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INTRODUCTION

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LEARN MORE ABOUT ENVIRONMENTAL ART
INTRODUCTION

The publication “Art for the Environment” was created as a follow-up activity of the international youth exchange with the same name. The youth exchange took place on 9–15 November 2015 in the Czech Republic and was prepared for young people interested in the topic of environmental art. This booklet was created by the editorial team composed of organisers and participants of the youth exchange. We worked together in order to collect examples of environmental art projects and workshops.

This booklet was created for young people who are interested in the topic of environmental art and would like to get some ideas and inspiration for organising their own workshops and activities with friends or local communities. On the following pages you can find out more information about the youth exchange “Art for the Environment”, an overview of what environmental art is and workshop ideas which were collected by the editorial team.

We hope that this small publication can become a first step for many young people on their discovery of environmental art and their creativity.

If you want to share your own workshop ideas, you can send them to Natalia Luchko (natalia@yeenet.eu) and they will be published on the blog Art for the Environment:

www.ecoartseurope.wordpress.com
The youth exchange “Art for the Environment” was organised by Youth and Environment Europe (Czech Republic) together with Look East Wild Earth (UK).

The idea of the project reflected the need for new creative ideas for workshops and actions aiming to raise environmental awareness. It was suggested to create a youth exchange about using art and creative ideas for environmental projects.

The aim of the youth exchange was to provide a space for participants to share and develop their creative skills in order to create environmental projects to support their organisations and communities.

The youth exchange lasted 6 working days and gathered 25 participants from 5 partner organisations: YEE (Czech Republic), LEWE (UK), OPE (Portugal), Biodiversa (Spain), EDEN Center (Albania).

The project took place on 9–15 November 2015 in the ecological center Kapraluv Mlyn located close to Brno, Czech Republic. The programme was prepared by 5 team leaders representing each partner organisation, who chose the methods, topics and decided who would facilitate each session. The participants were also actively involved in this project – each group had to prepare an environmental art workshop for other groups.

The project started with more of a theoretical focus on organising a project – the participants discussed the specifics of environmental and art projects. We also shared our experience of working with local communities and came up with tips to remember before organising a future project.

Several days of the youth exchange were then given to practical workshops. The participants from each partner organisation prepared one workshop for other groups. It was nice to discover our creative potential in all kinds of environmental art workshops: making mud graffiti, taking photos in nature, coming up with theatrical performances, making our own costumes, making mobiles to represent different ecosystems, discovering upcycling and exploring the grounds around us by making models of nature.

The youth exchange finished with discovering of opportunities of the Erasmus+ programme, planning the follow-up and evaluating the project.

We celebrated the successful youth exchange by organising a small exhibition, with each national group working the whole week to make an art installation to show other groups.
Environmental problems are often upsetting, complicated or frankly terrifying. Climate change has already created millions of refugees. We are all vulnerable. Pollution, waste and overconsumption are daily global problems. Many beautiful parts of our planet are being destroyed.

The reality is so sad that sometimes we do not want to think about it. Additionally, the science behind many issues is complicated. The messages are lost. We become unaware or detached from the problems.

Artists around the world are trying to prevent this from happening. Creative, inspiring people are producing amazing works that capture audiences. They can communicate problems through images, songs or performance. They can turn a difficult and unpleasant subject into a big conversation starter.

One excellently drawn picture can explain a problem and inspire change. It has a big impact and it will reach people who do not usually read environmental papers. In this way, art is a form of activism. It spreads a message. It is an action.

If environmentalism becomes a mainstream topic in the arts industries, it will grab people’s attention. If award winning novelists and songwriters choose to focus on environmental problems, society will listen. Art, music and performance are important to all cultures. There are so many creative ways to raise awareness of environmental problems and inspire positive change. Art can be used to protect and fight for our environment.
WORKSHOP IDEAS
MUD GRAFFITI

This activity can be an example of using natural resources for creating art. It can be a means for environmental activism - spreading the message across the city, but using materials which will not damage the buildings or trees. Mud graffiti can be put anywhere, just remember that they will wash off after a couple of hours.

You can organise an event for young people and children, teaching them how to make mud graffiti and spread environmental messages.

