



Ekenäs StoryWalk looking for international partners

We are looking for collaboration partners for our local development, culture and democracy project Ekenäs StoryWalk in southwestern Finland.

Ekenäs StoryWalk is a Leader-funded place-making project based at the Novia University of Applied Science in Ekenäs, Finland and planned in close collaboration with The ProArtibus Art Foundation.

Our aim is to deepen local engagement, place identity and co-governing and at the same time develop a cross- disciplinary method toolbox through the development of an actual city planning project - a new city walking path.

Our methods include artistic and social science research, geodesign, visual, audio and video storytelling. We are collaborating with among others the city planning office, tourist office and cultural department.

We want to encourage engagement with and analysis of our community as the place we call home and encourage an on-going dialogue about pasts and futures. At the same time we hope to inspire a critical debate about city development, commercialization, diversity, democracy, migration, transparency and accessibility.

We are motivated by what we see happening in our home town Ekenäs after an administrative fusion with the neighbor towns Karis and Pojo (we all form the larger municipality Raseborg) and can sense an urgent need for a conversation about values and visions for the future. At the same time we see a need for more democratic, accessible and transparent planning processes in general - a need we can sense in other parts of Europe as well.

The town of Ekenäs has ca. 10.000 inhabitants (Raseborg ca 30.000) with a majority of Swedish-speakers (over 80%) and a minority of Finnish-speakers and some other minority language-speakers

Ekenäs StoryWalk preparatory project is now financed for 6 months and we are working on an application for a longer 2 year project. We also have some funding from The Swedish cultural foundation in Finland.

We are looking for partners with whom we can share ideas and knowledge within the field of local democracy and culture. As a Leader-funded project we are open for collaboration with small or large projects and local, public or private partners - rural and urban - from within the EU but also from countries outside the EU! The project does not have to be EU or Leader-funded.

NOTE: We do not have funding for our collaboration partners. All partner projects do their own fundraising locally.

Welcome to contact us and please spread the word!

<https://www.novia.fi/storywalk/home/>