



International youth work in Hyvärilä youth centre 2022

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Summary

Volunteering activities

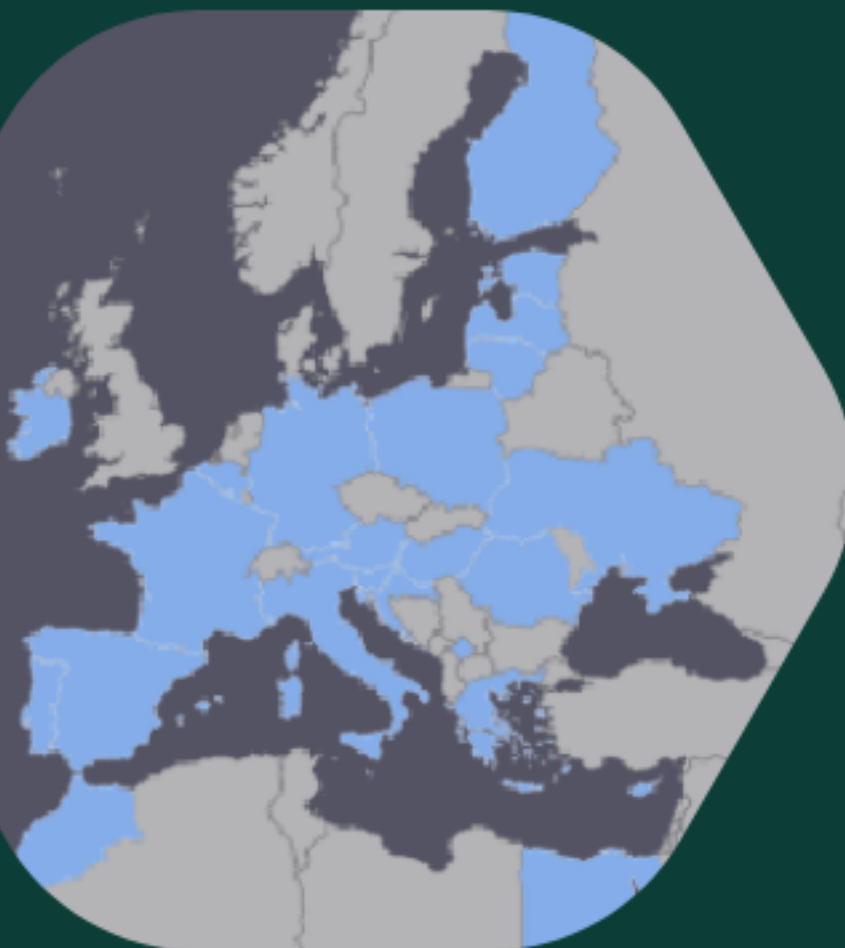
- * Green week team volunteering
- * Kekri team volunteering
- * Summer Talkoot team volunteering
- * Individual volunteering in Hyvärilä youth centre

Professional development for youth workers

- * "Brain Gain": training for youth workers in Italy
- * "Six handshakes" partnership building activity
- * "Stay connected" cooperation between schools and youth workers in rural areas
- * Escape town: outdoor escape games and youth participation
- * Art Escape: development of outdoor escape games based on cultural heritage

Youth exchanges

- * "We are one", Austria
- * "Ciao Italia", Italy
- * "CultuRE:Imagined", Spain



Finnish youth centres association strategy 2022-2024



Impactful youth work

Youth Centres deliver effective and verifiable youth work, and are widely recognised as experts in the youth field and among decision-makers.



A happy place to work

Employees are doing well at their job, and they give their best. Facilities are developed according to the development plan.



Sustainable services

Our services meet the needs of our customers needs, and are organised in a sustainable way.



**FINNISH
YOUTH CENTRES**

International youth exchanges



We are one. Weinburg, Austria

Young people from Austria, Finland, Romania and Italy spent 8 days in a tent camp in the Austrian mountains. They gathered together to learn more about sustainable development, community and health through non-formal learning activities. A real adventure and an experience of connecting with nature.



