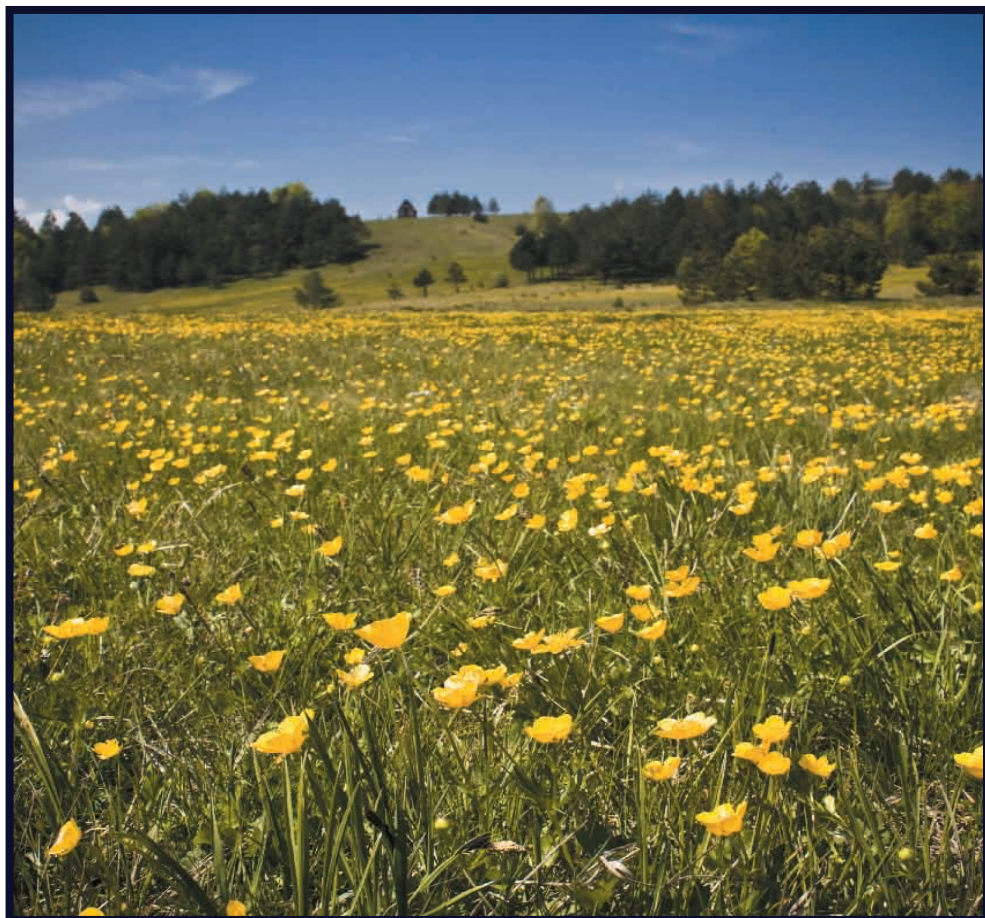




# NEWSLETTER

**March/April 2010**



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## Editorial team:

Gosia Zubowicz, Gjoko Zoroski, Candice Sly, Paulina Piasecka, Francesco Ballone

## Spring has arrived ...

Dear YEE-ers,

Spring has arrived, and with spring come many important changes for YEE.

Spring is often considered the season of change, when everything is reborn and grows. Spring has brought YEE three new and important people, and with them three new bundles of energy, three new points of view, and three heads full of ideas. In this issue of the newsletter you can read introductions from our new Secretary General, Adriana (from Slovakia) and two EVS volunteers – Paulina (from Poland) and Francesco (from Italy). They have joined our team at the YEE office in Prague and I am sure that they will enrich YEE and give us lots of new energy. Just like spring!

Spring is also circulating in other articles published in this Newsletter. You can find out how to observe spring through

flowers and birds in the article 'Spring waking up'. You can read how to make an environmental project for children connected with spring or a volunteering weekend for young people to prepare orchards for spring time. You can also find information about many other projects that can bring inspiration to your activities.

So I wish you a spring that brings you the energy to build many interesting projects! So refresh your mind and let new ideas grow there wildly. And after reading this newsletter, go for a walk in nature and appreciate it – because this is what we all stand for and want to teach others!

Gosia Zubowicz

Projects and Publications Coordinator

YEE office

gosia@yeenet.eu





## Adriána - new YEE Secretary General

Dear YEE-ers,

My name is Adriána (but you can call me Dri or some other diminutive) and I am the new Secretary General of YEE. First of all, I would like to say that it is a great pleasure to be a part of the big YEE family. In the next few lines, I will briefly introduce myself.

In 2008 I graduated from the University of Economics in Bratislava in the Slovak Republic and got a Master's Degree in International Relations. Since high school I have been passionate about

of work is for both of us - the participants as well as for the community we developed the activities for. Hence, my decision to go for a development traineeship after I graduated was not very surprising and I decided on the beautiful, colorful country of Brazil.

