



LAUREA
AMMATTIKORKEAKOULU
UNIVERSITY OF APPLIED SCIENCES

Yhdessä enemmän
Together we are stronger

The Multisensory Space Method

The idea of “Aistien”-method - the “Multisensory Space” Method - came up to the need of create a place where individuals from different cultures could meet and share their memories. First steps on the way of developing this method were taken at Laurea University of Applied Sciences. Today the method is used in many different ways.

The Multisensory Space is an easily modified space where all the senses are activated by different elements. The space can be used as an inspirational learning environment but also as a meeting point for people. The space and the multisensory materials provoke thoughts and memories which inspire dialogue among visitors. A visitor can, for a moment, relax in a pleasant atmosphere, return to his/her past or explore a completely different world. The space promotes wellbeing in different ways, for example there can be organized activities that support the culture of the aging and second generation immigrants.



In the Multisensory Space, there is

- something to see (visual effects, such as fabrics with different colors, photographs; landscapes created with projectors and lighting)
- something to touch (objects, fabrics)
- something to hear (music or other sounds)
- something to smell and taste (food, drinks)



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Development of the Method

The first projects of multisensory spaces were executed in 2007 at Laurea University of Applied Sciences. This work continued in a project called *With All Senses - Developing Open Learning Environments* in 2011 - 2015. The main goal was to develop multisensory open learning environments, to expand local and national networks and to develop the technical aspects of the multisensory space.

Laurea University of Applied Sciences coordinated the network where partners developed the method in total 28 pilots. Laurea concentrated to improve multicultural learning environments while the seven other partners used the method for different purposes such as promoting welfare, sense of community and active citizenship. At Laurea there are more than 100 students in a year working with the method as a part of their studies.

The method is in use at Laurea and within network partners. Method is now expanded to even wider use, for example they have used the method in teacher training program at University of Helsinki.

The network has expanded and it now has international partners too: there are three Nordic universities together with Laurea experiencing how Multisensory Space Method can be used in social pedagogue learning.

Finnish Red Cross has used the method as a way to tell about the life on a refugee camp. They built up a refugee tent to intensify their campaign, to highlight the refugee related issues in the society and to have an impact on policy makers.





You are welcome to our team

The Multisensory Space Method has shown that it works in different environments and with different target groups. There are three main ways where we would like to continue the development. Laurea is looking for partners to make the work together.

Learning environment

The Multisensory Space can be used as a learning environment which gives inspiration and experiences to students in the space. The building process empowers the individuals connected to the process and serves as a means for learning. When all the senses are given attention it supports the learning process. Because the Multisensory Space is an easily modified space it can be used with teaching different subjects. Teaching foreign language in the almost authentic environment gives motivation and inspiration for discussion. Building of the Space concretises abstract matters and makes them easier to process.



A regular classroom can be changed into a multisensory space with a few changes. The Multisensory Space can be set up in a classroom as a permanent solution or a smaller mobile version can be set up in different locations.

Work Method for Social Services

The Multisensory Space promotes wellbeing and empowerment. The method can be viewed via the conceptual framework of sociocultural empowerment. It is useable in social services as a working method. It supports discussion of individual's or group's identity and may help to assess roots and values of individual or group. The completed space is also an inspiring place for reminiscence work. Especially customers in the institutions and hospitals could be empowered by using the method.

Method to Influence in Society

The Multisensory Space can also be used as a tool for social influence and sharing information. It works well for initiating a discussion among society and promoting a sense of togetherness and encounters between individuals and communities. The mobile version of the Multisensory Space makes the space easy to build in public places. The Method can be used in community development to plan the future. Local people can get involved in the planning for example by making different vision of the future visible.



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Laurea University of Applied Sciences

Laurea University of Applied Sciences is a research-oriented and developmental university of applied sciences that produces new competence. It has more than 7000 students and seven campuses around the metropolitan area. In its operating environment, Laurea is specializing in service innovations and focusing on regional development of the metropolitan area.

Laurea's strategic choice is to integrate its three tasks - education, R&D and regional development. It has created the Learning by Developing (LbD) model as a tool for reaching its strategic goals and implementing them in practice at the Laurea Living Labs Network. For students LbD means that they get involved in development projects as a part of their studies. It is a way to get the competence needed in working life: they grow from learners into experts with excellent employment opportunities. The basis for R&D&I is a holistic view of well-being which provides sustainable direction for businesses and for the development of entire service systems. Laurea uses living labs to develop for educational purposes.

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More information about Laurea University of Applied Sciences:
www.laurea.fi/en/

More information about the Multisensory Space Method:
www.aistienmenetelma.net

Information about With All Senses - project:
www.laurea.fi/en/projects/with-all-senses