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Toolbox on Youth Ideas about Energy Efficient ICT use

- What are the ideas of young people on how to use ICT in an energy efficient way?
- How can different actions by different people lead to a more sustainable way of using ICT?

The useITsmartly Toolbox is now ready to go!

The useITsmartly project aims at reducing the energy consumption related to the use of ICT (Information and Communication Technology) by developing innovative solutions to foster young people's capacity of smart IT use and ideas on how to engage with them. The toolbox is one part from work package 3 of the useITsmartly project. The aim of the work package is to develop, together with young people in workshop-settings, ideas on how to **facilitate** and **encourage energy-efficient IT practices** of adolescents through **changes in knowledge, attitudes and practices** in different target groups.

Based on the output of creativity workshops with young people a number of ideas were collected and, to ensure their feasibility, reviewed, and reworked in various rounds by the youths and international experts on youths, social media, and technology. The output is a set of **38 tools** that can be **used by young people** but also by **schools, organisations, policy makers** and **companies** that want to engage in **environmental friendly ICT practices** or that want to convince and motivate others to do so.

The toolbox is meant to be a practical instrument to **inspire and encourage youth and other** actors to take action towards using IT more smartly. Developed by the target group themselves, we expect them to be more effective than those that are developed top-down.

Here you can **download the Toolbox in English** (hands-on-version) and the following languages: **German, Dutch, Danish** and **Norwegian**.

<http://www.useitsmartly.com/toolbox/>



One aim of useITsmartly is to train young people in smart and green IT use so they can distribute their knowledge among their peers. Based on previous earlier project results and an overall concept, specific country **tools and didactical concepts for vehicle and peer-trainings** were designed for each of the five partner countries: Austria, Denmark, Germany, The Netherlands and Norway (e.g. country-specific issues, pre-knowledge of the future IT-peers).

Young people get background information on facts and problems of IT use accompanied by training skills. The **trained youths** set actions on their own **as multipliers** (start projects, spread info on how to change energy consumption attitudes in schools and among young people) in order to motivate others for a reflective and smart use of IT.

As a result, a broader range of training concepts is made available, which can be adopted for further needs. The **didactical concepts** are made available **in English and the specific country language** the concept was developed for.

A **collection of 10 didactical concepts** for the application of the **vehicle approach** for educational settings will also be **made available on the website**. The vehicle trainings will feed into the national peer training activities.

In the following you can read about the training activities that happened so far in the participating countries:

IT-Peer-trainings in partner countries

✓ Austria's Green IT-Peers know more!

In February 2015 the Styrian Center of Environmental Education implemented the first Green IT-Peer training in Austria within the "UseITsmartly" project. In the 3-days training 18 students of technical secondary schools were informed about how internet, mobile phone & co can be used in an energy saving way. Practical experimenting und "learning by doing" had a high priority in the training. After the course the Green IT-peers work as multipliers for equals. Through presentations and workshops with school classes, they pass on their knowledge and experience to other students.

✓ Denmark's first IT-ambassadors graduating at Aarhus Tech

Over the past few months, AURA Rådgivning and SBI Aalborg have been educating Denmark's very first IT-ambassadors. The nine students from Aarhus Tech, trained as IT-ambassadors, have been working hard to fulfil their tasks in order to graduate. The pictures show the students on their day of graduating, where an evaluation on their process and products was carried out, and finally they had been awarded a diploma, as proof of their education.





*Pictures provided by Jacob Fischer, member of the useITsmarty team

Aarhus Tech also awarded their students with a small gift, for all of their hard work and commitment in the project. Journalists from Aarhus Tech have prepared this article about our course of study at Aarhus Tech:

<http://aarhustech.dk/om-aarhus-tech/generel-information/presse-og-nyheder/nyheder/danmarks-foerste-it-ambassadoerer-uddannes-i-aarhus>

✓ First Green-IT-Trainings in **Germany**

On March 16 and 20 the first two Green-IT Workshop days took place at the University of Wuppertal. Participants were 12 boys between 14 and 16 years, who are already members of the school's climate working group at Humboldt Gymnasium Solingen. The next training will be held from April 20 - 24 with students of an occupational school in Wuppertal.

✓ IT-peers going green in the **Netherlands**

Students of the Dutch University of Applied Sciences in Amsterdam have successfully completed the IT-Peer educator training in February. The Communication and Multimedia Design Students did not need much instruction to get started with among others some very nice *YouTube* videos that can be viewed on our website. The next trainings scheduled are with two high schools: one in Amsterdam and one in the city of Eindhoven. Both trainings target very different groups (in terms of age, background, interest). Like the first workshop, we plan to start with an IT hardware tear-down workshop, as a kind of very practical and hands-on Life Cycle Analysis: what's inside our IT hardware, where does it come from, can we recognize materials, how repairable, recyclable and reusable are the components; can we deconstruct the hardware without having to destroy parts of it?