I interned for a year at an environmental youth NGO called NAPRA - Organisation for the Support and Development of Riverside Communities in the Amazon Rainforest (if you wish, you can read more about my Brazilian year in the previous issue of YEE Newsletter). That is where I gained significant experience of working in the third sector as I collaborated with the most experienced members of the coordination team, mainly the secretary general, the coordinator of projects and the coordinator of fundraising and administration. I also started to understand both the joys and difficulties of this kind of work. I feel that this internship was the best decision I could have made and it was an amazing investment for my future as, thanks to NAPRA, I found another piece of myself. It has shown me what I am truly passionate about and where I want my professional career to lead to, i.e. solving environmental issues. Hence, I returned to Europe hoping to be able to continue working in the same field.

Moreover, that year of work with



travelling and doing something meaningful (and why not at the same time, if it is possible, right?). That is why I took part in several youth volunteer summer camps in France and Slovakia and discovered how important this kind

young people and especially the one month spent in the riverside communities in the Amazon rainforest made clear to me that education and the sharing and spreading of knowledge constitute the essence needed for positive change in our society. That is the reason why YEE attracted my attention from the first time I came across its website and read about the activities it undertakes. I knew I would do my best to become part of this movement and well today, here I am, getting to know YEE and hoping for our success-

ful and fruitful mutual cooperation in the months ahead.

Dear YEE-ers, I am very much looking forward to it and I hope that, reinforced by our enthusiasm, we will think up many bright ideas to make YEE function even better and to organize many interesting and successful environmental projects in the future.

Best regards,

Adriána Harnúšková  
adriana@yeenet.eu

## Paulina - new YEE EVS volunteer

Ahoj,

My name is Paulina and I am a new EVS volunteer in YEE office.

I come from Poland. I have been living in the beautiful city of Gdansk for 6 years now. I moved there from my home town to study biology at Gdansk University. It was a hard learning curve but an exciting period in my life because of the great amount of terrain work that I had. I traveled a lot through the whole country and took part in conservation work. We used to count hibernating bats, ring the birds, follow the animal traps in winter, use telemetry to learn the secret life of a Montagu's Harrier (moták lužní) male and many other things that most people would find useless. I finished my studies with a Master's thesis carried out in one

of the most beautiful villages I have seen located in the Belarusian Pripyat Valley. I'm not only an environmentalist but also an ecologist active in a field of ecological education and campaigns. I taught children in the Ecological Centre in our city and worked for the Foundation of Saving Energy. After my studies I planned to stay longer in foreign countries to learn new languages, cultures, find new





challenges and enjoy working in international teams. I have already come back from Belgium and I'm now excited about being here in Czech Republic and knowing more about this wonderful country. I am really impressed by

Toulcův Dvůr which is so quiet and charming. I really enjoy staying in a place with so many animals and beautiful parks around. In my free time I like watching good movies, listening to the music, reading books of famous travelers and preparing my life journey, swimming and cycling. Sometimes I just enjoy doing nothing, relaxing at home with my animals (cat and dog), good friends and bottle of wine.

Paulina Piasecka  
paulina\_evs@yeenet.eu

## Francesco - new YEE EVS volunteer

Ciao a tutti!

I am Francesco, one of the two new EVS volunteers in YEE. I am Italian (from Sicily), I arrived in Prague last month and I am going to spend a whole year here, helping in your (I mean, our!) organisation.

I finished my Master's Degree in January, and I was happy to have the chance to join such an exciting EVS

project so quickly. I especially liked the YEE profile because it puts together two of my main interests: the environment and international dialogue. I actually graduated in International Relations and European Integration, with a thesis in Environmental Economic Policies about climate change and clean development projects. So you see I am quite interested in YEE's work, and happy to join you. Besides, I am very curious about discovering how an environmental NGO works 'from the inside', and YEE is particularly interesting to me because of its international coordinating role (and the richness of its member organizations, of course!). I've been told that no organisation from Italy and France has joined



YEE yet, and I promise I will do my best to find some new member organizations from these countries and put them under the YEE 'umbrella'! I like the idea of young people sharing experiences and knowledge about the environment: it is a way to take responsibility for our planet, and the only way to do it is on an international level.

As YEE is run by young people for other young people, I am sure I will find a pleasant friendly atmosphere. I have had some experience in cultural associations for young people in Italy; my tasks usually dealt with publications' editing and with training/cultural activities for young people.

Anyway, I have never helped in an environmental association, so I am a beginner in this sector, and willing to learn a lot. I am sure that working with YEE will be a great learning opportunity for me, and I hope to be useful to the organization as well.

I am obviously glad to live in Prague

as well. It is not my first experience abroad, as I spent my Erasmus in France and I came back there for a traineeship at the Italian representation at the Council of Europe. But it was easier then, because I could already speak French, so I didn't have to deal with any linguistic barriers.



This time it is going to be harder, but I am confident my Czech classes will go ok... Czech is difficult, but nothing is impossible! ;) I also have to get used to a new culture that's quite different from southern European ones - that seems to be a hard challenge, but I like challenges.

We will see!

Francesco Ballone  
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The **European Voluntary Service - EVS** is one of the actions of the European Commission's "Youth in Action" programme. It allows young people (aged 18 to 30) to spend from 2 up to 12 months abroad, working in unpaid and full-time voluntary activities in a foreign country, within or outside the EU. It is a "learning service" which helps young people to develop new skills; but it is also a mutually beneficial process, where everybody gains from getting to know the other's culture. All the activities have in common a European and intercultural learning dimension. They seek to develop solidarity, mutual understanding and tolerance among young people, contributing to reinforcing social cohesion in the European Union and to promoting young people's active citizenship. The European Voluntary Service offers young Europeans the chance to make a real difference to the world – and to their own lives too!



