

# **3T: TRASH TO TREASURE**

**“Teaching Youth the Value of a Cleaner Future”**



**15.11.2025-25.11.2025**

**VIENNA, AUSTRIA**

**Hosted by**

**ViaEuropa Exchange and Culture Future**



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## 1. Introduction – A European Journey Begins in Vienna

Welcome to our project booklet for 3T: Trash to Treasure 3 - Teaching Youth the Value of a Cleaner Future. This booklet was created to share our experience from the youth exchange that took place in Vienna, Austria, from 15–25 November 2025. The project was hosted by ViaEuropa Exchange and Culture and co-funded by OeAD through the Erasmus+ Programme.

Young people from Austria, Spain, Italy, Hungary, Türkiye, and North Macedonia came together to learn about one important topic: how we can protect the environment by reducing waste and turning “trash” into something useful. Vienna, with its clean streets, strong recycling culture, and friendly international atmosphere, was the perfect place for this learning journey. For many of us, it was also our first time visiting Austria, which made everything even more exciting.

One of our favourite activities was creating recycling bins using only reusable materials. There were six teams, and each group came up with something totally different—colorful, funny, artistic, and sometimes surprising. It was a great way to see how creativity can help the environment. Many other workshops were just as engaging, from discussions about pollution to hands-on activities where we designed posters, recorded videos, and even created eco-themed performances.

During the 10 days, we took part in cultural nights where each country shared music, food, traditions, and dances. These evenings made us feel like one big family. We also explored Vienna together - its parks, streets, historical buildings, and eco-friendly public spaces. Our outdoor clean-up activity showed us how teamwork can make an area look completely different in just a short time.

Every day brought something new: learning, laughing, reflecting, and connecting. We didn't just talk about sustainability - we practiced it through our actions. We also built strong friendships, learned about each other's cultures, and discovered how much we have in common despite coming from different countries.

This booklet collects the best moments, ideas, and experiences from the project. It shows what we did, what we learned, and how this exchange inspired us to make small but meaningful changes in our daily lives and in our communities. It is also a reminder of the memories we shared, the challenges we overcame, and the fun we had together.

We hope you enjoy reading it as much as we enjoyed living it - and that our experience motivates you to care for the environment and spread positive change wherever you go.



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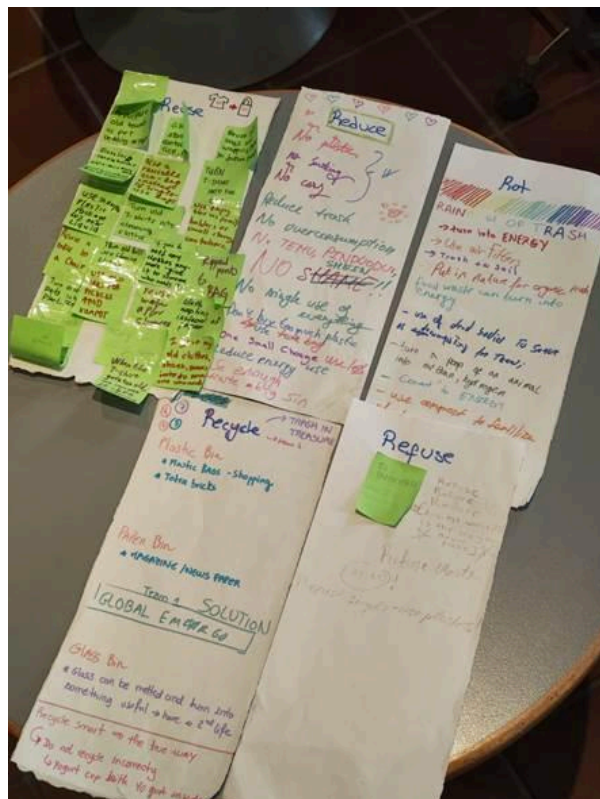


## 2. About the Project – Vision, Goals and Impact

This project is built on the belief that international youth mobility can empower young people to grow personally, develop new competencies, and engage actively with the social and cultural issues shaping today's world. Through collaborative activities, intercultural exchange, and hands-on learning, the project aims to create an inclusive environment where participants can explore, reflect, and act.

### Vision

Our vision is to inspire a new generation of young people who are confident, creative, and socially aware. By bringing together participants from diverse backgrounds, the project promotes open-mindedness, mutual understanding, and solidarity across borders. We imagine a community of youth who feel equipped to contribute meaningfully to their local and international environments.



