

VAMLAS

SUPPORTING CHILDREN AND YOUTH WITH DISABILITIES



Shortly about Vamlas

- Vamlas: Supporting Foundation for youth and children with disabilities
- Founded in 1889 to promote education and employment of children and youth with disabilities
- Today Vamlas provides expert services, training and projects (employment, services, participation)
- Housing services for students in Helsinki, Lauttasaari (Hoas)
- Staff total of 30 people
- www.vamlas.fi

Rehabilitation International

- Global organization and network that empowers persons with disabilities
- Members in more than 100 countries
- Consultative status with the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA) and co-operation with WHO and ILO
- VAMLAS is a member of RI through Rehabilitation Finland (Rifi) association.
- RI will held a world congress in Edinburgh 26.-28.10. 2016 <http://riworldcongress.com/>

Activities

- Development and projects
 - the Comic's project
 - Employment and job coaching
 - Services for immigrants
- Summer camps
- Lobbying and follow-up on legislation and services
- Network for ngo's and families
- Network of young people



Grassroot-comic's method

World Comics Finland introduced a concept called grassroots comics, which are made into four-panel wallposters for distribution in the community.

The method is very simple and does not require much drawing skill.

It has been used in NGO development work and in movements and campaigns.

These comics are always very powerful because they are made by local activists or the stakeholders themselves.

The stories are credible and relevant to the community.

- Grassroots comics have been used by organisations to focus on different issues, such as racism, sexual harassment, girl child rights, school drop-outs, hiv/aids, sanitation, and right to education. These are just a few examples. Any issue, on which one can make a story, can be expressed through grassroots comics.

Workshop leader's in work



The main idea of the project was that young people with disabilities run and lead workshops in schools and the participants are other young people who don't have disability.

This methodology reveals stereotypes and shows that a disabled person can also work as a teacher and help and teach others.

Different, but equal - comic's project



Just graduated: New comic workshop leaders



Participation was easy for young people, because...



- They didn't need to have drawing experience before
- Drawing was easier and also more inspirational way to approach the matter of differences and stereotypes than talking
- After the drawing session, each participant presented their own work. The discussions based on that work made it easy to talk about experiences of equality and what equality means to different people.

Exhibition in Gallery, Helsinki city central, Autumn 2015



At the end of the project, a one week long comic's exhibition in the center of Helsinki was held.

The exhibition was open to everybody.

Testimonials in numbers

- Total: 28 workshop
- 26 of these all around in Finland, schools and youth event's
- 1 workshop in Slovakia with special need youngsters
- 1 workshop with members of Finnish parliament
- 10 educated workshop leader (every of them have some disability)
- 300 drewed comic- story about equality
- 1 week exhibition in Helsinki city central
- Postcards



Children's and youth summer camps



- Camps for siblings and friends
- Children with disabilities and without disabilities can learn from each other
- The goals of international summer camps has been to provide children with disabilities experiences of the international atmosphere, to learn to communicate in a foreign language and to get to know kids from other countries.

