

# kookoonari

Kookoonari is a Social Cooperative Enterprise, based in Komotini, which also implements projects around Greece. We are active in the field of Zero Waste, Circular Economy and Environmental Education.

Kookoonari stands for pine-cone in Greek and represents our philosophy that people's ecological footprint should mimic that of the pine tree. This means that the waste produced by people could become soil, instead of contaminating the Earth for years or forever. So, through our projects we inspire more and more people to "Think differently, act NATURally, become... kookoonari!".

Our goals are to provide quality education for people of all ages, cultivate pro-environmental behaviour, inspire and support individuals and communities to take action. We also aim to create a collaborative space for everyone who is part of our "kookoonari's community".

What characterises us, is our Pedagogical and Environmental Principles. Firstly, we emphasise the process and not just the outcome. We focus not only on cognitive goals but also on emotions, teamwork and interaction. We believe that knowledge is something to build up in a social context and not just transmit (constructivism). The interventions we design and implement follow the principles of the experiential approach, taking into account that each person has their own way of learning and developing.

Concerning our Environmental Principles, our thinking has been shaped by contemporary ecocentric theories, which recognize the relatedness, unity, and inherent worth of human and non-human organisms on Earth. In contrast to anthropocentrism, where almost everything has instrumental and economic value, we oppose a more ecocentric view respecting everyone's equal rights to life and well-being. We therefore believe that the way we perceive ourselves, nature and people's interaction with the natural environment needs to be transformed.

Having all the above as a compass, we have implemented long-term projects in schools involving the school community (students, teachers, parents) to transform their schools into Zero Waste Schools. In addition, we collaborate with educational centres around Greece, in order to educate children about Zero Waste and Circular Economy playing with our 5-metre-long handmade floor game. We also implement workshops for adults for them to get familiar with good practices and introduce them into their daily life with the aim to reduce their waste and adopt pro-environmental behaviour.

Through our actions, we often focus on sustainable fashion as part of the Circular Economy. We create bags from old T-shirts, decoration crafts, beeswax wraps e.t.c. reusing clothes which would have been thrown away in other cases. Through that kind of practical workshops we also discuss textile waste and the consequences of fast fashion production.

These are the basic points of our effort to make more people "Think differently, act NATURally, become... kookoonari!".

Find us at <https://kookoonari.org/en/home/>