Ciao Italia! Salo, Italy

After a year of planning, youth teams from Finland, Ukraine, Italy and Poland came together for 8 days to dive into the topic of employment in Europe, and cultural exchange between young professionals. Interview role-play, CV writing tips, and personality tests were some of the activities to upgrade attitudes and skills of participants.



CultuRE:Imagined. Malaga, Spain

Creative project leaders from Finland, Spain and Lithuania gathered together after their online training of 2021 within CultuRE:imagine strategic partnership project. Their goal was to learn how to implement a project for the local community, which would bring light to their culture and history. The training brought inspiration and practical tips to plan local activities in Nurmes, Malaga and Alytus.



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GREEN WEEK volunteering team

25 April - 8 May

Volunteers from Ukraine, Italy, Croatia, Germany, Spain, Greece, Malta, and Finland came to Nurmes to promote sustainable living and join Pulaviikko activities, organized by the Nurmes municipality and local associations. Pulaviikko commemorates the times after the Second World War in Finland, when resources were scarce, and people were using up foods from their pantries, reused and repurposed clothes and equipment, found local substitutes for imported goods. Today, this frugal way of living is a choice for many people around the world, who are concerned with overconsumption and unsustainable use of resources.



Visits to local organizations

To promote sustainable living and international opportunities, volunteers visited local schools and organizations of Nurmes. They ran info sessions about ESC and Erasmus+, indoor sustainability research, environmental board games and workshops.



Cooking and sustainability

Volunteers learned how to bake traditional pastries of Karelia: Karelian pie, doughnuts for the Labor day, and even cookies with tree bark flour. Cooking together, they explored vegan and vegetarian food options and learned some new recipes.



Living in harmony with nature

Learning started with an introduction to the Finnish laws that exist to protect the nature, and safety rules of being outdoors. Volunteers ventured to hiking in the forest, collected birch sap, and spent a day cleaning up the Valtimo swimming beach.

SUMMER TALKOOT volunteering team

25 July - 8 August



Countries and 10 participants took part in the project: Finland, Ukraine, Spain, Portugal, Belgium, Poland and Italy



Nurmes organizations benefitted from volunteers' help: Murtovaara and Ikola museums, Wanhat Vehkeet from international workshops for the weekend market activities, and Hyvärilä youth centre with wildflower meadow maintenance



Days volunteers learned about helping biodiversity through action: building insect hotels, weeding out foreign species, collecting seeds of wildflowers, and cutting wildflower meadow with scythe



Of participants reported to have enjoyed an atmosphere of openness and good communication within the group.



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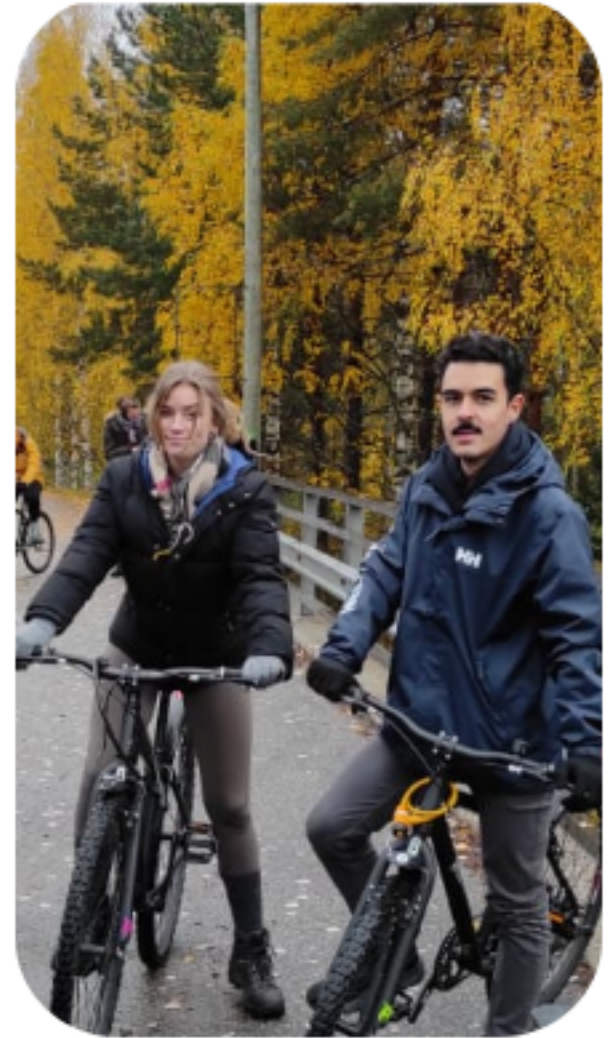
3 - 23 October

