

## ACTIVE AND CREATIVE RURAL YOUTH!

(INTERNATIONAL YOUTH PROJECT, proposal from beautiful waterway area from Finland with thousands of lakes)



**The goal is to increase young people's active participation, their own initiative, creativity, and responsibility towards the issues of common interests, to support international cooperation and exchange of information and experience**

### **Background:**

Settlement Uncle's Hat group is a local settlement association working in Leppävirta, FINLAND. This association was founded in 1995. Uncle's Hat belongs to Finnish Settlement League and International Settlement League (IFS). Uncle's Hat provides housing facilities to special groups and organizes volunteer works for the people of different age groups. Youth activity development is an important developing area these days. Tolerance, acceptance of diversity, equality and helping disadvantaged people are also youth-activity's values. Leppävirta is situated in the North-Savo region in Eastern Finland. The distance is 52km to the south from Kuopio and 24km to the north from Varkaus. There are 11.000 inhabitants in Leppävirta.

### **Target group**

The target group consists of young people between the age groups of 13 to 19 years, in Leppävirta, Varkaus and Kuopio peripheral area. The cooperative partners can come from any country in EU Leader (rural) area.

### **Time Table**

Initial reporting: 1.3.2010-31.10.2010, **Project: 1.11.2010-31.12.2012**

### **Aims of the project**

The aim is to bring young people's own views forward to develop youth activities within the municipal

region of Leppävirta, Varkaus and peripheral areas of Kuopio city. The goal is to increase young people's active participation, their own initiative, creativity, and responsibility towards the issues of common interests, to support international cooperation and exchange of information and experience. The project is carried out in collaboration with the municipality of Leppävirta, the church, Kuopio settlement Puijola and also with active youth activity centers in the area.

**We would like to showcase the hopes and aspirations of young people already in the planning stage of the youth activity. The idea is to have youth's personalized work space, where it is possible to hold all open gatherings in the youth cafe and also various workshops, such as the media workshop, art workshop, and music- workshop. Along with these young people, project- workers and professional experts coordinating the workshops for ex: photographer, editor etc., will also work in the project. The goal is to develop a workable and durable activity, and the important theme is create connections between rural youth internationally. International workshops will be implemented between youth.**

#### **The project offers to the youth**

- international contacts and international exchanges
- networking with young people from different countries
- innovative ideas
- sense of community and the joy of working together
- job and internships for youth café and workshops
- an opportunity to develop their own living environment
- an effective channel locally, regionally and internationally
- space for various hobbies and crafts
- meaningful leisure time, an opportunity to test and develop new stories in the workshops
- a safe and comfortable working environment
- friendship societies
- adult support and guidance

#### **Contact person:**

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Rural Partners/international activator

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