

Key Action: Learning Mobility of Individuals
Action Type: Youth mobility

Project Title

Walk Among a Vital Environment with Us

Project Coordinator

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Project Information

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Partners JOVESOLIDES Egypt (EG) , Asociatia TEAM 4 Excellence (RO) , Institutul de Instruire in Dezvoltare "MilleniuM" (MD) , Kremenchuk informative-elucidative centre European Club (UA) , FONDATSIA EVROPEISKI CENTER ZA INOVATSII OBRAZOVANIE NAUKA I CULTURA (BG)
Topics Energy and resources ; Inclusion - equity ; Environment and climate change

Project Summary

Background

The non-formal education project Wave Us! aimed at cultivating ecological awareness and bridging cultural gaps through the inclusion of young people with fewer opportunities. The participants came to Stratoni from countries bordered by the Mediterranean and the Black Sea, specifically the wider Balkan region and at the same time countries that do not belong to the European Union (Egypt), which, like Greece, are plagued by environmental destruction and socio-economic problems. The Mediterranean and the Black Sea are two large sea areas that host various species of fauna and flora, some of which already belong to the endangered species, for this reason the immediate action of those who live in them was deemed necessary.

Highlighting and recognizing the problem of contamination of these two seas and their coastlines was important because several people in these countries continue to face the situation of war (Ukraine). The need to develop ecological awareness and through this economic consciousness is the reason for processing this exchange.

Undoubtedly the destruction and pollution of the environment resulting from the climate crisis is a serious, acute, health, social and international problem, which is expanding mainly due to the human factor. Some environmental problems arising from humanity with the excuse of the finite resources of the Earth are, the polluted, by wastes of factories and people, coasts, the observation of the lack of greenery in the cities, the smoke from the exhaust gases and these were some of the indications that raised our voices about the need addressing the problem. His solution was the formation of environmental and responsible education and consciousness from a young age. Though an important number of people have been activated by adapting their everyday life and lifestyle to be environmentally friendly are not enough to stop the perpetuation of environmental destruction because there will be a positive development towards solving the issue only when we all understand effort. During the activity the appropriate means, ways and methods were employed in order to make the participants aware of the magnitude of the environmental disaster and to take action to deal with it. It is noteworthy that, unfortunately, the work of formal learning, i.e. of schools and teachers who constitute them is not sufficient and the need for additional activity of individual bodies becomes necessary. The two main objectives of the program were:

- Cultivating the economic idea and approach through ecology, and vice versa.
- The awakening of ecological consciousness through the economic management of recyclable materials.

Objectives

The objectives of this were:

- Understanding the concept and importance of green development.
- Raising awareness among young people about recycling and environmental protection.
- The reconnection of young people with nature and their participation in outdoor activities.
- Information about the ecological economy and environmentally friendly practices.
- The cultivation of creative thinking and the expression of new technologies.
- Ecological awareness as a means to develop group thinking and cooperation between different peoples.
- Strengthening the understanding of the international and intercultural dimension of the problem and raising awareness regarding the specific issue.
- The contact of young people and the dissolution of prejudices and stereotypes through intercultural dialogue workshops as well as the exchange of cultural elements between countries from different regions of Europe.
- The creation of a network of organizations in order to develop future programs and actions of an ecological nature.
- The promotion of non-formal learning methods and practices and the understanding of these values.

- Cultivating ecological awareness and information about climate change.

The above objectives were achieved through the harmonious cooperation with our project partners and the active contribution of the participants in the youth exchange.

Implementation

Various activities such as ice-breaking games, wake-up games, presentations of participating countries and agencies, discussions, role-plays were held at the exchange. The above was organized by the young people, who collaborated with each other while at the same time:

- Workshops related to ecology, ways to save energy and reduce waste, as a means of intercultural dialogue, always respecting the thoughts and opinions of others.
- Workshops on the creation of recyclable materials based on the purpose of exchange and addressing the identified needs. These workshops were varied in content, promoting creativity and promoting the spirit of diversity.
- Activities with the theme of human rights and equal opportunities for all, so as to cultivate in the participants a spirit of solidarity and help towards other people
- Interactive activities organized by young people based on non-formal learning, in order to promote the spirit of the Erasmus+ program and the Youth Pass certificate, which was approached both in a theoretical framework (definition of Youth Pass) and in practice (application of key competencies).
- A journalistic team was created by the participants themselves, who, with the appropriate means, ensured that the entire process and the results were recorded, so as to achieve the best possible promotion of the impact of the program.
- The afternoons were dedicated to the so-called "intercultural nights", during which the participants presented a different country from the one they come from, so to attract their interest and interact more with each other, exchanging ideas about their culture. Also, there it was given to them the opportunity to present the environmental problems faced by each country, specifically those of the geographical areas that stretch along the shores of the Mediterranean and Black seas.
- Participation in the Stratoni public library event. They expressed the change they desire in this society, presenting poems in their languages as well as their lived experiences based on the theme of the environment.

Achievements

At the European and international level, the program managed to influence the partner organizations as well as other organizations, which were one of its target groups, providing examples of good practices on green development, energy saving methods and recycling. The organizations - partners through the program Wave Us! they developed to a great extent various abilities and skills that are necessary and at the same time useful in working with young people (youth work). Specifically, to collaborate and network with international bodies - organizations, to participate in intercultural dialogue and of course to exchange good practices regarding the program's theme, which is the environment and the fight against climate change and ecology in general. In fact, the above was achieved thanks to the exchange of ideas and results of the program by the United Balkan Societies and the partner organizations within the framework of our partnership such as networks, websites, local media and social networks in the fields of youth, education and training . In addition, at the European level, the program contributed to the creation of an informal network of active youth organizations of the European countries that participated in the exchange, which can work closely on issues that the program seeks to answer and address, but also to prepare new audiences ideas for programs and actions.

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