



Elephant: Educational Animation Film Programme for Schools and Families (Slovenia)

Summary

“Two Reels” Association uses animated films to develop children’s creativity, their technical skills and their ability to relate to the moving images that surround them. They also develop pedagogical material to encourage viewings and discussions about animated films in the classroom.

The project

The project aims to use animated films as a tool in education in order to develop technical skills and an ability to analyse content. It targets children (ages 3-14), young people (ages 14-19), students (ages 19-25) and teachers by using workshops and viewings of animated films accompanied by discussions. A broader aim is to establish an international dialogue on education in animated films, and to encourage and support its independent production.

Sector(s) covered

Main Sector

Education and training: the development of key competences.

Other Sectors

Arts and creative industry: focus on animated films

Approach

The association organises workshops in schools and at children’s festivals as well as viewings of animated films accompanied by discussions. Three types of workshops have been developed: how animated films are interpreted, based on drawing and discussions about what has been seen at the projections; a workshop of optical toys for the youngest participants; and "From drawing to cartoon", where students can make their own animations. Apart from the workshop, the association has also developed pedagogical material for teachers concerning viewing and discussing animated films.

Element of innovation – the process

Children are constantly surrounded by moving images in television, videogames and advertising. By using the language of visual images and providing guidance to them, the workshops allow the participants to relate to what they see as well as understanding relationships and comparing different cultures and personalities.

Key successes

(outcomes, results, impacts)

The process of making animated films involves creativity in itself and allows the participants to acquire knowledge about new techniques as well as improving their technical abilities. The indirect form of animation enables teachers to deal with topics that are difficult to approach and abstract themes are presented more easily to youths.



It has become clear that animation can be used to present and discuss important social topics and to provide children with a tool to better interpret and learn from films, television and internet.

Clear outputs of the project are the pedagogical material for teachers, an anthology and a DVD with animated films and guidelines to discussing them.

Challenges

The project started small-scale, but as the programme has grown and spread, the need for better technical equipment has become evident.

Transferability and sustainability

The Elephant programme is scheduled to continue and the main components of the programme are reproducible. Workshops at schools are repeated, "The Elephant Anthology" is a yearly publication, and the Elephant children's programme at the Animateka Festival is a recurring event.

Special Highlights

The use of animated films for educational purposes from very early ages and using them as an entry point to discuss serious subjects are the particularly innovative parts of this project.

Key characteristics

General purpose of the practice	Stimulating innovative/creative behaviours in people
Target group	Children (3-14), youths (14-19), students (19-25) and teachers (25+)
Type of learning	Non-formal, Informal
Level of implementation	International/National
Funding	Public
Time frame	Started 2005 (ongoing)
Leading organisations	Two Reels - Association for the Reanimation of Storytelling



Further information

Websites of the project

www.animateka.si

www.drustvo2koluta.org

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