## YEE board meeting Prague, 18-21 February 2010

Prague ecological center Toulcův Dvůr opened its doors on Thursday, February 18th welcoming the participants of the second physical meeting of YEE Board chosen for the period 2009/2010. Everything there seemed to be environ-



mentally friendly, from the accommodation to the food. In the morning, waking up from your sweet slumber, you just had to look out of your window to watch the horses walking in their paddock... really amazing.

Five board members and two representatives from the YEE Secretariat participated in this very productive and interesting 4-day event, during which many very important issues were discussed and solved. The agenda for the meeting's first two days was designated to holding interviews with the candidates for the Secretary General office. So, from Thursday morning and till Friday evening, YEE Chairperson Anne

Kollien and YEE Project Coordinator Katka Lejckova interviewed a number of candidates to find the most suitable ones. They chose three candidates and proposed them to the whole Board to take the final decision which had to be taken no later than Sunday evening.

The official part of the Board meeting began on Friday evening. The Board determined a range of the most important issues to be discussed during the meeting and approved the agenda.

The first full working day was devoted mostly to the issue of modifying YEE Statutes and Rules of Procedures. Lots of amendments were proposed and discussed, and many of them were adopted to be brought to the attention of YEE General Assembly during the Annual Meeting (so there is no doubt that next YEE General Annual Meeting will be full of interest ;) In the break between discussions the whole Board and Secretariat took part in a very amusing event, spending a number of hours as "Hollywood stars". ;) A film about YEE is being shot and as a part of it a short video with the YEE Board and Secretariat in leading roles was shot during the board meeting to show the high level of their work and the aim of such meetings. We were interviewed and filmed during a number of activities and

now we're all looking forward to seeing the final version of the film and watching ourselves playing film stars. :)

After the break, the working process resumed and the Board proceeded to the next topic of the agenda: the time and place of next YEE Annual Meeting. It was agreed to run it in Josefov-Adamov close to Brno, Czech Republic, from Au-



gust 8th to 15th. So, all YEE members are invited to participate!!!

On Saturday evening all participants were invited to go downtown just to relax a little bit after a hard working day. The bar we chose was full of hospitable Czech people who warmly welcomed us, so we spent a wonderful evening there.

According to the agenda, there was a lot of work left on the last day of the meeting, but the most important and thrilling issue for all of us was the election of the new Secretary General.

The three candidates introduced by Anne and Katka all seemed to be very good ones, but we had to hire only one. The position of YEE Secretary General was taken by Adriana - a very gifted, active and motivated Slovak girl, who was very happy to hear about our decision. The decision on the Secretary General position was the culmination of the Board Meeting. After that, the only thing left was to prepare the contract for the newly elected Secretary General, and slowly start to prepare for leaving, collecting our luggage and preparing breakfast for our last morning in Toulcův Dvůr.

To cut a long story short, I just want to say that I liked our Board Meeting very much: though there were lots of issues to be discussed, and we worked all day long, it was not exhausting at all, thanks to very good organization, to the deep interest of participants in YEE issues, and because of the pleasant friendly atmosphere we enjoyed during the whole meeting. So, I want to thank all of you who took part in the event and who took part in its preparation - it was really good! And I do hope that all next ones will be like that!

Kyrylo Ivliev  
YEE External Relations Officer  
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**If you want to know more about the results of the Board Meeting, you can read minutes from this meeting at YEE web page [www.yeenet.eu](http://www.yeenet.eu) in the internal section Downloads.**



## Tamjdem - volunteering weekend 12-14 March 2010, Toulcuv Dvur, Prague

Tamjdem is a gripping initiative of Duha (children and youth association for leisure time) that brings volunteering closer to young people and enlarge their knowledge about different Czech NGOs. The volunteers spend a weekend on micro-camping in a Czech organisation and experience the essence of voluntary work by helping in activities for the whole weekend.



On weekend from March 12th till 14th our organisation Youth and Environment Europe hosted fifteen incredible enthusiastic and friendly volunteers who decided to spend some of their free time working with us. Our team was very international. We welcomed youth volunteers from the Czech Republic, France, Germany, England, Portugal, Italy, Poland and Spain – all living and working in our country. Cultural exchange was really lively and exciting, especially when it came to cuisine.

So it was high time to start tidying

up our farm to welcome spring in all its splendour. We removed and burnt old branches, raked leaves and grass and worked hard to clean one of the oldest spaces in Toulcuv Dvůr. We all made a serious job and really had fun together. In the evening we watched the film “Auto\*mat”, a provocative documentary about life and transport in Prague which later provoked a lively discussion.

On the last day we organised a team game: a “treasure hunt”. The main purpose of the game was to find out more about our beautiful ecological centre which is an old farmhouse from 14th century, and to enjoy team work. Finding the treasure was not an easy task. You had to be wise like an indian, skilled like a trapper, talented like an artist, a know-it-all historian and experienced with animals like an old farmer. Just have a look at our photos: they will tell you everything.

