

INTERNATIONAL COLOUR PROJECT

Preliminary assessment project from 1 October 2004 to 31 March 2005

A Colour Centre is being planned to be established in Iitti, the services of which will include a Colour Museum, Colour Library, Colour Café and a product shop. In addition, the Colour Centre will comprise a dye house, which will provide services for professionals, persons interested in the matter, and groups that need premises for courses. The EU-funded Väripaletti - Colour Palette Project (in operation from 1 January 2004 to 31 December 2005) was launched in order to establish the Colour Centre, and during this preliminary assessment project now in progress, a co-operation basis will be created for the International Colour Project, which will begin in the spring.

The objective is to bring together people who are interested in the history and different use of colours, and the parties operating with dyeing and dyes extracted from natural materials. In addition, the operating possibilities of an international co-operation network will be explored, for example, with the help of a joint sales organisation.

CO-OPERATION POSSIBILITIES AT INTERNATIONAL LEVEL

Colour Museum

The museum, situated in Iitti, will mainly offer information on the history of colours and dyeing methods used in textiles. In addition to a permanent exhibition, there will be seasonal exhibitions on different themes, from different historical eras, and by different artists in the premises of the museum. The international exhibitions of the Colour Museum will display the specialities of different countries in the use of colours. They will also introduce the work of private artists and artist-craftsmen.

Product shop

The selection of the shop will include natural dyes as well as finished products. The product shop will function as a centre where contact information of Finnish and foreign material providers will be collected. A part of the product range will be available for online sale.

Dye house

The dye house will incorporate dyeing equipment especially designed for the needs of those who use natural materials in the dyeing. The services of the premises will be available for private persons, schools, persons interested in the matter and professionals. The intention is to create production rings for the collectors of natural dyes, the cultivators of dye plants, the producers of materials and the dyers in different countries.

The possibilities of international co-operation will be enhanced by work residence, which means that artists and handicraftsmen from the co-operative countries can come and work in the premises of the Colour Centre. It is also intended that international training will be organised in the Colour Centre.

Colour Festival 2005

A Colour Festival will be organised 12 - 14 August 2005 in Iitti, in connection with which an international colour meeting will also take place. The program of the festival will include a colour seminar, exhibitions, the sales and introduction of products, work demonstrations, competitions, music etc. – all related to the colour theme. The more detailed program will take shape during the spring.

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ORGANISATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION

The project operations

The purpose of the international preliminary assessment project (1.10.2004 – 31.3.2005) is to find the co-operative partners, to make the project plans and to draw up the co-operation contracts with the operators and operating groups of the EU-countries, interested in the matter.

After the preliminary project, an international project will be launched (for the period of 1 April 2005 – 28 February 2006), which will emphasise the charting and continued handling of the natural dyes, and the international development of the dyeing methods. In addition, the intention is to increase the awareness of the various possibilities of usage of the natural materials and to develop the product design and marketing.

Funding

All the co-operative partners will arrange their own funding. The International Colour Project will be responsible for seminars, events, training etc. organised in Finland, and the co-operative partners of the corresponding activities in their own country. Similarly, the parties will provide for their own travelling expenses arising from the journeys to joint meetings.

Everyone interested in the co-operation is warmly welcome to join the activities!

Best regards,

Kris-Tiina Valolahti, Riitta Liski and Päivi Hutri
from Väripaletti office



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