1. Create your stencil. You can draw your image or print it out from the computer. Attach the paper with the drawing to the paper sheet with tape and cut out the stencil. Or you can draw directly on the piece of cardboard and cut out your shape.

2. Make mud. You can mix soil and water, just make sure it is not too watery.

3. Choose the place and tape the stencil there. Then put some mud on the sponge and dab it on the stencil.

4. After you finish, you can remove the stencil and enjoy the beautiful graffiti.

MATERIALS
• Utility knife • Plastic sheet or cardboard • Sponge • Mud (water and soil) • Tape

PEOPLE
1–3 per graffiti

TIME
1–2 h depending on the size of the graffiti

Jesse Graves, artist who works with mud graffiti – https://jessegravesart.com/mud-stencils/
HANGING MOBILES ABOUT BIODIVERSITY

This activity aims to show the connection between the elements of different ecosystems as part of a whole system and involve the participants as another element of biodiversity, highlighting the importance of conservation. Participants should build a hanging mobile using their imagination and choosing from the available materials.

1. **Introduce the workshop.**
   First organise a brainstorming exercise to see what biodiversity means to the participants and what they think the main threats it faces are. It will show the connection between different ecosystems and how the loss of one element can have a negative impact on others.

2. **Participants should be divided into groups of five people.** Each participant receives a card with the name of an animal (cow, cat, monkey, pig, horse) and they must find their “family” by making sounds and gestures specific to their animal.

3. **Each group is given an envelope which represents an ecosystem and has a list of 5 typical inhabitants of the system.** Examples of ecosystems: river, ocean, city, farm and forest. You can add new ecosystems or more items to match the number of participants in each case. Each person must choose an element and make a figure, feeling free to take the materials and make it in their own way. When all figures are ready, the team should put them all together to create their ecosystem hanging mobile. For that step the participants would have 1 – 1,5 hours.

4. **At the end, when all groups finish their work, put all the ecosystems together to build a large mobile to show the connection between the different systems.**

**MATERIALS**

- Cards to divide groups
- Wood sticks
- String or ribbons to tie
- Paints, markers
- Scissors, glue
- All the materials you can find: balloons, clay, fabrics, wool, wire, or any other material

**PEOPLE**

25 – 30

**TIME**

2 h
NATURE PHOTOGRAPHY

This activity can be used for reflection and discussion about how much humans interfere in nature. The participants will create their own photos of nature but there will be one or two objects which only pretend to be natural, and will be made by the participants using either garbage or any other materials.

1. Introduce the workshop. Have a small brainstorming/discussion with the participants and ask them what nature means to them. What are the environmental issues that concern them?

2. Divide the participants into groups of 5-6 people. Each group should have a topic, for example, trees, water, stones, etc. But you can also give more specific topics if you want to focus on some concrete issues, e.g.: air pollution, water pollution, waste, etc.

3. The participants now have 30–45 minutes to decide and work on the picture which they want to take and how they will create an object. For example, if their topic is ‘tree’, they can make a fake tree out of paper or garbage. After they create the object, they should take a picture with it in nature.

4. After 45 minutes, collect all participants and their photos. Each group can then present their photo and explain what they meant in it. You can also have small discussions after each photo on the specific issue.

MATERIALS
- One camera per group
- Garbage or any other material to create a natural object

PEOPLE
30
up to

TIME
1 h

LINKS
Linda Gass – RIVULET AT PARKER CREEK www.lindagass.com/LandArtPages/MonoToDeath1.html
During this workshop participants will create river related art and will decorate fish shaped paper or cardboard the way they like. This workshop aims to call attention to watershed issues and to educate (young) people about the life and function of their watersheds, rivers and streams while creating environmental art. The participants can get to know where their local watershed is, where their water comes from, where it’s going and what they can do to prevent water pollution.

1. Hold a small presentation about your nearest watershed and its habitat.
2. Ask the participants to cut out a big fish from a sheet of A4 sized paper/cardboard (the paper should be reused, recycled).
3. They can decorate it as they want: with paints and pencils, mosaic stones.
4. Collect the fish.
5. Go out with the participants and find a fence near to your watershed.
6. Hang the fish on a shape which can imitate how they swim in the stream.

