

Sharing knowlaga and connections

During the spring the main theme must have been sharing our stories and receiving new points of view from others' experiences

On 22 February, during the Multiplier Event in Humlebæk, Crossing Borders hosted over 50 people, including eco-entrepreneurs and students from local high schools. We had the pleasure to listen to inspirational talks from Simona Uvarovaite and Erik Clarke, who have developed their own environmentally friendly



businesses. Simona, who originally comes from Lithuania, started her company called Yours Again back in July 2016. She recycles old denim, by creating new original pieces of clothing. Her work can be followed here: yours-again.com

Eric Clarke is a founder of Gilbert Ecological Cleaning Company based in Sweden, and he offers cleaning services using ecological products, to both companies and private households. They both shared their experiences and participated in discussions with youth who wanted to more about the realities of building one's own enterprise.



During the event, we also facilitated “Pitch your idea” workshop, during which young people, interested in becoming entrepreneurs, exercised their skills in delivering a pitch to investors. For that purpose, we introduced the EcoStartup Toolkit, which contains guidelines on how to present and “sell” the business.

All in all, the Multiplier Event on 22 February met our expectations in terms of disseminating knowledge about the Eco-Hub project, as well as inspiring youth and connecting them with entrepreneurs in the field of eco and social entrepreneurship.

In the end of March, we got visitors to Tampere for three days. Our student in Tampereen yhteiskoulun lukio (TYK) has written a letter to give us a peak to those bustling days.

“In March we had the opportunity to host guests from Denmark and Sweden in Tampere. The guests arrived in the evening of Tuesday 28th to Tampere, and at our school Kalevan lukio we prepared pitas for the evening. With the pitas we used the Finnish innovation “Pulled Oats” which all together turned out delicious. Everyone seemed to enjoy and like this new, more ecological alternative for

meat! For dessert we had traditional Finnish blueberry pie that gave us a good laugh due to the blue teeth.

On Wednesday we started the day with a debating workshop. Debating is a great way to improve one’s argumentation and public speaking skills, critical thinking and especially putting oneself on someone else’s position. We debated whether or not school lunch should be vegetarian. The ecological impacts of eating a lot of meat were hard to debate about, but we noticed that many other things affect the decision as well.

After lunch at the school cafeteria we got to hear about what’s going on in Denmark and Sweden and prepared for the big event on the following day. In the afternoon a bus took us to



Tampere University of Technology to hear about bio- and circular economy.

We heard examples of ecological innovations, such as how to produce electricity with waste water. The evening was spent by walking around in Tampere and especially at the beautiful esker of Pyynikki. We walked up and down the famous stairs of Pispala and finished the night with a delicious dinner at a local restaurant.

Thursday was an early morning as we started by visiting the company Koneet Kierto. They aim to prolong computers' usage age by changing the software into a



lighter one. It was very interesting to hear about the owner's story and to see how easy it can be actually to get for example 5 extra years for your computer. Afterwards we went back to the school where our guests had a chance to visit some classes and present to the students some of what themselves are doing.

Then came the big event for the whole school, started by the school choir with a beautiful music performance. In the event we had a presentation by a Finnish Member of Parliament Harri Jaskari about environmental issues in politics, and heard about Crossing Borders and the Eco-hub project, the CO2-committee at Espergærde high school in Denmark and Gilbert's Ecological Cleaning Company founded by Eric from Sweden. The event went well and I really hope that the people got inspiration to make more ecological choices in their daily lives.



In the afternoon we still had some time to visit Nekstiili, a place where they reuse and recycle textiles. We heard about their solution to reduce the amount of textile waste, and saw the amazing things they've been able to accomplish there. We also visited a recycling centre where they sell the material. Each button, zipper and piece of cloth was at its own place and the place is a true heaven for everyone interested in crafts.

Unfortunately our guests had to leave right after. Although I wish we had had more time to get to know each other and share ideas, it was still a great opportunity to hear about what others are doing for the planet and to get new points of view for our decision making. “

- *Reetta Rossi, student in TYK*



*Author Lotta Wilén
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