering creative and positive alternatives to current discourses. Through youth exchanges, workshops and artistic projects with a social impact, it especially empowers young people with fewer opportunities to express themselves, imagine better futures and act for a fairer and more sustainable world.



We would like to express a special thank you to the people of the Fermentelos community who supported us in the construction of this project, showing interest in getting to know the works of art and taking part in our intercultural afternoon.





LINKS:

Website | www.dctr.pt/trash-treasure

Links to (some of) the content shared on social media:

<https://www.instagram.com/p/DHJoWd9i8c3/?igsh=MTI4eGs0bGc2OGRmdA==>

<https://www.instagram.com/p/DHbwyHKSgUp/?igsh=MWN0bW03MTU5a3F5aw==>

<https://www.instagram.com/p/DHrNjU5taLE/?igsh=YmxjYmQ2MGQ5cXl6>

<https://www.instagram.com/p/DIUTZxKIgva/?igsh=MWWVenQ0d25xOWlldg==>