### Goals

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The project seeks to:

- Strengthen key competencies such as communication, teamwork, problem-solving, digital literacy, creativity, and leadership.
- Enhance intercultural understanding by encouraging dialogue, collaboration, and shared experiences among young participants.
- Foster personal development, helping young people build self-confidence, independence, and a sense of initiative.
- Promote active citizenship by raising awareness of current social, cultural, and environmental challenges and encouraging young people to contribute to positive change.
- Provide practical skills relevant for future education or employment, including project planning, public speaking, critical thinking, and responsible use of media.





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## Skills Developed by Participants

Throughout the mobility, young people engage in activities designed to build:

- Social and emotional skills: empathy, collaboration, conflict resolution, adaptability.
- Cognitive and creative skills: critical thinking, creativity, problem identification and solution design.
- Intercultural competences: cultural awareness, tolerance, global citizenship.
- Practical and vocational skills: digital content creation, workshop facilitation, project management, and reflective learning.





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## Broader Social and Cultural Themes

The project addresses a range of contemporary themes relevant to young people today, as:

- Diversity and inclusion
- Youth empowerment and participation
- Environmental sustainability and climate awareness
- Cultural heritage and identity
- Media literacy and digital citizenship

By exploring these themes, participants gain not only new knowledge but also a deeper understanding of their role within society.





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## Impact

The expected impact of the project extends beyond the duration of the mobility. Participants return to their communities with new skills, expanded perspectives, and increased motivation to engage in positive social action. The project also strengthens partnerships between organisations and contributes to building a more connected, inclusive, and culturally aware European youth community.





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### 3. Activities in Vienna – Workshops, Field Visits and Cultural Exploration

The 10-day programme in Vienna offered participants a rich blend of educational, cultural, and experiential learning opportunities aimed at strengthening environmental awareness, intercultural understanding, and creative collaboration. The schedule was thoughtfully designed to combine expert-led workshops, hands-on practical sessions, interactive group work, and immersive field visits, enabling participants to learn not only through theory but also through real-world engagement.

Throughout the programme, participants took part in a wide range of environment-focused workshops, including sessions on sustainable development, circular economy practices, upcycling, climate change awareness, and eco-innovation. Creative workshops such as art-based recycling, eco-fashion design, and short film production on environmental themes allowed participants to express their ideas through visual arts and digital storytelling. Group assignments encouraged teamwork, critical thinking, and problem-solving, while creative brainstorming sessions supported the development of innovative solutions to sustainability challenges.

Field visits formed an essential component of the mobility. Participants visited waste management centres, eco-friendly neighbourhoods, environmental research institutes, and community-led green projects across Vienna. These site visits provided first-hand insights into Austria's environmental strategies and demonstrated how local communities collaborate to create a greener future. Additionally, guided tours through the city's public transport networks showcased Vienna's commitment to efficient, accessible, and sustainable urban mobility.

Beyond academic and environmental learning, the programme offered rich cultural exploration that allowed participants to fully experience Vienna's history, traditions, and vibrant multicultural atmosphere. Participants toured iconic cultural sites such as Schönbrunn Palace, St. Stephen's Cathedral, the MuseumsQuartier, and the historic city centre. Visits to art museums, historical exhibitions, and architectural landmarks further deepened participants' appreciation for Vienna's cultural heritage.

A special highlight of the mobility coincided with the festive season: participants enjoyed the magical experience of Vienna's famous Christmas markets. Walking through beautifully decorated stalls, they discovered local crafts, traditional Austrian sweets, festive music, and hot seasonal drinks. The Christmas markets served as both a cultural experience and a social bonding opportunity, bringing participants closer together in a warm and joyful environment.



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Intercultural exchange was a core part of the programme. Participants from six different countries shared elements of their cultures through a variety of activities, including:

1. Cultural dance sessions, where each group taught traditional dances from their home country.
2. Playing traditional card and board games, fostering teamwork and friendly interaction.
3. A multinational food-sharing evening, where participants prepared and presented traditional dishes, snacks, and drinks from their cultures. This moment allowed everyone to taste new flavours, learn cooking traditions, and appreciate cultural diversity.
4. Storytelling circles, where participants discussed customs, traditions, festivals, and personal experiences.
5. A “Culture Exchange Night” including music, folk stories, language-sharing, and even trying out each other’s traditional clothing.

These activities strengthened communication skills, encouraged cultural empathy, and built strong friendships across borders.

Throughout the 10 days, the programme successfully balanced structured learning with creative expression and cultural immersion. By the end of the mobility, participants not only deepened their knowledge of environmental issues and sustainability practices but also developed a broader understanding of European cultural diversity. They built meaningful international connections, enhanced their creativity, and gained practical experience through active participation in Vienna’s real-world educational settings.

Overall, the Vienna mobility served as a transformative experience—academic, cultural, and personal—empowering participants to become more conscious global citizens and enthusiastic advocates for environmental responsibility.