Stream of Dreams – Fish on fences: www.streamofdreams.org
The aim of this workshop idea is to raise awareness about environmental issues by using our sense of hearing and creating music with the sounds of nature. The participants have to go outside, for example into a forest, and find different tools that are capable of creating sounds. Then they have to work together to compose an “orchestra”, rehearse together and present the final melody. You can record the final result.

1. Go out into nature with the participants.
2. Ask them to collect tools which are suitable for making sounds and can function as an instrument. Ask the participants to respect nature and collect the materials which are already on the ground.
3. Let them introduce their found “instruments”.
4. Ask them to create an orchestra by having different roles for everyone, e.g. someone will be the drummer, the other one the violinist etc.
5. Now they can rehearse and create their small piece of music together.
6. At the end they can present their music and someone can record it.
This idea was inspired by a project “Self-portrait as revealed by Trash” by Tim Gaudreau: www.timgaudreau.com/2012/trash/trash.html

PHOTOS OF TRASH

This is an activity that can be used for raising awareness about how much trash we produce every day. You can organise a competition or an exhibition and involve a specific target group: your friends, classmates, colleagues, etc.

This workshop is about taking photos of every piece of trash you produce in some set amount of time (for example, a week). Then all photos can be collected and displayed in one place. Presenting the problem of everyday trash in such a visual way can become a starting point for discussions and changing lifestyles.

STEPS

1. Decide on how you are going to organise this event: by yourself or in a group of people.
2. Decide how you will share photos, either by setting up a group on a social media website, creating a new blog, organising an exhibition, etc.
3. For a set amount of time (for example, a week) take pictures of the trash you produce.
4. After one week, gather the pictures in one place and share them with people.
5. You can also encourage people to discuss the problem of trash and ways of reducing it.
6. You can also organise a competition. Invite people to send you their pictures of trash and choose a person with the least amount of garbage produced.

MATERIALS

• Camera • Place for sharing photos (either a website or an exhibition space)

PEOPLE

1 – 20
It can be one person or a group of people

TIME

week
Depends on you – should be a set amount of time (for example, a week)
The aim of this workshop idea is to raise awareness about environmental issues by using creative stickers. These stickers, when put on adequate places, should intrigue people and encourage them to change certain habits when it comes to nature protection. Furthermore, it is always a good thing to remind ourselves how we behave towards the environment. The topic of the stickers can be various, for example, you can put a sticker “Turn off the lights” in your house, “Don’t cut me” on a tree in a park. You can always order a sticker, but it is always better to create your own and then get creative by choosing the perfect spot for sticking it.

1. Print the image of your choosing.
2. Put the packing tape over the printed image.
3. Cut out the image with scissors.
4. Put the image in a bowl of water for about 2 minutes.
5. Take it out of the water and place it facing down on a flat surface and rub the paper until it comes off. You can rub the paper also under the tap.
6. Let the paper dry off so it can be sticky again.
7. Now stick it anywhere you want, of course, not endangering the environment.
8. Get creative!

Examples of environmental stickers: http://www.cafepress.co.uk/+environmental+bumper-stickers
4 ways to make stickers: http://www.wikihow.com/Make-Stickers

MATERIALS
- Packing tape
- Scissors
- Glass of water
- An image of your choosing, printed on recycled paper (it can be black and white as well as in color, but note: the background must be white)

PEOPLE
1 one person is enough
STAMPS ABOUT ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

Stamps are an easy and quick way to spread a certain message. Sometimes, even the smallest images can trigger an emotion in people or make them think. When it comes to raising awareness about the environment, you can use your creativity and create stamps that can carry out a message which can influence people.

By following these simple instructions, you can create your own stamp and then get creative and put it in various places that you find interesting and suitable for a message about nature protection.

It is also a great way of engaging children in creating their own stamps.

MATERIALS
- Rubber erasers, regardless of the shape, but big enough for carving (upcycle old erasers which nobody uses anymore)
- A knife
- Pen
- Pencil
- Piece of recycled paper
- Stamp pad

STEPS
1. Put the rubber eraser on the paper and draw around it with a pencil. Draw a design of your choosing in thick pencil, so the drawing is very visible.
2. Put your design on the top of the eraser. Trace your drawing with the pen but be careful not to damage the rubber.
3. Make sure you have your design on the rubber eraser. If it looks wrong and backwards don't worry, it will look the right way when you stamp it.
4. Using the knife, carve the design lines into the rubber and have in mind what will be inked. Be careful and precise.
   Start stamping and get creative!
5. GET CREATIVE!

