

TRASH-FORMERS

CREATIVE UP-CYCLING
WORKSHOP

26TH MARCH '26



THE VISION

- **The problem:** Schools produce waste every day (paper, plastic, bottle caps).
- **The mission:** To raise awareness of recycling not just as a duty, but as a creative opportunity.
- **The goal:** To transform the "ugly" (waste) into the "beautiful" (works of art).



MATERIALS & SOURCING (LA "CACCIA AL TESORO")

This is what Erasmus and 4C students will search for in the bins and corridors of the Torno Institute:

- Plastic: Empty bottles, colored bottle caps, snack wrappers, vending machine cups.
- Paper and Cardboard: Snack boxes, old notes (without sensitive data!), flyers, newspaper clippings.
- Metal: Drink cans, flip-tops, aluminum foil.
- Lost and Found: Pens that no longer write, broken rulers, rubber bands, paper clips..



THE TOOL KIT

What you need to transform waste into a work of art:

- **Adhesives:** Hot glue guns (essential for plastic), PVA glue, strong double-sided tape.
- **Supports:** Large rigid cardboard boxes (perhaps from the cafeteria recycling bin), plywood bases, or old canvases to cover.
- **Cutting:** Sturdy scissors, box cutters (to be used under supervision), rulers.
- **Color (optional):** Tempera, acrylic, or permanent markers to refine details or create color unity.

SAFETY AND HIGIENE

Since you'll be handling waste, don't forget:

- **Disposable or work gloves:** To safely rummage through trash cans.
- **Hand sanitizer:** To be used after collection.
- **Aprons or old T-shirts:** To avoid staining your clothes during the creative phase.



SCIENTIFIC APPROACH (THE TOUCH OF TORNO)

- Material analysis (plastic polymers, paper fibers).
- Degradation times of the selected materials if they were left in the environment.



THE CREATIVE WORKSHOP

1- SELECTION

Sorting materials by color/shape.



2- IDEA

Group brainstorming.

- ☒ OPTION 1
- ☒ OPTION 2
- ☒ OPTION 3
- ☒ OPTION 4

3- CREATION

Assembling the collective artwork and give it a catchy title



the project is carried out in
working groups

STEP-BY-STEP INSTRUCTIONS

PHASE 1

The Treasure Hunt (30 mins)

- Divide into mixed teams: (Italy + Portugal) to start communicating right away!
- Explore & Collect: Walk through the school corridors, the courtyard, and check the recycling bins.
- Goal: Find at least 30 different types of "waste" (plastic, paper, metal, or lost objects).
- Safety: Wear your gloves! Do not pick up anything dangerous or organic (food waste).

PHASE 2

Scientific Analysis & Prep (20 mins)

- Clean & Dry: Quickly clean the items if necessary.
- Categorize: Group your "treasure" by material (refer to our degradation table) or by color and shape.
- Brainstorm: Discuss with your team: What can this become? A sculpture? A 3D mosaic? A symbolic machine?

PHASE 3

The Creative Explosion (1 hour+)

- Assemble: Use the glue, tape, and scissors to bring your idea to life.
- Upcycle: Remember, the goal is to make the waste unrecognizable or to give it a new meaning.
- Label it: Give your artwork a title and write down the "scientific soul" of it (e.g., "This piece contains 500 years of plastic").

EXPECTED OUTCOME

- A work of art displayed at school as a symbol of the twinning.
- New friendships and cultural exchange between Italy and Portugal.
- Greater ecological awareness.



THE GALLERY WALK

Template: The Final Pitch (3-5 minutes per group)

1. The Title & The Concept

- "Our artwork is called... [Title]"
- "We chose this name because..."
- "The main idea behind our creation is..."

2. The "Scientific Soul" (Materials used)

- "We collected [X] plastic bottles, [Y] paper scraps, and [Z] metal objects."
- "The most 'dangerous' material in our sculpture is [e.g., the plastic cup], because it takes 500 years to decompose."
- "We transformed [Material] into [Part of the art] using [Glue/Tape/Paint]."

3. The Message

- "Through this project, we want to show that..."
- "Working together (Italy + Portugal) was [Easy/Challenging/Fun] because..."
- "Our favorite part of the process was..."



USEFUL VOCABULARY FOR THE PRESENTATION



ENGLISH	ITALIAN	PORTOGUESE
Sustainability	Sostenibilità	
Masterpiece	Capolavoro	
Environmental impact	Impatto ambientale	
Resourceful	Ingegnoso / Pieno di risorse	
Hidden beauty	Bellezza nascosta	
To upcycle	Riciclare valorizzando	
Decomposition rate	Tasso di decomposizione	

...A arte não
reproduz o
visível, mas
torna visível o
que nem sempre
o é...