

Meeting Description	Fourth Project Meeting in Kuopio (Finland)
Meeting hosted by	Savon ammattii - ja aikuisopisto
Minute written by	[NL] Gerard-Jan van Dun

Date / Place / Time	Activities / Results / Points of importance
<p>Wednesday 19th September 2012</p> <p>Metsäkartano 08.00-17.00</p>	<p>An Outing Into The Wilderness.</p> <p>No, this does not refer to some of the hectic meetings we had during the previous days. It was a day full of activities organized by our Finnish host.</p> <p>The organization was perfect. How they managed to get such lovely weather despite the bad forecasts will forever remain a secret. Maybe it has something to do with that clock they have and use ... I honestly do not know.</p> <p>In a good mood we boarded the bus which took us to the wilderness at Metsäkartano, some 100 kilometers north of Kuopio. It was extremely silent presumably caused by the late hard working night activities of quite a few participants. During our bus ride we passed some idyllic villages with unpronounceable names (I really pity dyslectic people in Finland).</p> <p>When we finally arrived, the sun was shining and we were all very cheerful. After the campfire coffee, the train family was divided into six groups each of about sixteen persons and ready to face even the deadliest encounters with moose, wolves and bears. Fortunately, the activities proved to be less strenuous and dangerous than we had thought: summer curling, archery, forest golf, rowing slalom, wilderness skills and orienteering among marsh tea.</p> <p>In the rowing slalom we saw boys offering some girls protection by wrapping an arm around their shoulders. Chivalry still exists.</p> <p>How different were things in the final group activity. The instructions were simple and clear: build a line of pine cones and make it as long as possible. The group with the longest line is the winner. This time there was no chivalry at all but instead a lot of fierce competition with a lot of cheating. Branches were used instead of pine cones and I even saw teachers and students stealing pine cones from other groups! Fortunately, this primary behaviour was only visible in this stage of the project week and did not have any effect on the work lines later on.</p> <p>We had just finished our activities and boarded the bus when Pluvius opened the floodgates and rain came falling down. The Finnish organization even controlled that part of the outing!</p> <p>Thank you for this wonderful day and the beautiful scenery.</p>