



PILOT PROJECT AMARELARTE

UCM

Upcycling Clothes and Mind



WORKSHOP 1: "CLOTHES TELL STORIES"

The first workshop was held on November 19th in Faro with a mixed group of teachers and youth. The aim of the workshop was to sensitize about the problems of fast fashion and give the participants inspiring ideas on how to make upcycling and sustainability in fashion fun and fashionable. We invited the participants to bring a piece of clothing that they like and used but aren't using any more. The idea was to upcycle it and write the story of the piece in the first person. We invited a creative writer for creative writing impulses and a tailor to help with sewing projects. The result were beautiful new clothing items telling their own life stories.

Initially we planned to organize the same workshop once for teachers and a second time for youth but we did not find enough teachers interested so we opened the inscription for general public and it emerged an excited and creative heterogeneous group with teachers, youth and artists. We took the opportunity to bring people together and create new consciousness. We also created a WhatsApp group for all participants and most of them plan to continue participating in the workshop series and bring themselves in with new ideas. They also are engaged in the topic spreading the information.

WORKSHOP 2: "PRESENT"

The second workshop was held on December 17th in Faro with a mixed group of teachers and youth. Most of them have already participated in the first workshop. The aim of the workshop was to sensitize once again about the problems of fast fashion and consumption in general, specially before Christmas, so we decided to reflect on what "present" means and could be, besides of spending money on new stuff. We gave the participants inspiring ideas on how to make a bag out of old and beloved clothing or pieces they find within our workshop facilities, and they created a label with a special message for Christmas. The idea was to reflect on Christmas related to consumption, upcycle and create a new and personal Christmas present dedicated to someone special. We invited a philosophy teacher for impulses to the conversation and a tailor to help with sewing project. The results were beautiful personally designed bags participants could take home to offer at Christmas.

The initial group continues interested and in contact with each other through a WhatsApp group so we opened the inscription once again for general public and a dynamic and interesting and creative heterogeneous group with teachers, youth and artists is coming together in a very relaxed, motivated and informal way. We take this opportunity to discuss new ideas together with the group, question their interests, create and discuss new consciousness and involve them in preparations for a big Fashion Show. The WhatsApp group is being used for communication within the group and exchange of ideas and projects within sustainability in fashion. The group enjoys the meetings and is engaged in the spreading information and ideas.

WORKSHOP 3: "PATCHWORK"

The third workshop was held on January 21st in Faro with a mixed group of teachers, artists and youth. Most of them have already. The aim of the workshop was to think about how to sensitize greater public about the problems of fast fashion and consumption. We decided to start planning the Fashion Show involving the participants and their ideas. We suggested they designing one giant upcycled patchwork for giant costumes for the fashion show in which we plan to show the costumes on stilts in the streets to draw attention to the matter from general public. We agreed on creating one patchworked piece in every colour tone of the rainbow. We invited a tailor to explain the sewing machine and show how to sew patchwork so every participant can work on his or her project autonomously. We open the workshop place three afternoons a week equipped with two sewing machines and participants are invited to visit and work on their pieces whenever want and involve according to their timetables, needs and wishes.

The WhatsApp group continuous being used for exchange of information, films and ideas. With every workshop the group grows with some new members. Participants still enjoy the meetings and are engaged in the spreading information and ideas even if they are not able to attend all workshops.

WORKSHOP 4: "PATCHWORK"

The forth workshop was held on February 18th in Faro with a small mixed group of interested adults and youth. Some have already participated, others joined for the first time. Once again the main aim of the workshop was to think about how to sensibelize greater public about the problems of fast fashion and consumption. We informed the group about our plans within the project: the brochure, the website, upcycling ideas, inspiration and the Fashion Show involving the participants and their ideas. We suggested them participating in designing one giant upcycled patchwork for giant costumes for the fashion show in which we plan to show the costumes on stilts in the streets to draw attention to the matter from general public. We agreed on creating one patchworked piece each because participants preferred to take their pieces home. We also informed everyone that we open the workshop place three afternoons a week equipped with two sewing machines and participants are invited to visit and work on their pieces whenever want and involve according to their timetables, needs and wishes.

The WhatsApp group continuous growing and being used for exchange of information, films and ideas. Members are also sharing experienced, ideas, links and their own upcyclings. Participants feedback was once again positive, they were open and interested. They enjoyed the meetings and seem engaged in the spreading information and ideas even if they are not able to attend all workshops.

WORKSHOP 5: "RECYCLED PAPER"

The fifth workshop was held on March 18th in Faro with a small new group of interested adults and one child that came with her mother. The aim was to prepare for recycled cotton paper, that for we invited an artist who especially works with recycled paper. Unfortunately our experiments of handmade cotton paper didn't work so we used the workshop to bring in the idea of making paper out recycled out of cotton waste, gave information about a paper factory that is producing this type of paper in Portugal and taught about how to sensitize greater public about the problems of fast fashion and consumption. We informed the group about our plans within the project: the brochure, the website, upcycling ideas, inspiration and the Fashion Show involving the participants and their ideas. Then we made new recycled paper out of paper waste instead of cotton which worked well and the making process is similar. We also informed everyone that we open the workshop place three afternoons a week equipped with two sewing machines and participants are invited to visit and work on their pieces whenever want and involve according to their timetables, needs and wishes.

Everyone joined the WhatsApp group that continuous growing and being used for exchange of information, films and ideas. Members are also sharing experienced, ideas, links and their own upcyclings. Participants feedback was once again very positive, they were open and interested.

WORKSHOP 6: "YOUR PROJECT"

The sixth and last workshop of our series was held on May 20th in Faro with a group of interested adults, some of them have already attended, other participated for the first time. The aim was to create their own upcycling project out of an old garment that participants would bring along or choose from our stock. We accompanied the creation process with different ideas for each piece and spent the Saturday morning and afternoon working on it. Participants left satisfied and with a newly designed piece for their wardrobes. Like in every workshop, while working we also talked about how to sensitize greater public about the problems of fast fashion and consumption. We informed the group about our plans within the project: the brochure, the website, upcycling ideas, inspiration and the Fashion Show involving the participants and their ideas. We also informed everyone that we open the workshop place three afternoons a week equipped with two sewing machines and participants are invited to visit and work on their pieces whenever want and involve according to their timetables, needs and wishes.

Everyone joined the WhatsApp group that continuously growing and being used for exchange of information, films and ideas. Members are also sharing experiences, ideas, links and their own upcyclings. Participants feedback was once again very positive, they were open and interested.



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