KEKRI volunteering team

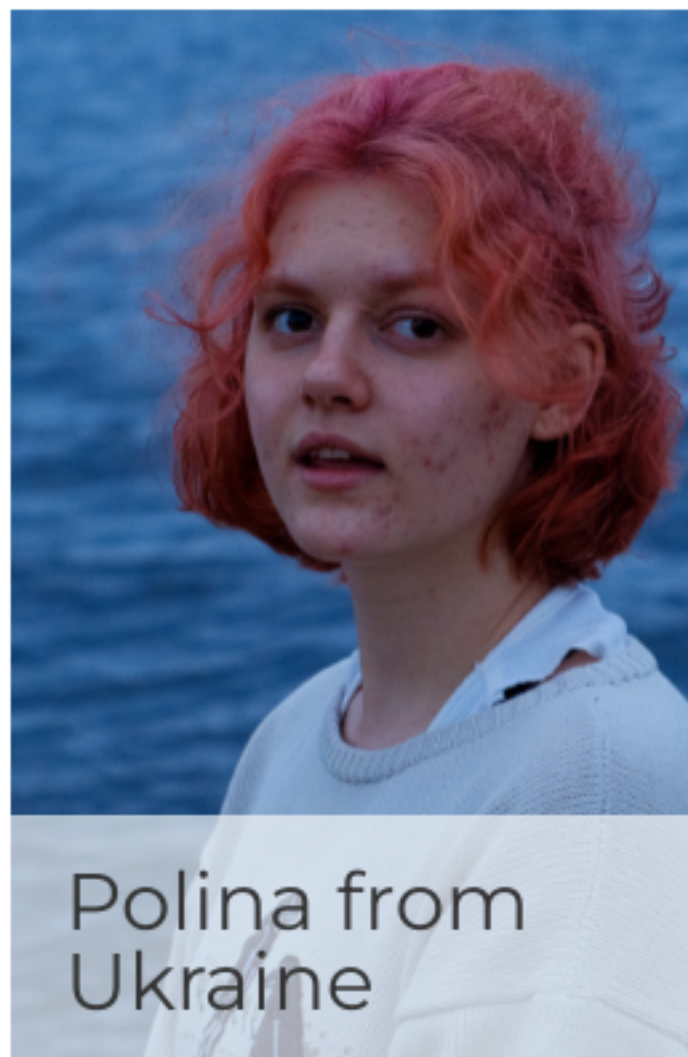
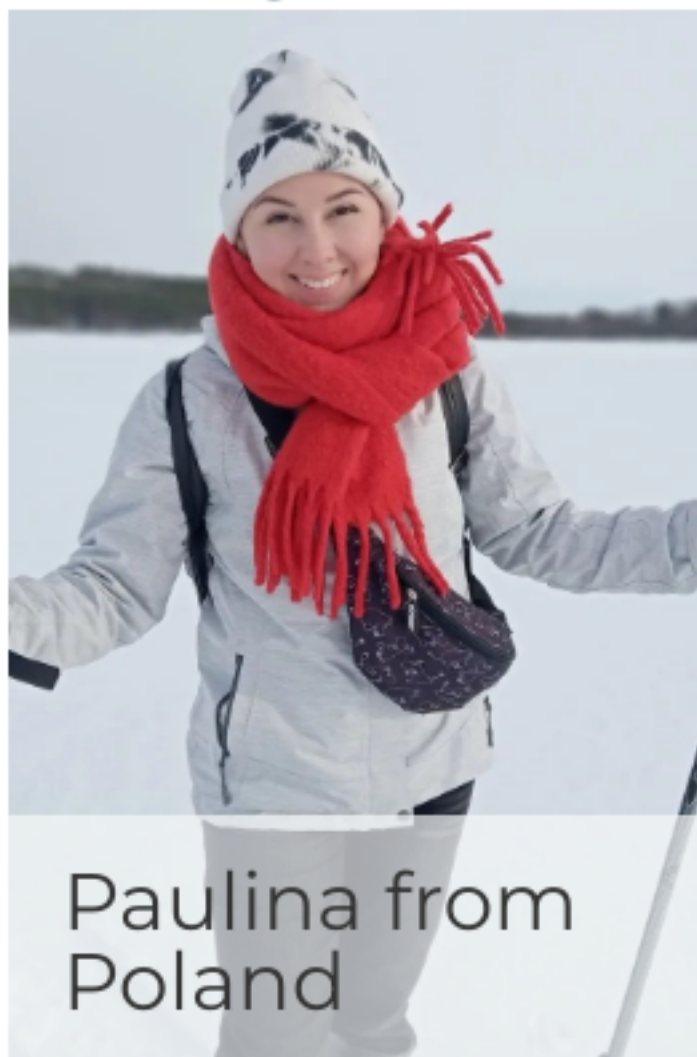
Kekri is a traditional harvest festival in Eastern Finland. It is the time for celebrating the change of summer light to autumn darkness. It is time for cooking traditional and local food, bringing people together and celebrating the light.