Paulina Piasecka

You can find **photos** at YEE web page  
**[www.yeenet.eu](http://www.yeenet.eu)**  
in the section Photogalleries.

If you would like to take part in one of the **Tamjdem** camps go to the website of Duha **[www.trochujinak.cz](http://www.trochujinak.cz)** and find your perfect weekend.

## Young people taking environmental action with ECO-UNESCO

Young people often feel that their opinions don't matter, or that adults don't take much notice of them. Yet it is the same young people that will have to take responsibility for the actions of the present generation and present governments. But how can young people make their voices heard? Let's look at one environmental education organization - ECO-UNESCO - and its innovative answer to this question.

Young people are the future, this is nothing new, but you are also important here and now and your voice must be heard. That's what they believe at ECO-UNESCO, and this organisation is actively working to give young people a voice and helping them to become advocates for change. ECO-UNESCO offers a variety of programs that empower young people and provides them with a space to learn, to develop and to voice their opinions. Through the ECO-UNESCO Young Environmentalist Awards, for instance, young people become advocates for change at the community level.

The awards, which culminate each year in May with the Young Environmentalist Awards National Showcase and Awards Ceremony, honour the outstanding green achievements of young people from youth groups and schools

across Ireland and Northern Ireland.

They promote active citizenship, and provide young people with an opportunity to carry out action projects at a local level on environmental issues of direct concern to them.

Elaine Nevin, National Director of ECO-UNESCO, is enthusiastic about the potential for action and creativity that ECO-UNESCO's Young Environmentalist advocates have. “Last year's awards saw some excellent projects from all across Ireland - from bug hotels to green transport campaigns, and even an awareness-raising expedition to the Arctic! We are looking forward to more great projects and the emergence of a new group of environmental advocates this year.”

Access is a key issue if developing young people as advocates is to have any real meaning. The National Youth



ECO-UNESCO peer educators in action!



ECO-Forum, run by ECO-UNESCO in November of each year, is one example of an innovative way of providing this.

Through workshops, debate and a novel speed-networking format the event gives young people the chance to question decision makers on the issues of concern to them, and develop youth-led recommendations for action.

The ECO-Forum acts as a think-tank for young people and provides access to experts and decision makers from the fields of science, education, policy and media. Last year's National Youth ECO-Forum focused on Climate Change and the countdown to Copenhagen. Attended by the Irish Minister for the Environment, the Executive Producer of Youth Programming at the national broadcaster (RTE), representatives from the Environmental Protection Agency, the Economic and Social Research institute, local government and many more high-

level decision makers, the National Youth ECO-Forum provides a great platform for young advocates for change to speak out, and have their voices heard.

The ECO-Forum helps address the fact that many young people feel that their concerns are falling on deaf ears. On the flip side of the coin, however, young people are sometimes accused of not listening either. One means of combating disillusionment and engaging young people is through their peers.

Through ECO-UNESCO's Youth for Sustainable Development Peer Education Programme young people become direct advocates for change. Not only do they learn about sustainable development and development education, they also hone their critical thinking, facilitation and leadership skills and become peer educators. Non-formal education sessions using debates, guest speakers, drum facilitation, arts, urban safaris and more, help develop young people and their capacity to engage their peers in the issues around sustainable development, and take responsibility for advocating for a more sustainable future.

The success this programme has achieved at empowering young ECO-UNESCO advocates has been recognised by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, who singled it out as an example of best practice in Education for Sustainable Development.

Young people are often on the

receiving end of negative press about their perceived apathy and lack of engagement. But the experiences of those at ECO-UNESCO don't bear this out. Elaine Nevin questions this negative attitude, and is upbeat about the future. "We are constantly amazed by the level of commitment on the ground displayed by young ECO-UNESCO advocates.

Whether taking action at the local level for the Young Environmentalist Awards, engaging in the political process at the ECO-Forum or spreading awareness among their peers and in their community, they have an enthusiasm and drive which fills us with hope. If we want our future to be in safe hands, the time to involve young people is now."

**To get involved, or find out more about the work of ECO-UNESCO,**

see [www.ecounesco.ie](http://www.ecounesco.ie)

**Or contact ECO-UNESCO t: 003531662 5491 e: [info@ecounesco.ie](mailto:info@ecounesco.ie)**

## Young Environmentalist Kit

**Title of the project:** Young Environmentalist Kit under Child-Led Environmental Education Initiative (CLEEN) project

**Time frame:** 2008-2010; covered all over Albania, financed by Kingdom of the Netherlands Embassy in Tirana-Albania in collaboration with UNICEF Albania and EDEN Centre.

**Partners:** Ministry of Education and Science; Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Water Management; The Institute for Curriculum and Training and Civil society.



