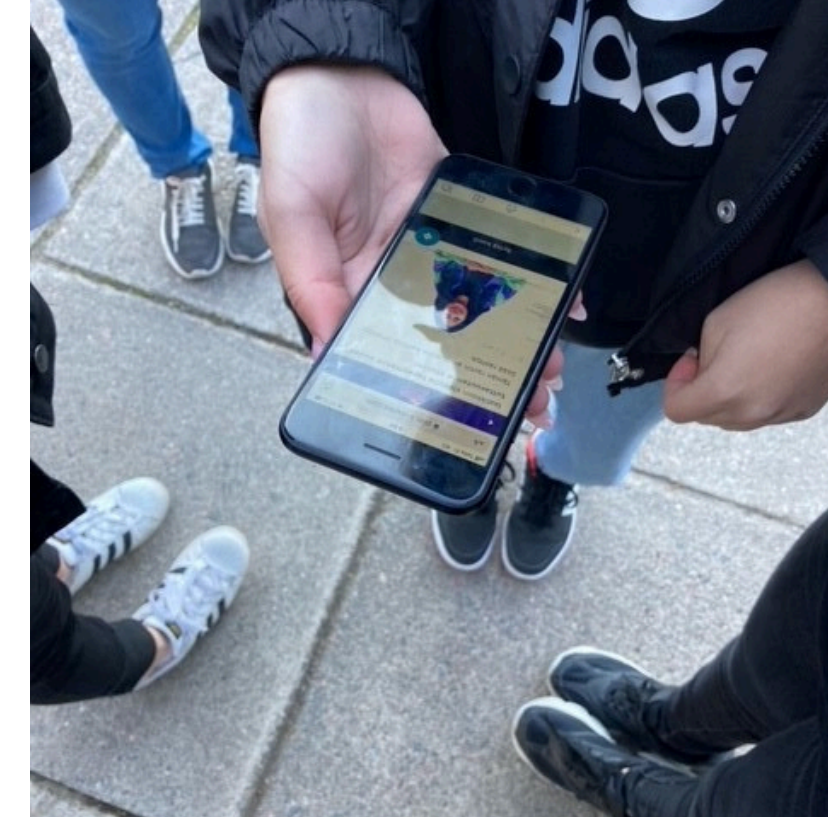
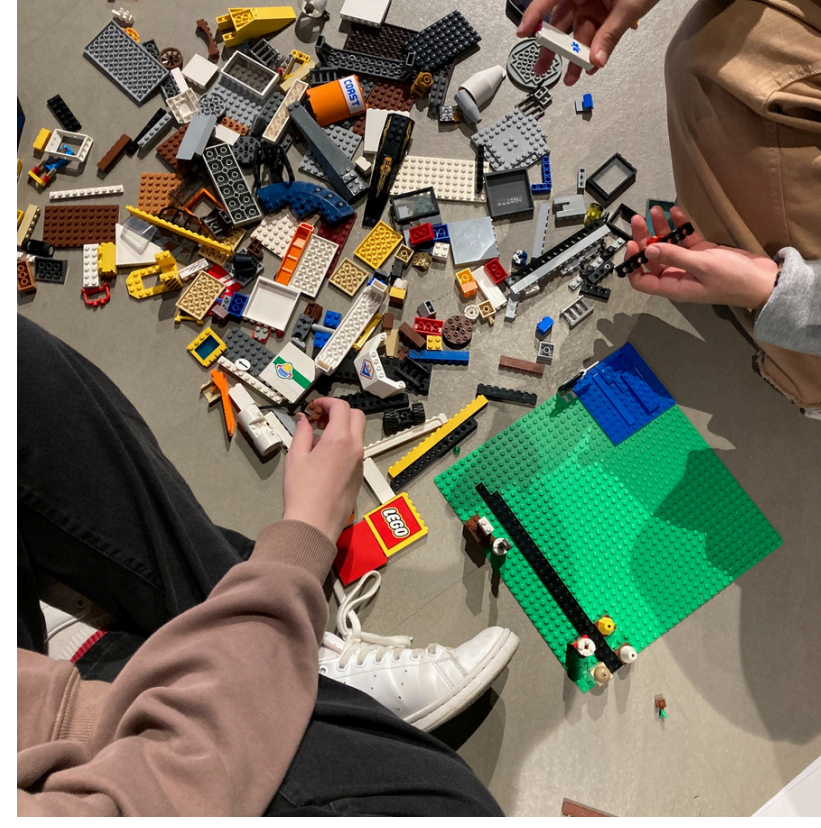


Buddy Class concept



DEMO DISTRICT

*Espoo,
Espoonlahti area*

PARTNERS INVOLVED



COMPLETION DATE

06/2023

KEY NUMBERS

*2 buddy classes + 2 teachers
2 schools
40 pupils
11 meetings
3 years*

CO₂ REDUCTION POTENTIAL

Not applicable

CONTACT PERSON AND LINKS

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Short description

- 2 Buddy Classes in Espoo: One as City of Espoo's (Maininki school) and one as Citycon's Buddy Class (Espoonlahti school).
- Participants were 13-16 years old middle school pupils.
- Approximately 40 pupils participating.
- The goal was to teach a sustainable lifestyle and to obtain the thoughts and ideas of the youth.
- This was done with different lectures, visits, games, and other participatory activities.
- Buddy class actions were continued for 3 years for the duration of the pupil's whole junior high school; from fall 2021 to spring 2023.
- 11 meetings in total during this time: 2 lectures, 3 workshops, 4 visits/other activities and one meeting in the beginning and one at the end of the project.

Key results during the project lifecycle

- Engage in a dialogue with future change-makers on sustainable development, information and knowledge sharing back and forth between the pupils and the organisers; utilising pupils' insights for the planning of development actions.
- Current and future insights on sustainable development topics such as energy (PEDs and renewable energy sources), mobility (especially e-mobility), circular economy and new smart city technologies.

Insights and learnings

- Different tools and methods can be utilised to make the classes fun and engaging on large and complex issues, such as sustainable development, circular economy, energy and mobility.
- Buddy Classes require time and resources to set up and operate but can lead to meaningful interactions and knowledge building.
- Commitment and enthusiasm from the teacher's/school's side is crucial to make it work.

Challenges

- COVID-19 pandemic affected the ability to have meetings with the Buddy Class. Some meetings had to be organised remotely (hybrid sessions), utilising partly online tools and partly engagement activities inside the class room.
- Finding the best modes and methods to engage the students is a learning process – some methods work better than others.

Plans for replication

- The insights from all the events from the three-year process are gathered together to form a **Buddy Class concept**, which provides a blueprint through which the concept can be shared and replicated elsewhere in Espoo and beyond.
- The concept provides insights to the SPARCS process experiences, used methods and key learnings and suggestions for future iterations of a Buddy Class (related to a sustainable development topic).
- **The concept is provided in Finnish and English as an open (online) document.**

Questions and comments from partners

Comments to be added during poster session at Consortium meeting in Leipzig