18 volunteers spent **3 weeks** bringing back the Kekri tradition by:

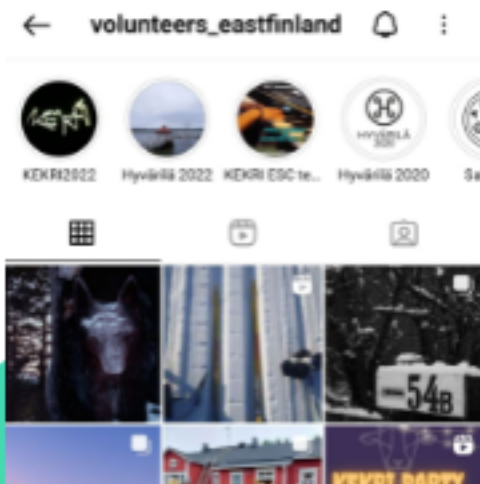
- organizing **craft workshops and games** for over 300 children;
- helping in organizing Kekri market in Ikola museum;
- planning and running a **Kekri party** for the local community and youth.



INDIVIDUAL VOLUNTEERING in Hyvärilä youth centre



Assisting youth workers in running camp schools



Running social media accounts and blog

Running free-time activities for Ukrainian children



Assisting in hosting international groups and volunteers



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Professional development for youth workers

Six Handshakes
Partnership building activity



Six new projects were planned between partners from Egypt, Morocco, Portugal, Finland, Slovenia and Ukraine.



Brain Gain
Training for youth workers and educators



Two representatives from Finland took part in the training in Italy to learn how neuroscience can help develop impactful learning activities for youth



Stay connected
Cooperation between schools and youth workers

Teachers from Finland, Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania came to a kick-off seminar in Hyvärilä to plan school exchanges and digital tools in education for 2023