The state of environment during the so called transition period has been deteriorating dramatically in Albania. It is sufficient to mention here that Albania does not treat its waste water. Cities' sewage goes directly to rivers, lakes or seas, which worsens the quality of surface waters in our country. The quantity of drinkable water used by every citizen in Albania is approximately 3-4 times more than the quantity used

by European citizens. Air quality in the biggest cities does not meet national safety standards and it is far behind the European ones. All these problems together undermine a child's right to a healthy environment and good standard of life. They can be broadly categorized into three areas for action: the need to clean up, to protect and to preserve the environment and its natural resources. Nevertheless, attempts have been made

by the Albanian government to address this problem through the development of various regulatory mechanisms, fiscal incentives, investments in infrastructure, and other measures. To improve environmental education in Albanian schools we developed a complete package of environmental modules, including teacher training, sectorial modules, and local projects within the community. This aims to tackle the deficiency of environmental education in school curriculums, especially in grades 1-5. Indeed, in the long term, given the fact that children make up roughly one third of the population, it is vital for sustainable development that their environmental awareness, understanding and abilities to act all be improved. The primary grades offer an excellent opportunity to raise environmental awareness and understanding among children. Teachers and principals are eager to find topics to cover these hours, including associated education materials.

### Beneficiaries

Beneficiaries of this project are:

- Children of grades 1-5 improving their environmental awareness;
- Teachers trained to improve their teaching methodology;
- Schools having opportunities to use active learning methods;
- Communities encouraging the support of children's actions.



### The main activities

- **Young environmentalist kit:** The working group and the steering committee carefully studied the school guide prepared within the framework of CLEEN project and accordingly designed, organised and purchased the didactical materials for grades 1-5. In total 1950 kits with user-friendly didactical materials were prepared and other "Young Environmentalist kits - YE Kits" are being prepared right now. Both YE kit materials and user guides are put in a specifically designed bag with a dedicated logo and motto.
- **EE courses:** The provision of the YE kit and the users' guide is followed by the organisation of EE courses, which will continue into the future. EDEN Nature Guides and the project coordinator are in charge for the organization of such courses. This will create the possibility for teachers to see in practice how attractive and interactive an EE session can be for children. After trainings, teachers would be able to continue courses by themselves instead of spending their time traveling to the

education centre. At least 36 EE courses have been organized up until now and several others are planned for next year.

- **School competition:** In the project implementation a few competitions between different schools are planned, where the working group will be responsible for the establishment of the jury, topics to be focused on, questions, methodology to be followed etc. The questions will be focused on all five elements of the schools guide, namely water, air, earth, nature and pollution in both knowledge and attitude level.
- **YE Kit revision:** The project coordinator worked on the revision of the YE Kit materials and carried out surveys in at least 10 of the schools already provided with the YE Kit.
- **Open classes:** To show how trained teachers apply the child-to-child method in their classes we intend to organise open classes in at least 10 schools already involved in the project.

### The expected results

- 475 schools being provided with Environmental Education didactical materials;
- 1,950 YE Kit prepared and purchased for the involved schools;
- 3000 copies of user guides prepared and distributed;
- At least 36 EE courses organized in every city involved in the project;
- At least 50,000 children having access



to child-friendly environmental didactical materials;

- At least 1,950 teachers from all country primary schools using the YE Kit as a basic tool for young children to study the environment (which is approximately 15% of the country's primary school teachers);
- At least 9 schools, 5 children each involved in the schools competitions;
- Enhanced knowledge of participating children of water, air, earth, nature and pollution;
- At least 50,000 Albanian families made aware of environmental matters having been taught about environmental issues by their children;
- Both local and national media coverage of the activities of the project.

Albana Bregaj,  
(EDEN Centre, Albania)





## Baltic Sea summer course 2010 - Youth for the better future of the Baltic Sea

This August, the Baltic Sea group of the Finnish Nature League, Friends of the Baltic and the Club of Applied Ecology are organising a very special event in the Leningrad Region of Russia - a week long camp dedicated to finding co-operative solutions to saving the Baltic Sea. Young activists from Finland, Russia and Estonia are working together to create a space for skills sharing, learning and developing new ways of carrying out environmental work. These young people

and includes workshops, discussions and cultural events. The young people planning and organizing the whole camp are mainly students in fields like biology, microbiology, geography, environmental sciences and agroecology. The camp will include studying animals, plants and microbes and the water quality of the Baltic Sea, campaigning for the Baltic Sea, doing environmental arts, developing environmental education methods and enjoying the Sea and lakes e.g. by swimming, snorkeling and canoeing.

By the end of the camp the participants will hopefully feel really enthusiastic about bringing the knowledge they have acquired to their hometowns and spreading new ways of leading environmental-friendly lifestyles.

### Baltic Sea education

In addition to the camp, the NGOs also have a longer campaign in the field of environmental education going on. In 2006, The Finnish Nature League (NGO) established the Baltic Sea Ambassador Program to work with secondary schools and their pupils. The teachers are interested in inviting the experts of NGOs to visit school lessons and, as the permanent staff are not able to visit as many schools as are demanded, NGOs came up with the idea of educating young people to visit them.



Estonian participants with Baltic Ringed Seal. Baltic Sea camp in 2005, Finland.

are working as volunteers concerned with Baltic Sea issues in their own NGOs. The aim of the event is to offer training for young educators on practical forms of organizing education for public in the local communities. Each day the camp will focus on a certain ecological issue

The educated students are expert enough to discuss the Baltic Sea with secondary school pupils. Since 2006, the Baltic Sea Ambassadors have met over 10 000 pupils in different regions of Finland. The Ambassadors are young people, usually university students, who really care and worry about the Baltic Sea. The Baltic Sea group educates the ambassadors a few times a year in different regions and in spring 2009 there were 100 ambassadors working in different regions of Finland. In 2008 the Baltic Sea group started to work with NGO Friends of the Baltic in the City of St. Petersburg in Russia to spread the Baltic Sea ambassador activity to the schools of St. Petersburg. Now already 30 trained Baltic Sea ambassadors are visiting schools in the St. Petersburg region. Now there is an idea to start to act in Estonian schools as well! The goal of the future cooperation is to run the ambassador scheme in all Baltic Sea countries with different NGO's! Maybe Your



Anna Kuhmonen

Estonian, Russian and Finnish participants playing Baltic Sea role-playing game. Baltic Sea camp in 2005 in Finland.

