Ave Vita!

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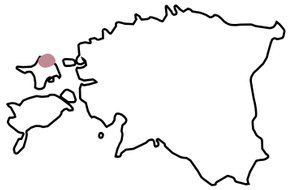
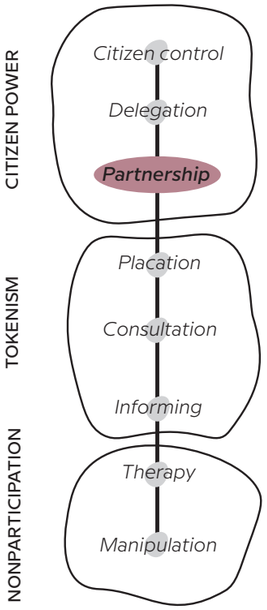
LOCATION
Kärdla, Estonia

TIME PERIOD
Since 1997



THE PROJECT

The project is located in a **wooden house divided into public rooms and private rooms for living.** The public events are held mostly in the biggest room of the house and in the courtyard. The aim of this center at first was to give the possibility for youth to access cultural entertainment. But now the center is meant for adult poetry and theater and cultural self-improvement.



DESCRIPTION OF THE SPACE

Kärdla is located on the **island** of Hiiumaa. The town could be defined as a remote place particularly by its social specifics but also by its economic inferiority and its low population density. However, the **perception of this remoteness is quite low** according to the residents. In this settlement, the road network is well developed with good transportation links and suitable paths. There are several public spaces like kindergarten, sports facilities or cultural institutions. Generally speaking, the quality of these public facilities is rather good.

INITIATION AND ACTORS

Ave Vita! project was **founded and is managed by famous Estonian writer Ave Alavainu**. Her motivation was to raise cultural awareness in Kärdla and create a space for young people where they can have educational activities and culture.

ROLE OF THE LOCAL COMMUNITY & METHODS USED

Since the establishment of the center, the project is **focusing on socialization, relaxation, through different activities like theater, poetry evenings or concerts in order to raise cultural knowledge.** The **local community** and neighbours have been involved at different steps. First, they **helped in restoring the house and courtyard**. Moreover, they also helped in the **preparation of the events** in several ways (making food and drinks, transportation aid...). Local people are also involved by their participation in activities. The project has received support from various actors. The restoration of the old house was made with the help of **EU and local volunteers** but most of the everyday work is done by Ave Alavainu and her network.

RESULT

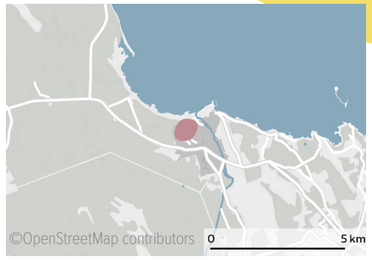
The targeted impact of the project has been largely achieved. Ave Vita! has become one of the most popular places in Kärdla thanks to the diversity of events. It has involved talented people from the whole country who are always eager to perform. The main beneficiary of this project has been the local community, who has gained access to culture and socialized through the activities. In addition, through discussions between musicians, actors and others, some cooperation projects have grown from there. **Ave Vita! was well received** by the public: a bus stop sign Ave Vita! was erected by Ave Alavainu and a bench was dedicated to the founder because of her talent and activity.

Poetry festival
©Ave Alavainu's archive – photo by Ilona Gurjanova

Gathering of Estonian language teachers
©Ave Aavainu's archive – photo by Harda Roosna

Ave Vita! Centre for cultural activities
©Ave Alavainu's archive – photo by Toomas Kokovkin

Garden party
©Ave Alavainu's archive – photo by Toomas Kokovkin



Kärdla, Hiiumaa, Estonia

more about this project

Link to the publication:
http://www1.uirs.si/en-us/book/id/119

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