

Organization: AREFS taide ja kulttuuri ry

Country: Finland

Pre-Project: TRIANGLE ROCK

PERIOD: MARCH-DECEMBER 2010

preparing an international art project in rural rock areas

MAIN OBJECTIVES

The Finnish cultural association AREFS taide ja kulttuuri ry <http://www.arefs.org> is during the pre-project preparing the international art project TRIANGLE ROCK, co-operation with art organizations at site specific, rural rock environs in different European countries like Spain, Turkey, Finland, Latvia, Sweden, Ireland, Netherlands and others.

The final aim of TRIANGLE ROCK* is to create a permanent platform to investigate and exchange, collaborate and produce international multidisciplinary dialogue in new forms of art production on exceptional rural rock locations.

The final project TRIANGLE ROCK will add specific values to the different locations and will initiate an inviting environment for innovative and sustainable development based on the existing qualities of these locations.

The partners have to be existing and equipped residencies, small and personal, located in ecological sensitive environments, with original solutions for art production and a close relationship with the local society.

The artist co-operation in the final TRIANGLE ROCK program has to be based on practical working with the same intention under similar conditions with different specifics.

The local society will be active involved in the final TRIANGLE ROCK program through special activities and presentations by the visiting artists. The intensive contacts are important sources for cross-border experiences.

The cultural diversity and the specific areas of the different locations are the sources for the collaboration of the artists. Their art and activities will contribute to widen local views and give new perspective to the rural circumstances in relation to the European identity.

*MEANING OF TRIANGLE ROCK

The name **TRIANGLE ROCK** refers to the place from which this project will start.

Saksalanharju is a nature heritage and located on the biggest monolith of Europe.

In the **report of Etelä-Savon Ympäristökeskuksen – RAPORTEJA 02-2009** Veden tuomaa, harjun huomaan from Leena Lahdenvesi –Korhonen this area has been described and the values are registered.

Saksalanharju can be seen as a symbol of crossing people during ages. The artistic component of this crossing is the experiences by artists on this specific location. The artistic view and attention completes the importance of this kind of locations for the society. It shows another angle to a world which seems to be the same for ages. It gives the youth a view on the value of their roots and will inspire them to take own initiatives to be a part of it.

The **history of Saksalanharju** is an issue of the annual exhibitions Haukivuori Muistoissamme in Saksala ArtRadius. These exhibitions contribute to the self awareness of the local people and disclose unknown parts of the local history.

The **symbol of the rock** is its rearing up the landscape and marking the environment and it is a characteristic sign for passengers and people living in the region. A rock is also a symbol of sustainability and long lasting reliability.

Even the location is isolated and less people are living, it has a **great potential**. It is fruitful in many ways, for agriculture and forestry, but also for artistic development. The great numbers of artists who have visited the location during last 5 years, and were staying for several months, have been impressed and inspired by this place.

Through the **TRIANGLE ROCK project a structural network** will connect Saksalanharju/Haukivuori with other places in Europe. The experiences of artists from other countries together with experiences of regional artists abroad will activate sources of creativity of the community.

The **content of the TRIANGLE ROCK** project is based on artist' exchange and collaboration on different locations in Europe.

The TRIANGLE means co-operation and exchange between three (isolated, rock) locations.

Every residency selects in co-operation with a regional art organization two artists for one period of two months.

The **schedule** will work like:

ARTIST/LOCATION	FINLAND	SWEDEN	SPAIN	HOME
	first month			2 nd month
FIN 1		FIN 1		FINLAND
FIN 2			FIN 2	FINLAND
SPAIN 1	SP 1			SPAIN
SPAIN 2		SP 2		SPAIN
SWEDEN 1	SW 1			SWEDEN
SWEDEN 2			SW 2	SWEDEN

There will be different TRIANGLES during the project.

E.g. Finland-Netherlands-Ireland, Finland-Germany-Turkey etc to get a varied mix of cultural and artistic exchange.

Regional artists or artists with roots in the region will stay for one month in a residency abroad where each will work together with another foreign artist. After their stay abroad they will stay together for a period (2-4 weeks) in the local residency (for Finland this is Haukivuori).

Artists from abroad are together working on art project(s) in the local residency (for Finland this is Haukivuori). These art projects are related to the local society. The artistic view of foreign artists on the local community is a stimulus for local people to see the own living area from another angle.

Depending on the **artistic plan** the artists are developing, the local society can be involved as partner, player in it, or as a viewer. In conceptual or community art artists are often active co-operating with the society. Other forms of art are often reflecting on the situation and that can result in documentation, environmental art, and/or projections/exhibitions.

