



FOXES' FOREWORD

This pop-up news outlet – presented to you by three restless minds: Angela, its responsible publisher; Julia, its responsible designer; and Miitri, an irresponsible head writer – is meant to exist for a mere couple of weeks, and thus exhibits a life – span of a butterfly – and hopefully, possesses just as much grace and aesthetic appeal to the eye of its sporadic beholder.

The outlet comprises three columns – you've guessed it, one per columnist!– that represent the opinions and views of their correspondent authors with occasional cameos, interviews, and two permanent bottom-of-the-page age-old rubrics: weather forecast and random gossips (more on that at the bottom of this page).

With all that said, our team is happy to welcome you to the pages of our newspaper and wishes us all one fruitful and prolific week!

P.S. Easing environmental anxiety one small step at a time, we have decided to print this very first (and all the consequent) of our newspaper issues on an eco-certified recycled paper.

Godspeed you, inquisitive minds!

FIRST TIME TO METSÄKARTANO

Tervetuloa or welcome to Metsäkartano, a vibrant and inspiring youth center nestled in the heart of Finland's natural beauty. As you step into this enchanting place, you are embarking on a journey that combines adventure, education, and community in a way that is unique. Metsäkartano translates to "Forest Manor", and whether you are a first-time visitor or returning to renew cherished memories, you will find something for you here.

I came here for the first time four years ago, when I knew nothing about Finland. I remember the lush forest of the surroundings and the clear lake view of every trail we took. This was also the place where I experienced for the first time the traditional Finnish sauna and the cool swim in the lake. The whole visit was an experience that ignited my curiosity for Finnish culture and its natural wonders.

As humans, we process the first-time experiences in a complex interplay of various cognitive and neural processes. The sensory perception is crucial, as it forms the foundation for our perception of the world. When we focus our attention to the smell of the forest, the crispy mornings, the sunsets, the people next to us we create opportunities for learning and new neuronal connections.

So, whether you are a nature enthusiast, an adventure seeker, or simply someone looking to reconnect with the world around you, Metsäkartano welcomes you with open arms. We invite you to embrace the tranquility of our surrounding, the richness of EOE2023 program, and the warmth of our community.

When was the last time you did something for the first time?

WEATHER

8 50% 7°C	9 40% 7°C	10 30% 8°C
11 9°C	12 9°C	13 10°C
14 10°C	15 11°C	16 11°C
17 10°C	18 9°C	19 8°C

Sunset 18:30

EMIL'S GOSSIPING LOUNGE

Emil Gossip's Lounge is your safe space where you can freely discuss everything that happens to you or concerns you throughout the conference. Whether you have an insightful feedback, a unique point of view, or simply a story to share, this is the place to do it – completely anonymous and simple. Access the lounge by scanning the QR code. Once inside, you can contribute your thoughts, observations, and reflections without revealing your identity. It's your chance to be heard without any judgements. Join the conversation at Emil Gossip's Lounge and become a part of the anonymous exchange of ideas, experiences, and perspectives that will make this conference even more memorable. Your voice matters, and this is your space to make it heard!





EDUCATED OPINIONS

Arctic Fox News: Moi Tanja! Straight to the questions: how many EOE conferences did you host?

Tanja Liimatainen: This is the second one here in Finland, and the second international adventure conference in Finland: there have been tinier meetings, but not like conferences really.

Then the last one over here was in 2011, and it was a bit different because then – nowadays we have Erasmus+ funding, not for this event, but in European funding for mobility – and that time it was called “Youth in action”. So we got funding for 36 thousand euros for that conference. Now, we don't have – we have funding for five thousand euros...

Arctic Fox News: Yeah, that's different.

Tanja Liimatainen: Very different. So that's why the participants who come here, they are paying everything themselves, or the organization or the university. So, that's one thing different, and it's quite a big difference from the first one.

Arctic Fox News: Do you have any different expectations for the second conference comparing to the first one. Like, are you more experienced? (both laugh)

Tanja Liimatainen: Also that. But at that time, i was so full of love for adventure education, and at that time, I was part of the EOE family. The first conference about EOE was in 2009. I participated in Germany. And around 2013, then I joined the board. Maybe I have been there already like 10 years, so I'm a board member for the EOE. So, I have been supporting others who have been organizing conferences, and I have been seeing many different places but actually, the places are not the thing – even though in our place the location is creating a nice setting for the conference – but the magic of EOE are its participants. Why EOE have started is that there has been academics and they wanted to learn more about the practitioners. So every time at the EOE conference there are the academics, the lecturers, the doctors, but then there are us who do their practical work: practitioners, some of them might also have academic background. But so there is also a conversation between these two or three or how many different kinds of people who are enthusiastic about the adventure. It's adventure, education, outdoor education, experiential learning, environmental education.

Arctic Fox News: It is a very complex branch of education, like an amalgamation of so many things at once. True.

Tanja Liimatainen: So they said this, these events are really good for networking. To get some kind of work, or the placement maybe to study, and also the researchers might find new places. So after EOE conferences, there have been many youth exchanges, trainings for trainers etc. Even these international studies like the first one, like the master study in three different countries that was called TEOS. And now there is another one, the nordic version that you are studying in three different countries. So, when you are networking over here and meeting other people, you never know: what outcome is after the conference?

Every time EOE conference happens in a different country, and the members of EOE can organize it. Next year, it will be in Italy. We still don't know the final location. It has been in Ireland, in Germany, many times in Slovenia. But it is second time that it's in Finland, and both times at Metsäkartano.

Arctic Fox News: Okay! That's very good to know. In short, what would be your expectations from this year? And what do you expect to come in the next few days?

Tanja Liimatainen: Even though i'm at the moment tired and stressed like you always are before the doors are opening and the event starts, I'm hoping that this place and our staff and you, we all together create a place where people can relax and meet each other and have time with each other. And that's why we have made our program more flexible so that there is time in between, and also during the day and in the evening, to have these moments with each other, but also to learn from each other.

Arctic Fox News: That's a beautiful foreword. Thank you for a brief intro for the day so much! You've helped with the first issue of the newspaper immensely, and hopefully it'll be distributed tomorrow in the morning already.