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## 4. Voices of the Participants – Stories from 42 Young Changemakers

Over the past ten days in Vienna, all participants had the chance to learn, create, and collaborate in a truly multicultural environment.

Working together with people from Austria, Hungary, Spain, Turkey, Italy, and North Macedonia made every activity more engaging and meaningful.

Everyone brought their own ideas, perspectives, and energy, which helped the group connect quickly and work as a team.

Here are the reflections and personal experiences shared by participants from each country, showing how they lived, learned, and grew throughout the project:

*“I truly enjoyed this project. It was one of the most entertaining, interesting, and helpful experiences I have ever participated in.”*

– Alima Mederkulova (Hungary)

*“This was my first Erasmus experience, and definitely not my last. I met so many kind, welcoming, and diverse people.”*

– Moukthida Xaygnaphone (Hungary)



*“I really liked this project; it was very informative. I appreciated the opportunity to work with motivated young people from different countries, exchange knowledge, and develop new skills.”*

– Tansholpan Uteyevs (Italy)



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*“We enjoyed this project a lot. We saw many new places, buildings, and historical sites. We gained new experiences, improved our English skills, met new people, and learned about different cultures.”*

— Arda Çako (North Macedonia)

*“For me, this project was a wonderful experience. I enjoyed meeting new friends, learning about different cultures, and developing my skills. This was my second Erasmus project, and it has been the best one so far.”*

— Akin (Turkiye)

*“I learned many things from this project, especially about recycling and eco-friendly practices. I also really enjoyed the cultural nights. Discovering other cultures was interesting and fun for me.”*

— Yavuzhan (Austria)



*“Vienna was the perfect place to talk about environmental issues because you can actually see how much effort the city puts into sustainability. Our activities made me realize that we all face similar problems, and our 'trash to treasure' tasks showed how teamwork can turn small ideas into real solutions.”*

— Alejandro (Spain)



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## 5. Partners in Action – The Power of Collaboration Across Six Countries

This section presents the partner organisations from Austria, Spain, Italy, Hungary, Türkiye, and North Macedonia, highlighting their roles, contributions, and active engagement throughout the *3T: Trash to Treasure* programme. Each country brought distinct strengths that enhanced the learning experience, enriched intercultural exchange, and strengthened the project's overall impact. Their involvement aligned closely with the programme's key components, including the NGO Fair, cultural nights, Sustainable City Simulation, 5R Stations, media creation workshops, public awareness actions, and collaborative environmental activities.

### Austria – Host & Environmental Inspiration

Austria, as the hosting country, stood at the centre of the project. **ViaEuropa Exchange and Culture** provided structured guidance, consistent leadership, and high organisational competence, ensuring the smooth implementation of all activities. Despite having a small team, the organisation effectively managed logistics, coordinated partner communication, and facilitated workshops with professionalism and clarity.

Their contributions were particularly significant during sustainability-focused sessions, where they introduced practical approaches to waste management, environmental responsibility, and community awareness. Austria's leadership strengthened intercultural cooperation and helped maintain a focused, efficient, and impact-driven project atmosphere. Through their work, ViaEuropa played a defining role in transforming ideas into long-term sustainable outcomes.





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## Spain – Creativity, Expression & Youth Energy

Spain, represented by **ASOC Centro Hispano Turco Anatolia**, enriched the project with creativity, cultural diversity, and strong experience in youth engagement. Their background in intercultural dialogue and community-focused initiatives contributed to an inclusive and welcoming atmosphere.

The Spanish team actively supported the implementation of group activities, encouraged participant interaction, and offered valuable perspectives during workshops centred on creativity, social awareness, and cultural understanding.

Their contributions were especially visible during expressive activities such as media creation, public actions, and cooperative challenges. Spain's involvement highlighted the importance of cultural diversity and youth participation in driving sustainable change.





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## Italy – Innovation, Upcycling & Intercultural Dialogue

Italy played a key role by contributing cultural richness, educational insight, and strong creative energy. Represented by **Discovery Together**, the team comprised a facilitator and participants from diverse professional backgrounds, including a chemist and an NGO member. Their combination of scientific knowledge and community experience strengthened activities related to sustainability, intercultural dialogue, and youth empowerment.

Italian participants demonstrated exceptional creativity, particularly in upcycling workshops, environmental education tasks, and collaborative group exercises. Their innovative approach inspired others and reinforced the value of imagining practical and artistic solutions to environmental challenges. Italy's involvement deepened intercultural understanding and encouraged participants to integrate sustainable practices into their own communities.





