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**IMPLEMENT YOUR FREEDOM**

What does creativity begin with? It begins with ideas, mental image, imaginary pictures. With a person who is a determining cause of everything, and it is not directly related to any other factors. To create something new, perhaps subjective, but unique.

What to start a project with? With problems, goals, objectives, budget, implementation technology, etc. With writing, calculations, rewriting and recalculations. With creating something meaningful equipped with objective criteria to achieve the goal.

How to connect it all together? Creativity and technology, spontaneity and a clear timetable for the implementation of the criteria and the inability to display directly the result of creativity from the initial conditions.

The birth of «Dancing Whirlpool» started with these conflicting thoughts and attempts to unite opurselves for solving existing problems, one of which is the limited resources of the educational institution (logistical, human, financial) that impedes sustainable development and the transition of the college from one qualitative step to another.

Modern society needs educated, competent, motivated to the development and professional growth specialists, capable to plan, to make decisions and to predict their consequences, to be responsible for the results. But a creative element is not less important in a creative profession.

We want our students to develop, to learn new things, to collaborate with peers from other countries, so that our graduates be in demand in the labor market. We want children and young people to be engaged in creative teams and teachers have the potential of knowledge, skills and experience to attract and retain their target audience. We want our college to be not only «alma mater» for its graduates but also an authoritative center for continuing education in the field of creative specialties for everyone.

Comprehensive training of such a specialist, capable of solving creative, teaching and managerial tasks, requires certain conditions, which the college is trying to create attracting additional resources.

Such an additional resource for the educational institution is the project activity. The experience of participating of Karelian College of Culture and Arts in educational projects as a partner and a member is quite diverse – we took part in Finnish-Russian projects «Development of cross-border activities in the field of dance and theater», «Pan Karelian Culture Makers» and «Pan Karelian Culture Festival», Norwegian project «Dansearena nord» and other projects which undoubtedly influenced the professional and personal formation of students.

Accumulated positive partner experience and desire to develop ourselves have led us to prepare a project application in a cross-border cooperation program in the framework of the European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument «Karelia» in 2012. Only nine from 36 projects received a grant support. Among the projects that had successfully passed all the qualifying procedures was the project of Karelian College of Culture and Arts «Dancing whirlpool».

CBC Programme over the years supports projects in various fields in order to create well-being areas. European Union, Russia and Finland participate in the financing.

 «Dancing whirlpool», aimed at promoting cross-border cooperation in the field of contemporary dance art, development networking between educational institutions and cultural organizations, creation new methods of cooperation and involvement of children and young people to participation in cultural events, was launched on March 1, 2013. The project duration is 18 months, the budget is 120,000 euros.

Together with our partners: professional college in Outokumpu (Finland) and «Karelian Resource Center of Public Organizations» as well as with associates of the project: Center of Culture and Leisure in Segezha and community center «Friendship» in Kostomuksha we implemented a number of activities among which the most significant event was the staging a joint choreographic performance.

The performance, created by the students and teachers of two schools in a very short period of time - just five days, was shown in Petrozavodsk, Segezha, Kostamuksha (Russia), Outokumpu and Kuopio (Finland). Each partner has contributed and shared a unique experience in the process of making the performance. Finnish experts in the field of contemporary choreography introduced Russian participants the intricacies of contemporary art and contact improvisation. Describing their impressions of the rehearsal session in Finland Karelian students said that five days in Outokumpu gave them invaluable experience in the new approach to movement. Any motion must be justified: it is very important where the impulse came, with what force, in which temporhythm. Contemporary dance is a dance of body, dance of soal, dance of world knowledge. But in spite of this recess, you must clearly understand what is happening around you. It is necessary to response to the world around you. If you are dancing not alone but with your partner, contact improvisation is born thanks to your contact.

 We are proud to note that the idea of ​​the performance, its intellectual beginning belongs to Karelian students. Three Norns, the goddess of human destiny are holding scrolls. Wise Old Urd is reading the scroll of the past. Belldandy owns the scroll of the present. Third, young Skuld has the scroll of the future. The Norns live at the roots of Yggdrasil tree and water it from the source every day. The interaction of goddesses’ energy is twisting the swirl of human destinies.

The project like a real whirlpool swirled all its participants, intensified students’ life, filled it with events, trips , performances. Our partnership and joint rehearsals despite different approaches towards the dance movement taught and enriched students and teachers. The students faced with a different culture and gained experience in cross-cultural interaction, they met with a different, partly opposite, system of training and saw how to solve creative teaching and managerial tasks while working in the project.

Besides educational institutions the project «Dancing whirlpool» involved leaders and members of amateur dance groups of the Republic of Karelia. Series of workshops and seminars were conducted, educational module was created and video on contemporary choreography was recorded for them. We hope that the knowledge gained from Finnish and Russian teachers have contributed to improving the competence of teachers-professionals that will allow them to be interesting for the modern youth .

The final event of the project was a festival of modern choreography which was held in Petrozavodsk from 14 to 17 March, 2014. The festival was attended by teams from the Republic of Karelia, Murmansk and Arkhangelsk regions.

Despite the logistical difficulties connected with lack of experience as «a leading partner» and fear «to be in charge of everything, the keynote of the project was still creativity, creative development and self-realization of the participants.

Russian philosopher Berdyaev wrote that creativity is something that helps people to exercise their freedom, realize their connection with the world, relationship with their deep essence. I hope that the project has provided the opportunity to all its participants.

I want to express my gratitude to the CBC program, all the organizers and participants of the project: administration, students of Karelian College of Culture and Arts, our partners from the North Karelian Vocational College in Outokumpu (Finland), directors and managers of creative groups from the Centre of Culture and Leisure in Segezha, Cultural and Sports Center «Friendship» in Kostomuksha and everybody who participated in the project «Dancing whirlpool».