NGO could join this campaign?

The young volunteers of the Finnish Nature League have put together educational materials that are used in the school visits. It consists of 20 slides and a guidebook for ambassadors. We have also made a booklet with interesting pictures and texts about the Baltic Sea from which students can get more information after the visit. Materials for ambassadors are in



### Luonto-Liitto - the Finnish Nature League ([www.luontoliitto.fi/luontoliitto/english.html](http://www.luontoliitto.fi/luontoliitto/english.html))

The Finnish Nature League (Luonto-Liitto, in Finnish) is a nature and environmental protection non-governmental organisation (NGO) for children and young people in Finland. The goal of the NGO is to influence society in a way that leads to the protection of nature's diversity and respect for its inherent value. To achieve these goals, the Finnish Nature League works actively in the field of environmental education offering knowledge, experiences and activities. The Finnish Nature League also works in forest, wild animal, water system, climate and energy issues and creates possibilities for young people to influence national environmental policies. The Finnish Nature League was founded in 1943.

The Baltic Sea group of the Finnish Nature League was established in 2005.

Finnish, English, Russian and Swedish, and hopefully soon also in Estonian. The Russian version has been done together with the Friends of the Baltic. All educational materials are also available on-line at our website: <http://www.luontoliitto.fi/ymparisto/itameri/lahettilastoiminta.html>

### Discussing with secondary school pupils

Baltic Sea ambassadors talk and discuss with pupils about the uniqueness of the Baltic Sea. They also give the reasons why the Baltic Sea is so polluted. Still, the main point of the visit is to concentrate on what the individual can do to improve the state of the Baltic Sea. The method is not to give a lecture, but to discuss with young people and get them to think about their relationship with the Baltic Sea and

its problems and their possibilities to act.

Our way of summarising the lecture is to use a little role-playing game in which pupils can choose a role in pairs and then think how they (the role) would hope the state of the Baltic Sea to be and what they would be willing to do for it. The roles are: the director of the factory, fisherman, ringed seal, blue-green algae, bladder wrack, young man. Usually this works really well!

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### Centre of Applied Ecology ([www.roek.ee](http://www.roek.ee))

Centre of Applied Ecology is an independent non-profit public organisation. It was founded in year 1996 in a small town called Sillamäe located in Ida-Virumaa region of Estonia. Though most of the population in Ida-Virumaa is Russian-speaking, the aims of the Centre of Applied Ecology are: • To make environmental information accessible in Russian; • To extend the possibility of participation of the Ida-Virumaa locals in discussions, projects and activities connected with environmental issues; • To extend networking between Russian and other Baltic countries' environmental organisations.

### Club of Applied Ecology

The Club Of Applied Ecology is a youth environmental organization of non-formal ecological education.

The aims of the Club of Applied Ecology are: • Environmental education for group leaders; • Increasing the level of awareness of environmental topics among Russian speakers; • Spreading practical skills of sustainable development; • Popularisation of ecological ideas and values of sustainable development; • Development of cooperation between Estonian and Russian speaking ecological movements.

## The summer wind sings!

Luonto-Liiton Hämeen piiri (local NGO group in Tampere, Finland) organised an event for children and parents with an ecological theme. Our organisation focuses on children and youth through environmental education. We organise camps, happenings, education actions and also some discussion forums. All this with 'an ecological mind'.



'Electric eel' playing with a helpful audience.

Imagine an old manor house in the middle of huge trees and inside it a warm and welcoming atmosphere with the clear voices of children filling the rooms.

The event started with a children's orchestra called Sähköankerias (an electric eel). They played with energy and the audience also participated in the show. From time to time some of the children stepped up on to the stage and drummed buckets with shovels or acted as circus performers while the band played.

After the band, Meemi – a forest creature – stepped on to the stage. She was dumb and mysterious with funny movements. The third performer was a puppet show group. Children were

excited and smiles were also spotted on the faces of their parents.

In between the shows people could enjoy organic food from the café, buy lottery tickets and have a chance of winning ecological prizes or go to the crafts room where children could make animal ears and tails from recycled materials. In one room a test of the senses had been set up. Ten boxes were filled with different natural materials; grass, sand, birch leaves etc. which you could feel with your hands or smell, but not see.

In spite of the cloudy weather, there were also activities outside the manor house. In the verandah there were many little joiners making do-it-yourself bird houses. A path with different kinds of exercises about the coming spring could be found in the back yard.

Nearly 400 people attended the event. Audience, performers and organisers were all very happy and satisfied. The event was a huge success!

Vuokko Kurki



In the crafts room children could make some animal ears and tails.