✓ **Norwegian** IT-Peer training

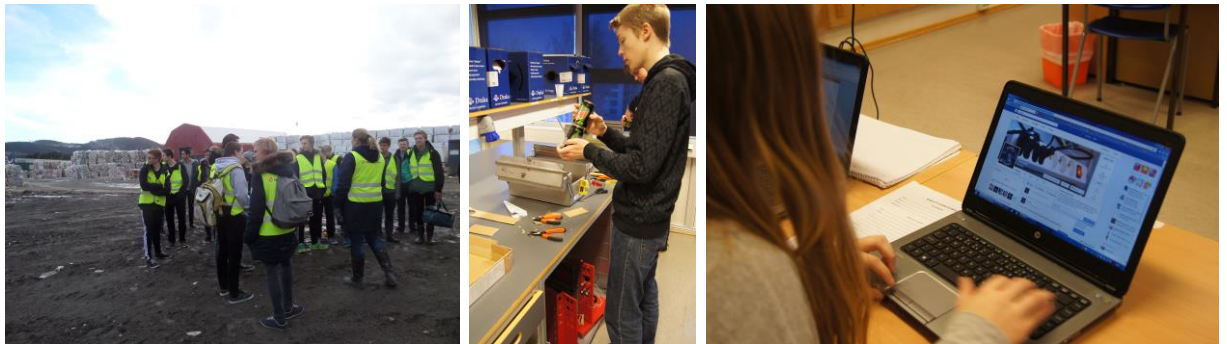
In week 7 and 9 in February, the Norwegian useITsmarty team carried out two IT-Peer trainings in cooperation with the electronics department of the Heimdal secondary school in Trondheim. 60 students were trained as "green IT-ambassadors". The first part of the training aimed to give the students an overview over the environmental



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consequences and energy use of different ICT practices and included, e.g., a visit at the local recycling center and engaging presentations by three young climate ambassadors and by an IT expert. In the second part of the training, the students worked on their own green IT-ambassador projects, such as: writing a green blog, organizing the collection of old mobile phones for recycling, the "turnIToff hour" on Facebook, an energy saving app and many more exiting projects.



*Pictures provided by Sara Heidenreich, member of the useITsmartyly team

Vehicle workshops in Austria

In Austria, additionally to the peer-to-peer-training, solar-fashion vehicle workshops were conducted from December 2014 to February 2015. The participants developed three innovative prototypes with the help of a professional designer from www.Heidenspess.cc. Finally, the students presented their creative ideas to Stefan Ponsold, CEO of www.SunnyBag.at (a local solar fashion company).



The Austrian vehicle-training participants



Prototype 1: A solar dog backpack



Prototype 2 & 3: A beach mat that can charge your phone while you surf and a solar outdoor poncho for hiking

*Pictures provided by Thomas Berger, member of the useITsmartyly team



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useITsmartly at Second 21st Century Academic Forum Conference at Harvard

During her stay in the US Jennifer Dahmen used the opportunity to present useITsmartly at the **Second 21st Century Academic Forum Conference at Harvard** with its topic Teaching, Learning, and Research in the "Just Google It" Age. Her presentation was called "**Google It?! But at What Price? – Teaching Pro-Environmental Behaviour for Smart and Energy-Efficient Use of Information and Communication Technologies**" and included information on focus groups and creativity workshop results as well as first insights into the training activities of the useITsmartly partner countries.

useITsmartly in press

Beyond the power socket – useITsmartly makes energy visible. An article of useITsmartly published at the ManagEnergy Platform can be found here:

<http://www.managenergy.net/news/articles/586>



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Next step of peer trainings

Within the next months, the trained youths will multiply their knowledge about green ICT use among their peers and schools through their self-created projects.

The next step of multiplication will be the training of another bunch of students and young people in every country that will spread their knowledge countrywide.

Conference

useITsmartly will be represented on the **STS Conference "Critical Issues in Science, Technology and Society Studies"** that is held from 11th to 12th of May in Graz, Austria. There will be a session on **"ICT Use, Energy Consumption and the Changing Practices"** with the following talks of members of the project (amongst others):

- Sara Heidenreich & Robert Næss
"The Digitalization of the School and its Environmental Challenges: Engaging Adolescents to Reflect on and Change their Use of ICTs Considering Climate Change Mitigation"
- Toke Haunstrup Christensen & Els Rommes
"Saving Energy on Use of ICT: Inertia and Embeddedness of Young People's Use of Information and Communication Technologies"
- Thomas Berger, Natascha Compes, Jennifer Dahmen & Anita Thaler
"Use IT – but Smartly! Communicating Pro-Environmental ICT Usage to Young People"

The preliminary conference programme can be downloaded here:





<http://www.sts.aau.at/ias/IAS-STS/Upcoming-Activities/STS-Conference-Graz-20152>



Who we are – building a European useITsmartly community

We are scientists, stakeholders and multipliers passionately thinking about how technologies can be used in an energy-efficient way. Our **goal is to communicate with and through youths about creative new concepts of "smart IT use"**.

Interested in energy efficient IT use and green living?
Join us and share your ideas with us!

-  www.facebook.com/green.use
-  www.instagram.com/useitsmartly#
-  www.twitter.com/useITsmartly
-  www.useitsmartly.com

Partner institutions



Radboud University Nijmegen



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