

CESME

Upcycling materials and skills / Two Hands workshop

Presented by RCSO

Point of contact
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Brief Description of Good Practice
<p>Two Hands workshop is an association concentrated on providing training and jobs for the unemployed or young in the most vulnerable position in the labour market. The workshop uses a lot of recycled materials, and for example produces clothing from them.</p> <p>The workshop idea itself is common in Europe (eg. Netherlands, Belgium), but the speciality lies in the collaboration of the workshop with the regional vocational institutions. The students can conduct their workplace learning periods or parts of studies by working in the workshop.</p> <p>Especially the studies related to business are an interesting combination with the recycling centre, and working on that area could develop the recycling to develop even more towards a business option for more and more companies.</p> <p>The vocational education is especially attractive among the youth in Finland, when compared to many other countries (eg. UK, Central-European countries).</p>
Problems/challenges and how they were overcome
<p>One problem faced was that some of the students who had already dropped out of the educational system have been even surprisingly hard to reach and direct to the workshop activities. The directing of the students from the usual educational institute to the different kind of learning environment should be organised by the educational institution.</p> <p>A good aspect has been that the persons without any degree or training, sent by the regional employment office, have been motivated very well during the period at the workshop. Even</p>

people who have been unemployed for several years and thus seen as unable to work, have been in the rehabilitative work in the workshop and after the period they have been able to continue studying or working.

One of the tools to overcome possible motivational problems are "skills diaries" which every employee keeps. The young people have been able to see personally, how many different skills they have or which skills they have achieved.

The way of working can be seen as not only recycling, but "upcycling" the people and their skills, and even getting the already "lost" workforce back to the society.

Impact from Good Practice

Quantitative and qualitative impact, how it was measured, etc.

Two Hands workshop is above the national average numbers in the statistics on how many of the employees get either a job or a place at further studies after the period in the workshop (43 %, whereas the national average is 21 %).

Lessons learnt from the Good Practice

Recycling should be seen as business more than before, and it should be commercialised stronger. The term "upcycling" would be preferable - meaning that the material can be used in a better way or improved after its original use/s. Recycling can involve planning and doing on a high profile, and for example reusing the materials can be associated with design very easily.

Recommendation you want to stand

It is recommended to further develop collaboration of the recycling and employment centres / workshops with the vocational studies, in order to improve employment rates and communicate on studying possibilities. The message should be directed especially to the youth.

For more information

<http://www.kakskatta.com/>