## Pan-European Biodiversity Picnic a way to communicate the International Year of Biodiversity

As you already know, the United Nations declared 2010 to be the International Year of Biodiversity. In order to save global biodiversity for our future benefit, real commitments are needed from all decision-makers and also from the public. CEEweb proposes a way to raise political and public awareness on



biodiversity through its "Pan-European Biodiversity Picnic" campaign, which has been running for three years.

Using the momentum of the International Year of Biodiversity raising awareness towards biodiversity concerns has special relevance in 2010. The Picnic is a multi-stakeholder initiative aiming to raise awareness on biodiversity and to strengthen commitment to its conservation through regular events every year on International Biodiversity Day. It has been supported by UNEP Regional Office of Europe and by all participating countries and stakeholders.

For **more information**, please contact: Veronika Kiss, Programme Coordinator, CEEweb for Biodiversity (tel: +36 1 398 0135; e-mail: [kiss@ceeweb.org](mailto:kiss@ceeweb.org)) or check the link at the **CEEweb website**: <http://www.ceeweb.org/Picnic>

The first Picnic was launched at the Biodiversity Stakeholders' Roundtable in October 2007. At the Picnics Pan-European stakeholders of biodiversity spend a pleasant day together in the green, eat organic fruits and discuss the issues of biodiversity. The Picnic intends to bring together: heads of state institutions, political leaders, trade unions, chambers, farmer organisations and other advocacy groups, business leaders, as well as social and youth organisations, artists, scientists, conservation groups and other stakeholders every year on May 22th, International Biodiversity Day.

**Are you already thinking about joining the Picnic?**

Here is what you need for making the Picnic a success in your country:

- Commitment from an institution or organisation, which can mobilise stakeholders and take care of organisational tasks;
- High-level representatives of various stakeholders;
- A nice place in nature, preferably with nice weather;
- And, of course, some seasonal fruits from extensive, organic orchards!

## A social-green coalition for environmental and social problems in Hungary

UNEP has declared 2010 as the international biodiversity year, at the same time 2010 is the European year for fighting against poverty and social exclusion. In fact, ecological problems are challenging decision-makers but also the society as a whole; growing poverty, unemployment and the economic crisis are also posing new challenges. CEEweb believes that the core problem is that decision-makers do not reveal the interlinkages between problems arising in different areas, and thus they do not give efficient answers to their root causes.



In 2009 CEEweb started a project with three Hungarian social NGOs in order to develop joint recommendations to tackle problems such as biodiversity loss, poverty, or the abandonment of rural areas. The goal is to develop holistic solutions to these apparently sectoral problems, enhancing sustainable development as well.

The goal of the project is to unfold common socio-economic drivers behind

environmental and other problems; an innovative co-operation between environmental and social civil sectors will help to formulate holistic solutions to tackle these issues.

The project's opening conference was held between November 30 and December 1 in Szentendre, Hungary; 40 participants attended the conference, representing 11 social, 9 green and 9 other organizations. The opening conference had several aims, such as exploring and identifying common drivers behind social and green problems, and mapping the possibilities of co-operation, identifying possible further activities.

During the opening conference, some opportunities of cooperation arose, and more than a few initial ideas were mentioned. For instance, there were talks about the possibility of cooperation within the framework of the Climate Bill (the Hungarian Sustainable Development Council, as well as a coalition of green NGOs is currently working on a Climate Bill for Hungary). Other opportunities for cooperation were foreseen in the fields of the streamlining of green and social policies, and of awareness rising and communication. A press release was also issued regarding the conference: "Civil initiative to solve the environmen-



tal and social problems in the spotlight of 2010". Achievements of this "Social-Green coalition" could also give a good base for the preparation to the 2011 Hungarian EU presidency.

The core group of the established coalition is meeting four times throughout the

spring of 2010. During these workshops the group will formulate common policy suggestions, which then will be presented to relevant stakeholders at a conference in September and also disseminated to the wider public through a booklet published by the coalition.

For **more information**, please contact: Sarolta Tripolszky, Programme Coordinator, CEEweb for Biodiversity (tel: +36 1 398 0135; e-mail: [sarolta@ceeweb.org](mailto:sarolta@ceeweb.org)) or check the link on the **CEEweb website**: [www.ceeweb.org/social\\_green\\_coalition](http://www.ceeweb.org/social_green_coalition)

## Development of post-2010 EU biodiversity policies



In 2001, the Heads of State and Government of the EU set in Göteborg (Sweden) the current ambitious target to halt biodiversity loss in the EU by 2010. One year after, they also signed up to the global target of substantially reducing biodiversity loss by 2010, adopted by the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) at its COP6 in The Hague. Unfortunately, the 2010 target for halting the decline of biodiversity in the EU is not going to be met, and globally the situation is probably even more dramatic.

In 2010 January the Commission has published its Communication entitled "Options for an EU vision and target for biodiversity beyond 2010" to provide a strategic input to the debate on fixing of a new political vision and target for biodiversity in the EU. The following option out of the 4 proposals was adopted on the 15th March in the Environment Council: the headline target of halting the loss of biodiversity and the degradation of ecosystem services in the EU by 2020, and restoring them in so far as feasible, while stepping up the EU contribution to averting global biodiversity loss.