DEAR HANDMADE LIFE - HOW TO MAKE A DIY CARVED RUBBER STAMP: http://dearhandmadelife.com/how-to-make-a-diy-carved-rubber-stamp/
INSTRUCTABLES - CORK STAMPS: http://www.instructables.com/id/CORK-STAMPS/
HOBBY FARMS - 5 NATURAL INK RECIPES: http://www.hobbyfarms.com/5-natural-ink-recipes-2/
Prior to the workshop, ask the participants to find a place in their communities to make their interventions. It should be some abandoned public space.

Begin the workshop with a brief introduction to guerrilla gardening and show some beautiful examples.

Give some info about what kind of seeds are more adequate for your city and where to find them for free (if possible). Tip: E-mail this info to the participants after the workshop so they can have the information for future interventions.

Hand over the materials and guide the participants through the making of seed bombs (mix the ingredients, bind them with water and make a small ball with the dough).

Put the seed bombs to dry on the old newspapers.

Once everybody has their seed bomb ready ask the participants to tell the others where they are going to use it and why. This way they all can check the result of the action! You can also get creative and plant the seed bomb in such a way as to create some art composition with flowers.

Help people make their communities greener and more livable by introducing them to guerrilla gardening and teaching them to make their own seed bombs. Encourage people to take a positive stand against the abandonment of their cities and towns.

GUERRILLA GARDENING

1. Prior to the workshop, ask the participants to find a place in their communities to make their interventions. It should be some abandoned public space.

2. Begin the workshop with a brief introduction to guerrilla gardening and show some beautiful examples.

3. Give some info about what kind of seeds are more adequate for your city and where to find them for free (if possible). Tip: E-mail this info to the participants after the workshop so they can have the information for future interventions.

4. Hand over the materials and guide the participants through the making of seed bombs (mix the ingredients, bind them with water and make a small ball with the dough).

5. Put the seed bombs to dry on the old newspapers.

6. Once everybody has their seed bomb ready ask the participants to tell the others where they are going to use it and why. This way they all can check the result of the action! You can also get creative and plant the seed bomb in such a way as to create some art composition with flowers.


MATERIALS

- Clay, compost and seeds (proportion 5:1:1)
- Water to bind
- Old newspapers

TIME

depending on the number of participants

9/16
Help people to remind others of the importance of natural environments by creating Haikus and giving them away to people on the streets. They will also be able to express themselves creatively.

1. Before the workshop, locate:
   a) a venue for the workshop near a green area of the city.
   b) a spot in the city for the giveaway of the Haikus. Ideally it would be a popular area of leisure in the city, where people are relaxed, such as a park or a square full of terraces.

2. Begin the workshop by explaining what a Haiku is, its characteristics and how it is written. Show some examples.

3. Give each participant a subject card. Subjects should be aspects of local nature (animals, insects, weather, plants...). Then go out to the green area nearby and ask the participants to look for inspiration regarding their subject. They should note down the words they come up with while walking around and observing nature in detail.

4. Go back indoors and tell the participants to write quickly a first version of their poem, consisting of two lines related to their subject and a third one with a different and surprising point of view. When they're finished, ask them to read their creations aloud. This will be funny and hearing the sound of their words and sharing them with the others will help them to improve the poems in the next step.

5. Now it's time to adapt the poems to the Haiku syllable structure in a little piece of paper. Give them a little more time for this process, then make them read their Haikus aloud.

6. Finally, go outside so the participants can give their Haikus away and share with other people their love for nature.

**TIP:** NGOs can include their URL or Facebook profile below their poem to give visibility to their activity, the intriguing nature of the Haiku will for sure make some people curious!

**MATERIALS**
- Inspiration images (magazines, brochures, Pinterest Boards) related to nature, endangered species, etc.
- Cards with subjects
- Paper (reused and recycled, if possible)
- Pens or pencils
- Scissors

**LINKS**
How to write a Haiku: https://www.sophia.org/tutorials/how-to-write-a-haiku
DIY ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY GLUE

Teach activists how to easily make eco-friendly glue to use on their creations. Inspire them to be creative and make their own art supplies out of unexpected materials.

