

ExperieN^{ces}otes 4

Recycling & Upcycling of materials / objects



Within the Environmental and Sustainable Activities of SSIO Slovenia, a creative workshop "How to make a toy or any other product from waste materials?" took place at the homes of individual in April. The purpose of the workshop was to emphasize the usefulness of the objects or materials that might otherwise be thrown away because they seem to have no more value. Two videos were prepared which show the process of making a cute toy as well as a plant support. In addition, they addressed the workshop participants, on how to make useful things that they currently might need.

The starting point of the workshop was the third issue of the ExperieN^{ces}otes 3. - Recycling & Upcycling of materials / objects. The main objective was, that instead of buying a toy or any other product in the store, we made them ourselves from materials and / or objects that we all had available at home, which might have been considered waste.

The objective was that the participants of the workshop had fun, experimented, made something useful, did not pollute the environment, were in good company, encouraged creativity and followed the recommended SSIO environmental sustainability guidelines for personal practice. Therefore, quite a few waste materials and objects served the aim of this project and did not end up in the trash or worst, in nature.

In the middle of May, a virtual presentation of home-made products took place. The products presented were original, imaginative and currently serve their purpose. Participants provided photos of their products, which can be seen below.

Project #1: Plant support

Garden birch



Cut birch branches



Support for roses



Bean support



Source: Author of the product 1

A beautiful birch tree now grows in the garden of the two participants of the workshop, which had to be cut. The branches are imaginatively used as a support for roses and beans. Thicker branches will be used in the fireplace, while thinner ones have been cut into smaller pieces and will end up in the composter. Nothing roamed into the trash.

Product #2: Roots as a stand for flowers





Source: Author of the product 2

The dried roots of the felled trees were intended to be burned. The workshop participant cleaned the roots and used them as plant stands. In doing so, she had fun and, above all, created a very beautiful organic product herself.

Project #3: Floating candle



Source: Author of the product 3

For a floating candle we need ordinary edible oil (it can also be old or beam), a float made of cork (3-6 mm high) wrapped in a thin scrap of tea candle (at the bottom). A hole is made in the middle of cork where the wick is inserted.

The floating candle for home use is made of a glass jar containing water and oil.

For a funeral candle, you need a jam jar into which water and oil are poured, and an old candle cap.

In both cases, a float with protection and wick is placed on the oil.

In this way, we contribute to reducing the burden on the environment with used candles and it is definitely a more environmentally friendly solution.

Product #4: Bulldozer, Mars vehicle and a horse



Source: Author of the product 4

All toys; bulldozer, a vehicle for Mars and a horse are made entirely from completely ordinary household waste. They make the grandchildren of the workshop participant very happy. Sometimes a toy also breaks down, but this situation allows them to learn how to fix the toy. Instead of buying toys, they make them themselves and have fun, learn something useful and save money. Children's imagination is unlimited.

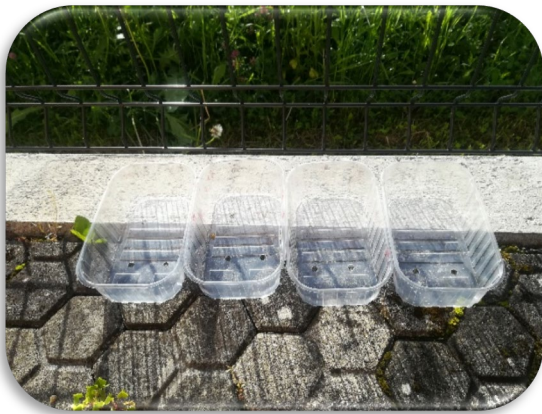
Product #5: Plant support



Source: Author of the product 5

There are a lot of plastic plant supports in the shops. Why burden nature with them. Let's make a support for ourselves e.g. from the wheel, which you decorate with the napkin technique of the desired colours and patterns.

Product #6: Let's recycle plastic



Source: Author of the product 6

Every day we collect plastic containers at home, in which we buy fruit or vegetables. They can be used for flower beds on window sills, where we can grow our own seedlings of plants. We plant them in the garden in the spring. Such use of plastic is useful.

Product #7: Recycled sculpture



Source: Author of the product 7

These products are an experiment in finding a new form of creation that we can call “recycled sculpturing”. In this case, it is a test in artistic creativity. It is not the result that matters, but it is important that we look for new ways to use discarded materials and objects. When we think in this direction, sooner or later we come up with useful ideas.

We hope that the workshop will be an inspiring example to others who did not attend the workshop. Moreover, that it will encourage others to take on new environmental and sustainable challenges. We wish you many creative ideas and inventions in such activities. Remember, we can make many useful things ourselves.