Escape town: outdoor escape games and youth participation



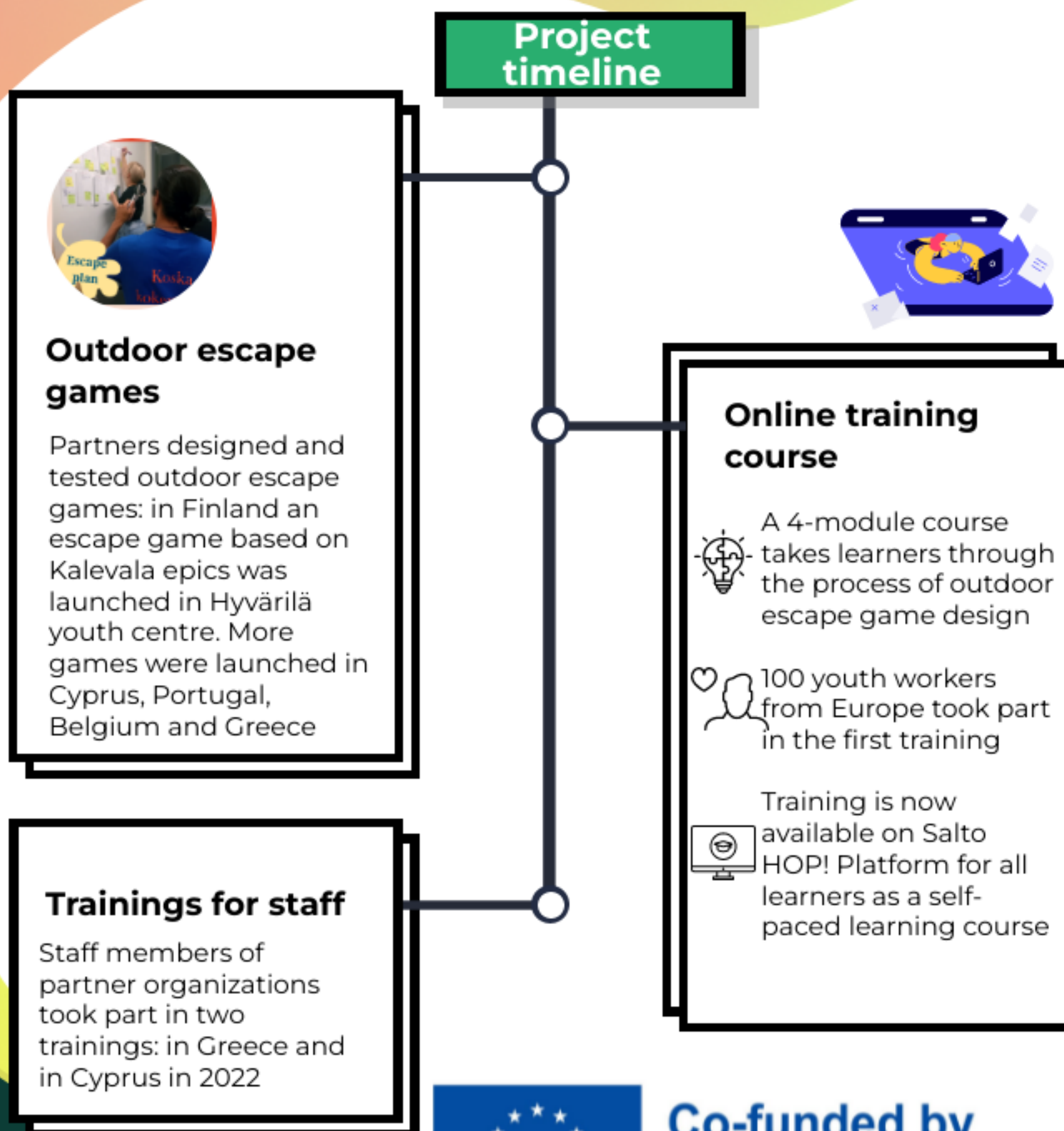
Strategic partnership between organizations from Spain, Finland, Hungary and Germany is focused on engaging youth from rural areas in discovering their local cultural and natural heritage through escape game development. In Finland a group of youngsters from Polvijärvi are working on an outdoor escape game for primary school students, which will take them through the most significant places of the municipality as they try to solve puzzles and enigmas. A toolkit for youth workers with summary of our experiences will be published as the result of the project in 2023.



**Co-funded by
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Art Escape: development of outdoor escape games based on cultural heritage

Strategic partnership between Belgium, Greece, Finland, Cyprus, Ireland and Portugal resulted in creation of five outdoor escape games based on history and folklore of partner countries, and an training opportunities for youth workers from all over Europe, who would like to design fun learning opportunities for youth.



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