

Up cycling & Recycling

In Kenya, environmental sustainability in the local community is hindered due to careless exploitation on natural resources and limited recycling applications. Local people are not favorable towards new and eco-friendly solutions. Furthermore, there is no state-run recycling infrastructure and no monitoring and enforcing of penalties for illegal waste dumping.

However, local-based initiatives, such as TakaTaka2Pesa (Waste2Money), collect waste from the streets, thrift shops or factories in order to transform them into beautiful and useful everyday products. This particular initiative was set up a few years ago and consists currently of 15-20 members (mostly women) who use what others throw away (from plastic bottles and wool to scrap metal, coconut shells and many other things) generating income to support themselves and their families.

In Greece, although people seem to lack environmental awareness and education, there are a lot of different initiatives that are considered sustainable on environmental, economic and social perspective.

One of those is the [ReMakers project](#) of [Athens Makerspace](#) that participants of the Job Shadowing visited and experienced a workshop with the Precious Plastics Machines presented in the Activity 5.5.

Athens Makerspace is a physical community space where tools and machinery are structured and organized in different fields of fabrication, both from new and traditional technologies. They provide open access to anyone in return for a small monthly fee, while promoting the DIY (Do It Yourself) and DIT (Do It Together) mentality. They focus on digital fabrication technologies and rapid prototyping of physical objects. Within the Makerspace hands-on educational workshops take place, with the goal of learning by doing. ReMakers project supports the organization and implementation of such innovative education and free workshops, making a social impact and being open to all refugees and unemployed individuals in Athens.

Participants in the Job Shadowing in Kenya: Nikolaos Papachristodoulou (Greece), Ion Lera Sanchez (Spain), Jesus Carrido (Spain), Christos Zisis (Greece), Tram Nam Khanh (Vietnam), Mohammed Andani (Ghana), Samson Ochieng Obonyo (Kenya), Benjamin Omondi (Kenya), Reagan Otieno (Kenya), Amos Okech Odera (Kenya), Peter Kosgey Okeyo (Kenya), Odhiambo Akuma (Kenya).

Participants in the Job Shadowing in Greece working in this activity: Fred Deya (Kenya), Shaibu Abukari Niendow (Ghana), Do Thi Phuc (Vietnam).

Activity 5.6 Forum Theater: Plastic Pollution

Goal: Participants are engaged in recycling and up cycling, exploring the difficulties in decision making process

Method: Role playing, Forum Theater

Materials/context: plastic waste materials, tape, markers, threads, scenario “Community problem: Plastic Pollution”, roles

Estimated Time: 1 h 30 mins—2 hs

Level: 2

Description: The activity requires a big training room that can be divided to accommodate two sub-groups or otherwise two different rooms. Speakers and music could be useful. A stage would be ideal but not necessary. Participants may be asked to bring with them plastic waste materials from home. Participants are divided in two groups where the group performing should have about 8 participants.

Preparations (45 mins)

- The first group is provided with a case about plastic waste management. They are assigned with different roles (e.g. local community, NGOs, local governance, and businesses) and their goal is to find together a solution to the community problem of plastic pollution while performing in front of the audience and considering that there is a conflict due to opposite interests between the roles. Participants can be provided with an introductory piece of scenario to develop further or be free to create something completely on their own. Each group will be given a big bag of recyclable materials which they may use for their performance (as ornaments, costumes, setting, decorations etc.).
- The other group is brainstorming, searching and discussing about causes, effects and solutions of plastic waste.

In the beginning of the theatrical play, the facilitator of the play explains to the audience that at any moment, when they are not satisfied with the solutions or opinions of any actor, they can go on the stage replacing the actor and taking his or her role. In the end, there should be common solutions that satisfy both the audience and the performers. There should be at least 2 participants taking notes of important instances during the play. (45)

Debriefing follows the activity, including sharing of emotions and observations. Participants should be asked to make connections with the everyday life situations. (30mins).

This method is called "Forum Theatre" created by Augusto Boal and it is one of the techniques under the term of **Theater of the Oppressed**.

This activity is the result of the merging of two different activities designed during two Job Shadowing activities, one in Kenya and one in Greece.

Edited by Amerissa Giannouli