Every regional LEADER+ in the TRIANGLE ROCK project will take care of the costs for their selected artists and the activities and events taken place in their region.

During the pre-project we will look in our region for different organizations in the field of art, history, community, education and culture and we will investigate how to co-operate during the development project with these organizations.

In our region the following organizations will participate in the executing of the development project TRIANGLE ROCK and during the pre-project we will define their specific contribution.

Etelä-Savon Taidetoimikunta – as an expert in the artist society. They will give feed back in the selection of regional artists. They also will bring their expertise during the working process of the artists. They also will contact the participating artists during their stay with the regional artists.

Mikkeli Museums – Mikkeli Art Museum – as a source for the history of the region and the artistic component of the development project. Through the museum contacts the participating artists can find specific historical information about the region. The artists can also reflect on their artistic process by the professional competence available in the art museum.

The **local schools of Haukivuori** – Aseman ala-aste, ylä-aste and lukio. The art projects of different artists will contribute to the art education of children and young people. The schools in Haukivuori have already a tradition in participating in (multi) cultural and art projects with national and international artists organized by AREFS taide ja kulttuuri ry. During pre-project the related art education parts will be added to the regular school program and schedule.

Haukivuoren Tapahtumayhdistys ry - to publish the info about the project to the local people and to contact artists with the local society and create collective activities.

During pre-project we will map and contact other organizations in the field of local and regional history, rock painting, traditional culture, arts & crafts, architecture, and nature to look for possible ways of co-operation during the development project.

PRE-PROJECT

During the pre-project AREFS taide ja kulttuuri ry is:

- * **searching for partners in rural regions** of Spain, Ireland, Netherlands, Portugal, Austria, Italy, Estonia, Latvia, and Turkey which are located in specific rural rock environs.
The first selection and contact will be done by the internet, Skype and email and will take several months. Sources are ResArtis, TransArtists, RHIZ.EU, Etelä-Savon Taidetoimikunta, the network of AREFS, AllaprimA Foundation and the networks of de contacted future partners.
- * **visiting suitable locations in different rural regions** to see the places and their facilities, circumstances, local connections and the artistic atmosphere, and to find out their specific conditions in relation to the program objectives.
During these visits the locations will be physically surveyed, documented, and the information will be collected and registered to be published e.g. website, presentation and brochure.
- * **visiting LEADER groups in the regions** to get informed about their system and possibilities, and to explain the development project. These visits are essential to support the future partners in their contact with their regional LEADER group.
- * **making with the future partners a plan** for the TRIANGLE ROCK development project based on the final aim to build a program to initiate international multidisciplinary dialogue in new forms of art production on exceptional rural rock locations and to involve the different local societies in the cultural and artistic international exchange.
- * **making with the future partners a schedule** for the TRIANGLE ROCK development project which is based on participation of artists, local society and the exchange between the locations.
- * **making with the future partners a budget** for the TRIANGLE ROCK development project which is based on participation of artists, local society and the exchange between the locations.
- * **searching with the future partners to finance** the TRIANGLE ROCK development project.
- * **organizing one central meeting with all future partners** to negotiate about the condition terms and agreement for the TRIANGLE ROCK development project.
- * **planning an event for the region** to involve the local society in the project, to show the different partner locations, and to discuss about their contribution in the TRIANGLE ROCK development project.
- * **negotiating with Etelä-Savon Taidetoimikunta** to set up a program about participating of regional artists in the development project.
- * **negotiating with Haukivuoren Ylä-Aste** to set up a cultural exchange program for the school.
- * **negotiating with Haukivuoren Tapahtumatyhdisys ry** to set up a cultural program with the participating artists for the local society.

SCHEDULE

The executing of the pre-project is planned from **MARCH – DECEMBER 2010**.

During **the first period (MARCH-JUNE)** we will spend time for the search of different suitable locations and their LEADER program.

We will search for partners in rural regions of Spain, Ireland, Netherlands, Portugal, Austria, Sweden, Latvia, Italy, Estonia, and Turkey which are located in specific rural rock environs.

The first selection and contact will be done by the internet, Skype and email and will take several months.

Sources are ResArtis, TransArtists, RHIZ.EU, Etelä-Savon Taidetoimikunta, the network of AREFS, and the networks of de contacted future partners.

We also will negotiate with local and regional organizations (Etelä-Savon Taidetoimikunta, Haukivuoren Ylä Aste and Haukivuoren Tapahtumatyhdistys ry) to set up their participation in the final TRIANGLE ROCK development project.

In the **second part of the pre-project (JULY-DECEMBER)** we will concentrate on the selected future partners.