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## Hungary – Youth Leadership, Digital Skills & Diverse Perspectives

Hungary was represented by **Changemakers ISN**, an organisation known for its focus on youth empowerment and digital innovation. The Hungarian team, composed of international students based in Budapest, brought a wide range of cultural perspectives and demonstrated strong teamwork throughout the project.

Their contributions were particularly visible during media-focused sessions, including eco-themed short films, podcasting, and environmental photography.

They engaged actively in creative workshops, simulations, and reflection activities, adding depth and analytical insight to the group's learning process. Hungary's involvement helped bridge different perspectives and encouraged innovative problem-solving within the programme.





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## Türkiye – Institutional Perspective & Strong Youth Engagement

Türkiye was represented by **Yıldırım Ticaret Vocational and Technical Anatolian High School**, with a team consisting of one teacher and six students aged 16–18. They brought strong motivation, discipline, and a collaborative spirit, contributing fresh youth perspectives to the programme. Their willingness to participate fully in every activity helped create an engaging and supportive learning environment.

Their contributions were especially visible in hands-on environmental workshops, where they took part in upcycling, recycling, and team-based creative challenges. Through this active involvement, the students not only demonstrated problem-solving skills but also strengthened their confidence and improved their English communication abilities. Türkiye's presence added enthusiasm, dedication, and a strong youth-driven energy that enriched the overall impact of the programme.





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## North Macedonia – Local Knowledge, Cultural Leadership & Green Action

North Macedonia brought a warm and culturally engaging presence to the project. Represented by **B.I.O Necati Zekeriya**, the team included one coordinator and six students who contributed actively to workshops, creative tasks, and environmental activities. Their participation added valuable youth perspectives and strengthened group collaboration.

Through their cultural night and daily interactions, the team showcased North Macedonia's traditions, energy, and hospitality, enriching the intercultural experience for all participants. Their involvement helped create an inclusive atmosphere and highlighted the important role young people play in community-based sustainability efforts.





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## 6. Conclusion – Lasting Connections and Future Plans

As *3T: Trash to Treasure, Teaching Youth the Value of a Cleaner Future* comes to an end, we proudly reflect on a project filled with creativity, learning, and meaningful environmental action. Over ten inspiring days in Vienna, participants from Austria, Spain, Italy, Hungary, Türkiye, and North Macedonia came together to understand how simple everyday choices can contribute to a cleaner and more sustainable world.

### Overview of the activities

Throughout the program, participants engaged in a wide variety of dynamic activities. We explored real-life environmental challenges through trash-collection, imagined a Sustainable City of the Future, and created colorful recycling bins for different types of waste.

Creativity became a powerful tool as participants designed eco-awareness T-shirts, produced engaging digital content, and presented a Trash Art Exhibition made entirely from Pree recycled waste. Each team also produced a short film using role play to promote recycling and environmental responsibility.



Our social experiments in Vienna allowed us to observe public behaviors, test awareness levels, and compare environmental attitudes across cultures. Every group contributed something unique, enriching the experience with diverse ideas and perspectives.



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## YouthPass and outputs

The learning process and output is officially recognized and certified by the Youth pass, a European recognition tool for non-formal and informal learning. The pass reflects the competences gained throughout the project, including increased knowledge about pollution, waste management, and sustainability, skills in organizing awareness campaigns, inspiration to adopt eco-friendly habits, and experience in intercultural cooperation and teamwork. Participants also developed key competences such as environmental literacy, digital media creation, communication, problem-solving, and collaboration. Many expressed stronger motivation to lead initiatives at home and inspire others to act.

## Our team

One of the most enduring achievements is the network of friendships and partnerships formed during these days. Young people from six countries learned to collaborate, support one another, and appreciate their cultural differences. These connections will continue beyond the project through future collaborations, joint eco-campaigns, and upcoming Erasmus+ initiatives.





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## Future Plans

A key part of our future activities will be the creation of social media posts, photo albums, short videos, and awareness content to continue promoting the project's message. This ongoing digital dissemination will help keep the communication alive between countries and strengthen our relationship with sending partners, ensuring that this project remains visible, inspiring, and impactful long after it ends.

The long-term impact of *Trash to Treasure* extends far beyond Vienna. The skills learned, the content created, and the motivation gained will continue to influence participants' communities, organisations, and personal lives. Every recycled item, every awareness post, and every new eco-friendly habit represents a small but powerful step toward a more sustainable future.

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55  
posts

84  
followers

14  
following

Education

Via Europa is a non-profit informal youth group based in Wien, Austria 🇦🇹  
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[forms.gle/3esUgATbiRgdcEgS6](https://forms.gle/3esUgATbiRgdcEgS6)

*This is not a goodbye, but the beginning of long-term cooperation, greener habits and a shared commitment to build a cleaner and brighter future!*

