

## Making Music Climate Network Event 9 May 2025



**How to tackle global (environmental) problems  
with imagination, beauty and creativity?**

**Jan-Willem**  
Strategic Advisor

**van Kruyssen**  
Creative Producer

**making  
music**

Participatory art & education can play a powerful role in addressing some of the world's biggest challenges today. It can be a tool not only to raise awareness of issues, but also to engage people in collective action, create hope and foster new collaborations between sectors.

How can participatory art contribute to social change, help combat eco-anxiety and climate fatalism and how can collaboration with other domains be encouraged?



Funded by  
the European Union



## **Participatory art as a tool to address global problems (more than ‘art for art’s sake’)**

Participatory art goes beyond the idea of ‘art for art’s sake’ because it is not just aesthetic or expressive but can actually bring about social and ecological change. It encourages an artistic attitude of openness, reflection and sensitivity, which fosters dialogue and shared exploration of issues like social justice, climate change and biodiversity.

Art can connect people on both local and global levels through shared experiences and goals, which is crucial in tackling issues such as inequality, climate change and biodiversity loss.



Funded by  
the European Union



# SILENCE OF THE BEES



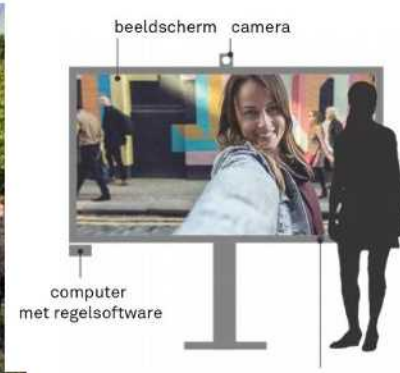
The project Silence of the Bees (SotB) was one of the main program components of LF2018.

## B-R(H)APSODIE - (B-RAP)

Awareness through 'inspiration & creation, facts & knowledge'. Change through stimulation of innovation and action. Silence of the Bees does this with the help of image and language, in music and art, in culture and science.

The B-RAP project is co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) under the INTERREG V A-Program Deutschland-Nederland and by the Niedersächsisches Ministerium für Bundes- und Europaangelegenheiten und Regionale Entwicklung and the Province of Fryslân.

**Citizen Science / Biophilia triggering / Oratorio / Bumblebee Rhapsody / Fenster zum Nachbarn / BIJENPACT / B-Aware**







Buitenpost, Oldenburg and Emden have a tourist attraction thanks to Silence of the Bees: The Oratorio, a sculpture in which visitors are immersed in music generated by bees. The Oratorios are connected to each other via a web application.




Oldenburg University and VHL Leeuwarden worked in collaboration with the Dutch Centre for Bee Research, Ökowerk Emden and IMME Bourtanger Moor together with a unique "Citizen Science" project. Children, young people, teachers & their own bumblebee colonies in the Ems-Dollard region were deployed to collect data and raise awareness. This data was uploaded by the 'young researchers' via the Inspektor B App. The sounds of their bumblebee colonies were also recorded. In collaboration with students from M.A. for Pop Culture (Leeuwarden), Institut für Musik (Oldenburg) and everyone involved, a Bumblebee Rhapsody was composed that was performed simultaneously on 21 June 2018 by local orchestras. The concerts in Buitenpost, Oldenburg and Emden were connected via a satellite connection and could be followed on all locations via large screens.

[www.silenceofthebees.eu](http://www.silenceofthebees.eu)



# Music, Sound & Sustainability – LO-FI Erasmus+ Project

## Creative learning through food, film and sound

- LO-FI is a European Erasmus+ project connecting young people across Europe through artistic exploration of sustainability and food systems.
  - In the **music module**, students compose original soundtracks and soundscapes for short films about food production, using both instruments and everyday food-related sounds.
  - The process bridges **sensory learning, creativity and climate awareness**, while boosting collaboration and emotional engagement.
-  *Participatory art meets food justice, media literacy and musical composition.*





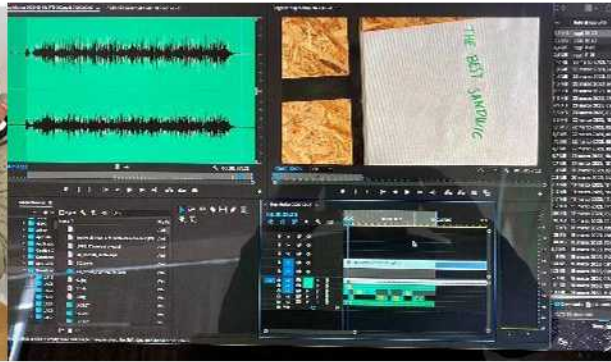
## The Sound of Food – A Co-creative Process

### Hands-on audio storytelling for climate-conscious education

- Each student team creates short videos using timelapse and documentary fragments (e.g. growing local vegetables, traditional recipes).
- Parallel teams create the **soundtrack**: rubbing vegetables, stirring, chopping, field recordings, voice, rhythm, simple instruments.
- Students explore: *What does sustainability sound like?*
- Outcomes include audio-editing, group improvisation, and storytelling through music.



*It's not just about sound – it's about listening differently.*






# Emotional Impact & Community Engagement

## From classroom to food festival

- Final films and soundscapes are presented during a community **Food Festival**, where youth share their work with local audiences.
- The events feature **projected visuals**, live discussions, and traditional meals cooked by multiple generations.
- The music becomes the emotional connector between **knowledge, memory, climate awareness and local identity**.

 *Soundtracks that nourish both the planet and the people.*





# Thank you!



[jw@vankruyssen.eu](mailto:jw@vankruyssen.eu)