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*Octopuss puppet from the exhibition of ABM workshops in the Night of Disappearing Art (Photo by: Satu Aalto)*



**MIMO Wishes Prosperous and Happy Year 2013!**

**The final year of MIMO is going to be full of Action!**



### IN THIS ISSUE

MIMO Open Days

Is It Ok to Stay Sober?

The Night of Disappearing Art...



### MIMO IN SHORT

MIMO is a three-year research and development project with EU funding from the Central Baltic – program (Central Baltic INTERREG IV A 2007–2013). The project develops multi-professional teamwork models and art based methods for the use of social and youth work by carrying out various workshops for the target group of 13–17 year olds.

### INFO

<http://mimo.turkuamk.fi>

<http://mimo.ee>

<http://www.facebook.com/MovinInMovingOn>

## MIMO Open Days

MIMO Open Days was organised in Salo on the 25th of September. The day was divided in two different workshops presenting the activities of the project.

In the morning the participants were welcomed to follow a dance workshop at Hakastaro elementary school. The dance and health care students have planned and organised intensive dance workshops for children with special needs. Many of the ideas for the themes of the workshops have come from the participants. During the last workshop they had travelled to Africa, and this time they spent time in an amusement park: riding the roller coaster and carousel, eating lollipops and candyfloss... And they all seemed to have a wonderful time: "I will tell my mum that I rode a roller coaster today!"

In the afternoon almost sixty observers had the chance to see the performances that are part of the *It Is Ok to Stay Sober* event for 7<sup>th</sup> grade pupils in elementary school. The performance was a simulation because the observers would have disturbed the conversation and feedback in the real situation.



About sixty observers saw the *It Is Ok to Stay Sober* simulation in Salo.  
(Photo by: Susanna Pvärre)

Dramatised scenes where alcohol results in humiliation and even fatal accidents had an effect also on the "older" audience. In the actual event, the health care students (with support from professionals, if needed) discuss the young audience's feelings and attitudes towards alcohol with them. Pupils also have the possibility to rewrite one of the original scenes with a better end result. This is the second year of *It is Ok to Stay Sober* activities in MIMO and the feedback from the schools and professionals has been very encouraging.

Written by: Susanna Pvärre  
Communications Coordinator of MIMO  
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## Is It Ok to Stay Sober?

During the last two years I have been participating in the team organising the event *It Is Ok to Stay Sober* to 7<sup>th</sup> grade pupils in Salo (September 2011 and 2012). Comparing my skills and knowledge to the level I had last autumn, I would say that they have developed a lot. I'm now a much better instructor and performer when interacting with youths. Organising events like *It Is Ok to Stay Sober* is very close to the thing I would like to do after my graduation.

This journey has been long and it has provided both moments of joy and success as well as moments of despair. My own feelings have been very much involved in the process and the event has even found its way to my dreams. The actual event in 2012 was a package of various methods of instruction, new audiences and moments that won't be forgotten for a while. I participated in all 13 realisations. It is breath-taking to think that our event reached altogether 450 7<sup>th</sup>-graders in Salo.

The events carried out have differed from each other quite a lot: We have performed for audiences from twenty to hundred and fifty. We have performed in the huge secondary schools in the centre of Salo and in the small and cosy school of Perniö. We have had very talkative groups and groups that don't speak at all. Some of the groups were very challenging to work with. There are 7<sup>th</sup> graders who have not even thought of smoking or using alcohol. Then there are those, who are already experienced in using alcohol and bring the smell of cigarettes with them, when they enter the room.

Keeping the youth interested in what I have to say was especially challenging. We have considered all kind of stimulus and activities, but nothing compares to the drama performed by soon-to-be professionals. I have considered my own performance and choices of expression a lot. How should I express myself to appear credible in the ears of a 7<sup>th</sup> grader? How to get the main points across to them? My role in the event was to be available and to get the youth to think about thing from the right angle. I was not supposed to intimidate them, just to open up their eyes. Youngsters need time to consider what they have heard and seen, but they also need to have a chance to discuss their thoughts with someone reliable.

I am happy that I have been given the chance to participate in the organisation of *It Is Ok to Stay Sober*, where professionals from various fields can work together with good results. It was not always easy to work with the theatre students, but it was very rewarding. Occasionally we had huge differences in our opinions, but we managed to settle them all. I learned a lot from them and I believe that they also gained new perspectives from us. Finding a common goal for our actions is the key. Without a common goal it is quite impossible to create a meaningful event for the youth.

At the moment it feels that I have given everything I can to this project. I hope that our efforts will have some effect on the participating youth. If just one youngster avoids drunken debauchery thanks to *It Is Ok to Stay Sober*, we have reached our goal.

Written by:

Kiira Järvisilta

Health Care Student

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*This drunken love affair performed by Mikko Semi and Heini Vahtera in It Is Ok to Stay Sober event did not have a happy ending.  
(Photo by: Susanna Pyörre)*



*Improvisation  
Workshop on the 4<sup>th</sup> of  
December in the Night  
of Disappearing Art  
(Photo by: Satu Aalto)*

## The Night of Disappearing Art...

The event took place in Vimma, a specific centre created for youth to do and consume art in Turku. It was scheduled to last from six till eight, however as always one has to organise things beforehand and for that there were several people already at three o'clock, both students and teachers. What originally was a blunt and somewhat dark space reformed to a bright and atmospheric room with the help of the people participating in the ABM programme.

On the long set of tables there was an exhibition of puppets and artworks made by the youngsters in two ABM workshops held during this autumn. The participants seemed to be really eager to see both their own works and also the ones by the others on a display. It looked nice and the signs and writings to go along with the works were professionally made, increasing the importance even more.

On the opposite side of the room we set up an ethnic buffet table, and since the evening was also meant to be a pre-Christmas party, it was only appropriate to have some gingerbread along with the possibility to decorate them. The evening was all about us working as a group, and from the very beginning the MIMO spirit truly was present.

Once the rest of the ABM students and the youngsters had arrived we had a small intro to the evening, held by Kari Keuru (Humak), and soon afterwards an improvisation workshop lead by Maija Häkli (Turku Arts Academy).

The idea of this evening was simply to create a nice and relaxed get-together where no-one would feel pressured to do or say anything, just be and experience. It was meant to be effortless and we did succeed to some extent. In the end we were around thirty people, and out of this amount less than ten did not want to take part in the improvisation-workshop. However, even the ones who did not attend seemed to be really keen on seeing what was going on in the stage. Some of them even participated by "cheering" their friends. It looked like people were genuinely having fun.

Later, whilst enjoying the buffet, we had a possibility to watch a short film produced by one of the ABM groups; the film was made using the visual storytelling technique. Even if the actual interaction with the youngsters might have been somewhat minimalistic, the evening proved to be successful and most importantly, fun.

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