We will visit different selected locations to get acquainted and involved with their specific environs and facilities. We will document, report and publish relevant information about the different locations. We also will prepare the content of the plan, the schedule, the budget and the financing of the project in negotiation with the partners.

It is important to visit the locations physically to feel the atmosphere and to see what and how it can contribute to TRIANGLE ROCK development project. It is also important to get involved to be able to select the right artists in the final TRIANGLE ROCK project.

The art production in the TRIANGLE ROCK development project needs specific circumstances for the artists to be able to full fill the objectives. It is also important to document and to register the environment from the Finnish perspective to be able to select Finnish artists.

We will organize a central meeting for all selected partners to negotiate about the condition terms, project content and criteria, the budget and financing, and to sign the co-operation agreement.

We will also organize an event to inform the region and to discuss how local people can contribute in the TRIANGLE ROCK project. The other locations will be introduced by images made during the visits and if possible by a video or other direct contact.

The TRIANGLE ROCK project is set up with the intention to connect different rural locations with art organizations throughout the entire Europe for a long period. As the Finnish initiator AREFS is the responsible organization with the experience and expertise to work in an international network and to guarantee a high level of quality.

It is our experience that a physically visit is an important condition for the final selection of the partners. Every organization in art has a different starting point, different objectives, and a different approach, which only can be seen and proved on location. Through the visits we will able to assess

INTENTION and PURPOSE

The rural regions of Europe make a substantial contribution to the richness and diversity of European culture. The purpose is "to harness rural culture to create a better, more sustainable future for rural regions with new artistic and cultural initiatives".

The TRIANGLE ROCK program comprises: -

1. An artistic TRIANGLE ROCK RESIDENCY, in which a potent mix of the best artists from the partner regions will collaborate to create work in different regions. The work will respond to, and comment on, the diverse cultural experiences they encounter. The works will travel between regions to stimulate dialogue at the CULTURAL EXCHANGE EVENTS and to bring culture and art of high quality to places and audiences that are usually not part of the international cultural discourse.
2. A series of CULTURAL EXCHANGE EVENTS during which cultural actors will undertake intercultural exchange and dialogue with specific themes (e.g. RURAL ART VILLAGES etc). Citizens of the regions will be invited to interact with the events and register their responses to the emerging values and stories.

BASIC PRINCIPLE FOR PARTNER AND LOCATION SEARCH

The TRIANGLE ROCK partners should have a shared belief that:

- a. culture and art is a powerful change agent for rural regions
- b. its ability to transform will be strengthened by intercultural dialogue and cultural exchange

The TRIANGLE ROCK partner locations have to be connected by the specific conditions of their areas.

They have to be out of the center of Europe and have to be related to rock-environments.

They have to have a mix of cultural influences, from the past, but also recently, and that gives an impact on the local societies.

Finally the project will active contribute to a positive self-awareness of people living in external areas in Europe and it will also contribute to more knowledge and respect of rural regions.

The locations and their environments also differ from each other and are unique.

BASIC PRINCIPLE FOR THE WORKPLAN

A number of 2 national and/or international artists per location will stay and work together in different composition in several sessions of minimum 4 weeks in successive locations in/on and between rocks. Through intense dialogue the arts professionals will communicate verbally and visually. The art production includes all visual arts like sculpting, painting/drawing, photography, etc and installation, site specific, community based art, video and/ or mixed media.

The artists and the works will circulate between the different locations. In order to get acquainted and involved with the location, the artists will need to explore the environment, both the nature and the rural culture. The impact of place is different for every artist. The confrontation with specific rural circumstances is a challenge for artists to start the intense dialogue and exchange in art works. The atmosphere in landscape and climate, and the mood and attitude of the people of different cultures living in the country side will offer the specific impressions to the artists. The locations will also add the inter-cultural aspect based on human interest. In the different places the artists will meet those small communities, like villagers and other locals. The artists are also intending to cooperate and produce together with local communities whom they deem valuable for the artistic exchange.

BASIC PRINCIPLE FOR THE CULTURAL OBJECTIVES

With the different backgrounds and all the different influences of every specific place, the outcome of the project will show the uniqueness of the different locations and the process of changing of the artists. The challenging conditions will improve new forms of art production that can be documented and published.

Finnish artists from the rural area will be challenged to co-operate and collaborate with artists from different European countries and will improve and broaden their artistic vision and skills and compare their rural roots with others. It will bring divers development to the isolated artistic situation.

The project will contribute to cultural exchange, cultural diversity and increase awareness of historical and cultural knowledge, as well as the emergence of new traditions and contemporary cultural heritage. Awareness will be raised for both the artists attending and the local people.

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