

## Guided tours on arts and culture in simple language – The development of methods in a German-Finnish co-operation

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How do you plan a guided tour on art or cultural history for people with limited linguistic skills or learning disabilities? Together with the leisure club of a local care facility we developed in practise some basic approaches for easy-to-understand tours for people with learning disabilities. We benefitted decisively from the practical experience of the Finnish Centre of Easy to Read (Selkokeskus). This co-operation produced important results for the preparation and the course of a tour, which served to the further education for culture professionals. The focus here is on bridging the gap between different linguistic abilities. The designed methods cover the preparation of a tour by a suited grouping of participants and by providing advance information, as well as a precise, but flexibly performed planning or choice of demonstrative objects or illustrations. The most important tool however is the permanent dialogue with the participants.

### Bio:

Eeva Rantamo is an ethnologist and works as a freelance accessibility consultant, trainer and project coordinator in Cologne, Germany. After her studies at the University of Turku in Finland and in Kiel in Germany in 1994 she has gained a wide experience as well in heritage-related institutions, tourism and education as in work with people with disabilities and immigrants in Germany. She specializes in subjects that examine and facilitate access to culture, inclusion and equality in cultural education. She works in close co-operation with experts in her home country, Finland.