

Summary of Study Visit in Zgierz/Łódź, Poland

The report aims to present the knowledge, skills, methods, tools, and insights gained from Estonia, Türkiye, Poland and Italy during the Study Visit in Zgierz/Łódź, organized by Stowarzyszenie Miłośników Kultury Ludowej FOLKIER, Poland, from June 26 to July 3, 2024. The study visit had four main objectives:

- ❑ **Exchange of experiences:** To share experiences, stories, and ideas among participants to learn from each other.
- ❑ **Knowledge creation:** To create a set of knowledge that would be useful in the remaining stages of the project and in further work.
- ❑ **Visit local institutions:** To visit local cultural and youth institutions to see and learn about innovative solutions and tools.
- ❑ **Meet experts:** To meet with experts, educators, youth and culture workers, and authors of applied local solutions related to the project's themes

In order to improve participants' comprehension of youth work and cultural heritage, the study visit included a number of essential elements, such as seminars, participatory activities, field trips to nearby cultural institutions, team-building activities, cultural exchanges and reflection sessions.

Preparation and key topics

Before their study visit to Zgierz/Łódź, participants from each country took steps to prepare and ensure a productive and enriching experience. After the study visit, they mapped out their learning points and key topics that arose during the study visit.

Soro Tori, Italy

Preparation:

Italian participants met online to discuss the project in detail. As all participants were already familiar with the project and had taken part in previous international activities related to it, they were well-prepared for the experience.

During visit:

Following the visit, the Italian team highlighted the value of each study visit in unbiased engagement with local culture. They emphasized experiential learning and "learning by doing" as key takeaways from their time in Poland.

Rõuge Noorsootöö Keskus, Estonia

Preparation:

The Estonian team conducted individual conversations to align everyone with the visit's objectives and created a Facebook chat group for discussing details and sharing relevant information.

During visit:

Estonian participants gained insights into using traditional crafts in youth education, observed effective community engagement strategies, and acquired new tools for experiential learning through theater and culinary workshops.

Istanbul Kultur ve Spor Derneği, Türkiye

Preparation:

The Turkish team encountered challenges with unexpected visa issues, resulting in last-minute participant changes. Despite this, a final team of 5 was formed, and a pre-departure briefing ensured everyone was informed about the visit's objectives and Poland's cultural context.

During visit:

During the visit, the team learned to integrate traditional crafts, like weaving, into youth cultural heritage education and observed effective community engagement at the scout association. Theater and culinary workshops at the cultural center provided new tools for experiential learning, impacting future educational initiatives and the development of their COOLTOUR Guide.

Knowledge transfer

The study visit enabled participants from Italy, Estonia, and Türkiye to gain valuable knowledge, skills, and attitudes, which they plan to integrate into their work with young people in cultural heritage, as summarized below.

Soro Tori, Italy

1

Youth support and media engagement

Observing a center for at-risk children and meeting with youth editors at a local cultural center provided valuable insights into supporting vulnerable youth and promoting critical thinking, creativity, and communication skills through educational media and community initiatives.

2

Experiential learning through arts and crafts

Participating in theater and weaving workshops enhanced competencies in developing emotional intelligence, teamwork, and creativity among young people. These activities highlighted the role of arts and crafts in youth development and cultural heritage preservation.

3

Culinary and folk traditions

Culinary workshops and activities promoted cultural exchange, teaching practical skills in traditional cooking and providing a deeper understanding of Polish folk culture and rituals.

At this stage, they are still evaluating how best to apply the new insights and knowledge acquired. They plan to gather feedback from the young people involved in the project to better understand their needs and interests.

Rõuge Noorsootöö Keskus, Estonia

1

Community renovation and skills development

Gained insights into how local facade renovation projects enhance living environments and provide new skills to residents, boosting community engagement and tourism.

2

Youth support systems and media initiatives

Observed effective youth support systems and learned about empowering young people to create and manage their own magazine, fostering creativity and leadership.

3

Comfort zone challenges and interactive learning

Embraced new methods for engaging young people, including non-verbal activities and movement-based games, which encouraged stepping out of comfort zones.

Estonian participants will apply new insights by integrating social projects with cultural heritage, creating hands-on activities that blend local traditions with interactive learning. They plan to organize museum events for youth to both gain and share knowledge and establish spaces for cultural exchange. Initiatives will include DIY cooking, a mix of modern and traditional music, and simplified workshops on folk costumes. To boost engagement, they will encourage local youth to create their own news, incorporate movement games and musical activities, and use reflective practices and guided tours to deepen cultural understanding and promote active heritage preservation.

Istanbul Kultur ve Spor Derneği, Türkiye

1

Interactive workshops for youth

Observed the effectiveness of interactive and supportive workshops for children and early teenagers, highlighting the benefits of engaging activities.

2

Cultural engagement and attitudes

Noted the positive attitudes of young people in taking ownership of their creations and the impact of live music on dance compared to recorded music.

3

Media and broadcasting

Gained experience in radio broadcasting, news presentation, and the impact of media, finding inspiration in board games and recording booth activities.

Türkiye participants plan to adapt orienteering activities for various educational settings, enhancing engagement through hands-on experiences. They will visit smaller city museums to help participants grasp local historical development, and create activities like dance and cooking workshops to foster a connection to their culture. Inspired by Polish practices, they aim to develop adventure-based activities in natural settings to promote teamwork and problem-solving. Additionally, they will incorporate local handicrafts into workshops, implement radio broadcasting activities to improve communication skills, and use creative drama and music workshops to deepen cultural understanding, while also exploring city tours and comics to enrich cultural engagement.



Project organizations



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