



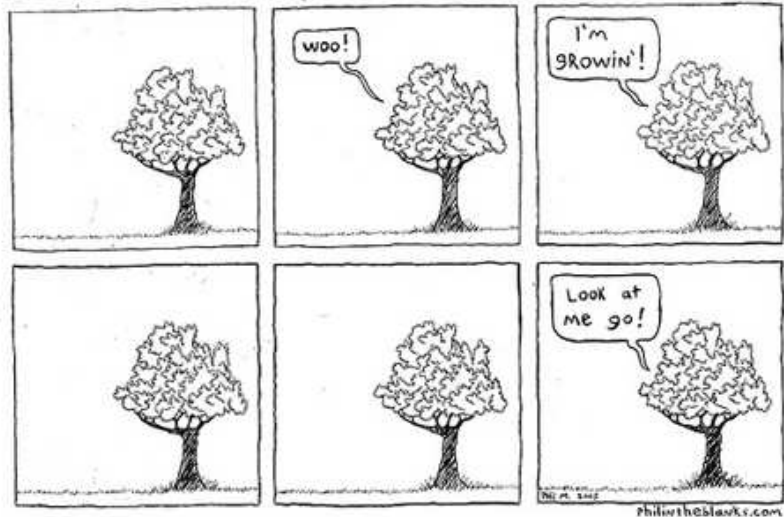
HYVÄRILÄ
MATKAILU- JA NUORISOKESKUS



YOUR LIFE IS A UNIQUE STORY

*Training course
on grassroots comics*

11.-18.10 2011
Hyvärilä Youth Center,
Nurmes, Finland



July 11th 2011

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

Welcome to the "Your life is a unique story"- Training course on Grassroots comics, that will take place in Nurmes Finland, from the 11th to the 18th of October 2011!

We are happy to inform that the project was approved by the Finnish NA.

Description of the project:

Project: Your life is a unique story - Training course on grassroots comics 3.1.

Venue: Hyvärilä youth centre, Nurmes, Finland

Dates: 11-18 October 2011

Partners: Finland, Romania, Belarus, Greece, Slovakia, Russia, Czech Republic, Slovenia

Total amount of the participants: 30

This training course will introduce a method of grassroots comics and how to use it in youth work. By organizing this training course we want to encourage young people to take initiatives in their local communities and influence on things by using this widely used method of comic making. In this course participants will learn how to use comics and storytelling with youth. One needs only a paper, pen and story to tell. Grassroots method will be used also for promoting Youth in Action program among the youngsters around the Europe.

Grassroots comic is a low-tech communication tool for youth workers, trainers and people active in their communities. Participants of the training course can have very little or no experience from drawing, as this method is suitable for everyone. Basics of comic making and techniques are

taught. Participants will keep visual diaries before and during the course. A comic blog will be created where all the stories and comics can be shared with the others. Course will include lectures, workshops and creative brainstorming in groups and independently.

Grassroots comics have been used by organizations to focus on different issues, such as racism, sexual harassment, girl child rights, school drop-outs, hiv/aids, sanitation, and right to education. These are just a few examples. Any issue, on which one can make a story, can be expressed through grassroots comics. World Comics Finland (WCF) has introduced the method of grassroots comics in global education and in social work.

Practical information:

Transfer info

Arrival: Tuesday 11th of October

Departure: Tuesday 18th of October

Kindly fix your flights so that you are in Helsinki before 3pm.

We organize a bus transfer for you all from Helsinki to Nurmes. It takes approx. 8-9 hours, but that is the cheapest way to reach Nurmes.

Alternatively you can take a train from Helsinki to Nurmes or fly straight to Joensuu or Kuopio (The nearest airports). From the airports you need to take a train or bus to Nurmes, which takes 2 hours. If you travel independently straight to Nurmes, we can pick you up from the local bus/train station. Inform us about your travel schedules as soon as possible!

Train schedules: www.vr.fi

Buses: www.matkahuolto.fi

Flights: www.finnair.fi

TRANSFER FROM THE HELSINKI CITY CENTER:

14.00 Meeting at Kauppatori market square, in the street opposite to the presidential castle (at the market square side of the street).