**STEPS**

1. **Start the workshop with a little introduction.** Explain there's no need for fancy materials to create art pieces. Instead, you can use natural materials found nearby (branches, clay) or even everyday materials in your house (like cooking ingredients, old pots, papers, etc.). This way your art will have a low environmental impact, and a low cost too!

2. **Explain the glue recipe to the participants and hang it somewhere visible.**

3. **Heat the water and pour it into the jars.**

4. **Now the participants will have to take a spoon and a jar and start mixing the ingredients until they get a more or less smooth paste.**

5. **Glue is ready! Tell the participants to keep the jar closed, preferably in the fridge and use it within the next two days.**

6. **Give some final explanations on how to use it properly:**
   - it works best on smoother surfaces;
   - you need a brush to apply it;
   - you have to wet the surface first, then place the piece you want to stick and keep adding glue over the piece until is fully stuck.

**MATERIALS**

- Boiler/microwave
- White flour; 1/3 cup per participant
- Sugar; 2 tbsp per participant
- Water; 1 cup per participant
- Glass jars with lids (not new ones, reuse them); 1 per participant
- Spoons (or any other tool available to stir & mix); 1 per participant

**PEOPLE**

4 – 6

**TIME**

30 min

**LINKS**

Different homemade glue recipes: [http://www.wikihow.com/Make-Glue](http://www.wikihow.com/Make-Glue)


An arboretum is a botanical garden or an area destined to the cultivation of a collection of trees, shrubs, herbaceous plants, medicinal, ornamental or other, maintained and ordered, scientifically documented and identified, and open to the public for recreational purposes, education and research. During the workshops the participants can create their own small models of nature around them.

**Steps**
1. Go for a walk outside with your group.
2. Choose 2 or 3 trees, shrubs or herbaceous plants.
3. Collect evidence and take photos, this will help the group to identify the species.
4. Create identification cards describing the plants, trees and shrubs in a creative and artistic way.
5. Create examples of informative boards which will provide information about the represented species.
6. Build a model arboretum using natural materials collected during your walk, and old materials.
7. Present your model to other groups.

**Materials**
- Recycled paper and flipchart paper
- Cardboard box
- Natural materials (leaves, twigs, etc.)
- Glue
- Paints
- Pencils
- Pens

**People**
3–5 per group

**Time**
1 h
This idea comes from the publication “Games for Nature”: http://yeenet.eu/images/stories/pdf_books/GAMES_FOR_NATURE.pdf

**TREE SCULPTURE**

This activity is a great example that environmental art can be created without any additional materials, just using what nature around us can offer. Invite your friends for a walk in a park or nearby forest. You can create your own tree spirits there which will help you connect with the place and nature.

1. Go for a walk with your friends or participants in a park or forest.
2. Choose one tree which you find interesting.
3. Find the materials for creating a tree face: mud or clay, flowers, twigs, leaves, etc.
4. Create a tree spirit with your group and think of its story as well.

**MATERIALS**

- Only natural materials found in the park or forest, don’t use anything additionally.

**PEOPLE**

Any

**TIME**

1 h around
UPCYCLING

Upcycling is a more creative alternative to dealing with waste. It is about taking waste and making it into something that has equal or greater use or value. It can be also used for art - you can create art objects from trash and use them for decoration, raising environmental awareness and developing your creativity. There are many ideas which you can develop using this concept.

STEPS

1. Collect the trash which you want to use for the project.
2. Choose an environmental topic which you want to focus on with your project.
3. Decide on the art object which you want to create with your trash – you can create mosaics from bottle caps, paper figures, etc.
4. Let your imagination rule and create your beautiful piece of art from the garbage.
5. Share your art with the public - upload photos online or showcase the objects in a public place.

MATERIALS

- Trash
- Additional materials needed for specific project: paints, pencils, pens, recycled paper, scissors, glue, etc.

PEOPLE

any

TIME

Dependent on the project

LINKS

YEE Upcycling Campaign: http://yeenet.eu/index.php/campaigns/up-cycling-campaign
Upcycle that - Art: http://www.upcyclethat.com/make-that/art-make-that/
ENVIRONMENTAL POSTERS

You can create your own posters about specific environmental issues using software for graphic design. You can promote these posters on your website or social media pages or print them on recycled paper and spread them around your neighbourhood. You can create beautiful images which can provoke people to think about the environment and their lifestyle.

