



Bulgarian Center for Sustainable Local Development and Ecopedagogy

has the pleasure to invite You to our

International Ecopedagogy Program “Prevent-Preserve-Build”: How Children can teach and show Society the way to Sustainability!

Brief description

The project unites Schools and Educators from different cities of Bulgaria, European Union and the rest of the world. It will be fulfilled through the realization of an ecopedagogic program for cooperation and exchange between schools and educators from the cities partners in the project.

The major objective of the project is to contribute to the creation of an effective trans-border model of Sustainability education and socialization in which, building over the traditional educational schemes, namely **children** start actively teaching Society how to take the way to Sustainability, how to understand, love, treat and preserve Nature.

The purpose is namely for pupils to trigger a process of sustainable social transformation by developing and promoting new sustainable lifestyles themselves! These sustainable lifestyles will concern topics of exclusive interest for the partner cities and will reflect the essence of Education for Sustainable Development (ESD): values-driven, based on critical thinking, interdisciplinary and holistic, promoting participatory decision-making, locally relevant and with high level of applicability (UNESCO, 2006:17).

The project will be structured and fulfilled in the following way, and will include:

1. Defining the partners participating in the project (Schools, NGOs and institutions from different cities of Bulgaria, EU and the rest of the world).

2. Defining and analyzing with pupils the questions of essential importance and the ecological problems/priorities for the different cities. Introducing the concept of Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) and a search for sustainable practices based on TEK at the local level.

3. Realizing an action-based Ecopedagogy program “**Prevent-Preserve-Build**”. The program consists in:

a) Theoretical and practical activities and actions following the ecopedagogy model:

Prevent:

- Pollution of Air, Water, Soil;
- Resource depletion;
- Unsustainable (over) Consumption;
- Drugs and alcohol dependency;
- Technology dependency and PC addiction;
- Violence and Crime;
- Fast food and chemical-based food;
- Noise pollution;

Preserve:

- Natural parks, Nature & Biodiversity;
- Cultural heritage;
- Traditional ecological knowledge;
- Human communication and values;

Build:

Sustainable relations and structures of:

- Eco Agriculture;
- Eco Energy;
- Eco Transport;
- Waste sorting & recycling;
- Eco Tourism;
- Active integration of disadvantaged people, minorities and children at risk;
- Social equality and justice;
- Culture of active sustainable lifestyle and sport;
- Peace all over the world!

(Exemplary activities: Bike-trips and promotion of eco-transport; visiting Natural parks and Natural sites; Active protection of extinct Nature’s territories and species; Sustainable agricultural practices; Healthy food and behavior; Sustainable consumption and many others.)

b) Children’s Ecopedagogy Art for creating and promoting ecologically and socially responsible Lifestyles:

- Paintings;
- Pictures and Photo-poetry;
- Narratives and fables;
- Music from local chorus;
- Technologies and inventions.

c) The action-based Ecopedagogy program “**Prevent-Preserve-Build** is founded on a constant exchange of information, knowledge and people between the participating partners.

Most interesting and original works of children will be united and published into an “*International Handbook of Ecopedagogy - how Children can educate and lead Society to the*”

way of sustainability". The handbook will also include a disc of songs written and performed by children. Works will concern all of the topics of ESD promoted by UNESCO: Biodiversity; Climate change, Cultural diversity, Indigenous knowledge, Disaster risk reduction, Poverty reduction, Gender equality, Health promotion, Sustainable lifestyles, Peace and human security, Water and sustainable urbanization (UNESCO, 2011).

- d) Special attention for participation in the project will be paid to disadvantaged children and children from poor families. The project welcomes the dialogue and the participation of parents and their engagement with the problems concerned.

- Expected Results

- Building cooperation and exchange of experience and know-how between children, schools and cities in Bulgaria, EU and the rest of the world;
- Concrete realization of new responsible and ecological lifestyles initiated by children and educators;
- Developing multidimensional capacity in children and society through Unesco's five pillars of learning:
 - Learning to know;
 - Learning to do;
 - Learning to live together;
 - Learning to be;
 - Learning to transform oneself and society (Unesco, 2011).
- Developing creativity, responsible and conscious behavior, and active democratic values in children and society;
- International Children Handbook of Ecopedagogy.

Sincerely yours:

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