TRANSFER FROM AIRPORT:

15.00 Bus arrives at Helsinki-Vantaa Airport (at a stopping place for long-distance charter busses, please ask at Information at the airport)

Departure: 18th of October:

Early in the morning

(Bus transfer takes approx 8-9 hours. Try to fix your departure flights on Tuesday for the afternoon)

Transfer guide

Your transfer guide from Helsinki to Nurmes will be Maija Jeskanen

Please have her mobile phone number with you. +358 40 3564530

Transfer guide is only for the common bus transfer, not for the ones who have exceptional arrival times.

The Venue

Hyvärilä Youth and Holiday Centre: located in the town of Nurmes in East Finland. Hyvärilä is situated next to Lake Pielinen, one of the biggest lakes of Finland. Hyvärilä has various accommodation possibilities of quality, as well as great variety of youth activity programs. Please note that Hyvärilä has non-smoking facilities, meaning that it is not allowed to smoke inside the buildings at all (neither at the rooms nor the common facilities). If you are a smoker, there is possibility to smoke outside.

More information about Finnish youth centres: www.finnishyouthcentres.fi

Programme

Please find the daily programme attached. You'll get the more detailed version later. We will look into the daily programme on the first day of the training. Your comments on the programme are welcome.

PRE TASKS:

Here are the tasks given by your trainers. Try to find time for these before coming to Finland.

1) Have a visual diary for 7 days (at least 7 pages all together). For example draw your thoughts or things you / your friends / family / pets have been doing or do a pictorial notebook about news / events that interest you. Don't panic about drawing, ideas are more important than the pictures, use stick figures if necessary. Go black and white. Play with the truth.

2) For a minute, ponder how comics relate to your world.

3) Ponder and write down why you think that comics would be good in youth work and what kind of problems you might face.

4) Bring some of your favorite pens/inks/brushes with you. No worries if you don't have any, there are plenty at Hyvärilä youth centre.

Trainer of the course:

Meri Määttä: merimort@gmail.com

Travel costs

Concerning the youth exchange, 70% of the travel costs are covered by Youth in Action Programme for the participants from other countries. Please keep all your original travel tickets, bills and documents, as they are obligatory for the reimbursement.

Insurance

All the participants are responsible for obtaining a health and full travel insurance. The costs for the insurance have to be covered by you.

VISA

In case you need a visa, let us know about that as soon as possible. Visa costs are covered by the YiA programme.

Internet

There is one public computer in Hyvärilä and it's free of charge. Wireless connection is available in main building and in few accommodation buildings.

Accommodation and meals

Accommodation will be in holiday apartments or in the hotel of the youth centre. You'll be living in shared rooms with your own shower and WC. There's a common kitchen that you can use.

Meals will be served in buffet-style in the restaurant of the main building of Hyvärilä

For the meal drinks, water/juice/milk/non-alcoholic homemade beer/coffee/tea will be served.

Please let us know if you have special dietary conditions or allergies!

Other than these meals each day, the participants shall take care of their own snacks and other meals if they are needed. Please take these extra snacks and food with you to Hyvärilä, because the nearest shop is 4 km away. Hyvärilä has only a small bar-shop, where you can buy for example ice cream, soft drinks, coffee, cookies, candy, chips etc.

Weather & what to bring

The weather in October is chilly and it can rain a lot. Warm clothes are absolutely necessary, as well as a pair of good waterproof shoes. Check also the weather forecast at <http://www.weather.fi> before leaving your home country.

What you need: Practical clothes, raincoat/umbrella, clothes for cold weather/ outdoor sports, swimming suit and towel, warm shoes, personal things: hygiene products, medication, or other things you need for



your own well-being, camera, materials for your possible presentation, some gastronomic specialties from your home country (food and/ or drinks), and some other material you can introduce to other participants.

Nurmes, Finland:

If you would like to know a little bit more about this part of Finland before your arrival:

<http://www.visitfinland.com>

<http://virtual.finland.fi>

PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES & THE NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS:

Greece 4

Romania 4

Russia 4

Finland 5

Czech Republic 4

Belarus 5

Slovenia 4

Contact

If you need help, have questions or need further information during your travel, please contact:

Maija Jeskanen

International Coordinator

tel. +358 (0) 40 3564530

maiya.jeskanen@nurmes.fi

Additional contacts:

Hyvärilä Reception: +358 (0) 207 466 780