1. Choose an environmental topic which you want to draw attention to. Your poster should have a clear message and call for action. It should be clear what you want people to do when they look at your poster.

2. There are many softwares for creating designs. You can also use free ones. For example: www.canva.com.

3. You can find some inspiration online but remember to be original.

4. After creating your poster, you can start promoting it – share it online or print it on recycled paper and spread it around your local community.

MATERIALS

- Computer
- Software for designing the poster
- Recycled paper (if you want to print it)

PEOPLE

1 or more

TIME

1 h

LINKS

Graphic imperative: http://www.thegraphicimperative.org/
Free softwares: http://mashable.com/2007/10/27/graphics-toolbox/#3kAm8kYvr8qs
ECO THEATRE

This workshop is an alternative way for people to express their ideas, knowledge and concerns about the environment. Theatre can be fun and challenging. The final performances also spread a message to audiences.

**STEPS**

1. Start with a theatre warm-up exercise. Put on some music and ask your participants to walk or dance around the room. Stop the music and ask them to find a group of 3 people and form a snake. Once every group is acting like a snake, start the music again. The next time ask them to find a group of 4 and become the ocean. Keep going like this - be inventive! The last group people are in will be their performance group.

2. Ask your performance groups to decide on an environmental issue for their play.

3. Once all groups know what their play will be about, introduce the trash, old fabric, pens, wool, string and tape. They will make costumes, masks and puppets out of these materials for their play.

4. The groups should create their play. The costumes, masks and puppets will help them find ways to be creative.

5. Finally, each group should perform their play. They can go on to perform their play to family, friends and community groups, or even on the street!

**MATERIALS**

- Trash (yoghurt pots, plastic bottles, egg cartons etc.)
- Old fabric
- Pens, string, wool, tape

**PEOPLE**

10 – 30

**TIME**

2 – 3 h

A professional Eco Theatre Company - Eco Drama http://www.ecodrama.co.uk/
Blog “Art for the Environment”
https://ecoartseurope.wordpress.com/
Green museum
http://greenmuseum.org/
Guggenheim – Environmental art
http://www.guggenheim.org/new-york/collections/collection-online/movements/195235
Green Arts Web
http://www.greenarts.org/artprojects.html
The Art Story – Earth Art
http://www.theartstory.org/movement-earth-art.htm
Inhabitat – Environmental art
http://inhabitat.com/tag/environmental-art/
Ecosalon – 20 Unforgettable Works of Environmental Art
http://ecosalon.com/20_unforgettable_works_of_environmental_art/
Huffington post – 18 Green Artists Who Are Making Climate Change And Conservation A Priority
http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2014/07/15/environmental-art_n_5585288.html
Eco-Arts Space
http://ecoartspace.blogspot.cz/
Ecovention
http://greenmuseum.org/c/ecovention/intro_frame.html
Cultural politics – Environmental Justice Eco-Art
http://culturalpolitics.net/environmental_justice/art
Women Environmental Artists Directory
http://weadartists.org/
YEE and LEWE

This booklet was created by Youth and Environment Europe and Look East Wild Earth.

Youth and Environment Europe (YEE) is a platform of many European youth organisations that study nature or are active in environmental protection. These member organisations come together from 26 countries. The aim of YEE is to encourage youth to be involved in environmental protection and to provide a platform where these organisations can work together. YEE gives an opportunity to contact other European organisations, to exchange experiences and ideas and to work together.

www.yeenet.eu

Look East Wild Earth (LEWE) are a group of British people who are passionate about nature conservation and environmental issues in Russia, Eastern Europe and Central Asia. Many have volunteered on projects or simply travelled around and love the beauty of these countries. Over the past ten years, Look East has supported partner NGOs, sent volunteers out on placements and organised international events.

www.lookeast.org.uk

ERASMUS+

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“Erasmus+ is the EU Programme in the fields of education, training, youth and sport for the period 2014-2020. Education, training, youth and sport can make a major contribution to help tackle socio-economic changes, the key challenges that Europe will be facing until the end of the decade and to support the implementation of the Europe 2020 strategy for growth, jobs, social equity and inclusion.”

Erasmus+ Programme Guide

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