After adopting the new ambitious 2020 target, The European Commission started to work on a supporting biodiversity policy package, that should not only lead to a halt in the loss of biodiversity

but will also lead to biodiversity restoration. The Commission then intends to present its post 2010 biodiversity strategy by the end of 2010.

CEEweb believes that in 2010 the European Union has a historical chance to change the course of biodiversity policy making and to develop truly effective policies that will stop biodiversity loss. The scaling up of efforts and some moderate changes in current policies will not be sufficient: a radical alteration of our current paradigm of biodiversity policy making is needed. The EU is not prepared for this change and it is about to follow the failed approach it has preferred since 2002; but the political and economic context has changed a lot since 2002. The current economic framework not only caused economic crisis but also leads to climate, food and humanitarian crises.

CEEweb sees the most important reason for the lack of delivery in the fact that decision makers ignore the drivers behind environmental pressures: consequently, no matter how much efforts is made on reducing environmental pressures, these pressures will be continuously regenerated by the constant fundamental drivers behind.

Therefore, to tackle the fundamental



drivers of biodiversity loss at the very same time, CEEweb is proposing the reduction of the pressure on biodiversity as much as possible in terms of emissions, use of natural resources and space. CEEweb believes that environmental pressures include:

- emissions, e.g. chemicals from fertilisation, greenhouse gas from fossil fuels, industrial and household waste
- use of space, e.g. urban expansion, building infrastructures;
- use of resources, e.g. taking specimens from nature through logging, hunting, use of groundwater.

If the fundamental drivers of biodiversity loss were tackled, the pressures on environment would also be eliminated. Therefore, as a consequence, degraded ecosystems are to be rehabilitated.

For **more information**, please contact: Sarolta Tripolszky, Programme Coordinator, CEEweb for Biodiversity (tel: +36 1 398 0135; e-mail: [sarolta@ceeweb.org](mailto:sarolta@ceeweb.org)) or check the link on the **CEEweb website**: [http://www.ceeweb.org/workingareas/policies/Bidi\\_policies.htm](http://www.ceeweb.org/workingareas/policies/Bidi_policies.htm)

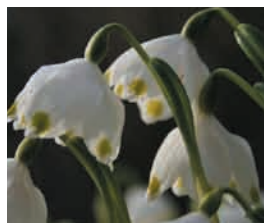
## Spring is waking up

I started to write this article on the 18th of March – the first really sunny and warm day this year. We had all waited for this day for a long time. I couldn't sit in the office in front of the computer so I took a short walk around the Toúlcúv Dvůr (where YEE office is located) to catch a little bit of sun. It was amazing! Just the day before it was grey, cloudy, rainy and of course cold and then suddenly I was walking in full sunshine. One day was enough to make things completely different. People were sitting on benches and sunbathing, animals were lying on the ground in the sun. Bees moved from the hive where they spent winter tightly cuddled to themselves and were flying around with relief. Everywhere you could hear the loud calls of birds and even our new born animals (goats and sheep) looked happier and healthier! Yes, the spring party had begun...

### The nature of our planet...

In spring, the axis of the Earth is increasing its tilt towards the Sun and the length of daylight rapidly increases for the relevant hemisphere. The hemisphere begins to warm significantly causing new plant growth. Snow begins to melt, and streams swell with runoff. The air and ground temperature increase rapidly. Many flowering plants bloom this time of year. The first ones, like the snowdrop,

start even when snow is still lying on the ground. This year on 3rd of March one of the lovers of flowers found **snowdrops** by the church in Paczółtowice (Poland). On the first day of spring the botanic park in Cracow delighted its visitors with flowering spring **snowflakes**, **crocuses** and snowdrops. Today in Prague (March 31st) I found the first rising **daisies**. Other early spring flowers that you probably know are: **anemone** – early flower in forests, **coltsfoot** – medicine yellow flower, yellow cowslip or **primula** and white forest **mayapple**. In May, there will be more and more... observations posted on forums and lots of us have already planned long spring trips.



Snowflake



Crocus



Daisy



Anemone



Coltsfoot



Primula

### Big come back...

“Today at 16.45 our stork landed on the chimney in Milíně (region Příbrami in the Czech Republic). Hurrarraay the spring came with him!!!” - reported one „spring observer“ on Springalive portal. On the first day of spring in the Czech Republic 20 **storks**, 3 **swallows** and one returning **cuckoo** were spotted.



Stork



Swallow

„Saint Agnieszka release skylark from codpiece (former pocket)“ said an old Polish proverb. **Skylarks** are the first birds to fly back to us. You can find them in Central Europe as early as mid-February. A skylark is a small bird that's not that distinguishable from other birds in its appearance, but it's beautiful song is famous all around the world as a symbol of spring. To really notice that Spring has returned you need to look out for the larger birds coming back. I am sure that the majority of you already know **cranes** (*Grus grus*) – they are big grey birds forming big flocks during migration. While they fly, it is easy to confuse them with storks, but if they make a sound like a trumpet as they fly in flocks, then you know they are cranes. Storks

are more solitary and migrate alone. It is said that every fourth stork in Europe is Polish (the biggest breeding population of these birds, around 50 000 pairs, is in Poland), but I am sure that lots of them have Czech nationality as well. Storks come back to their abandoned nests. They are passionately attached to their villages and partners. To get to their destiny in Europe they are afraid of nothing. There was a famous case in Poland when one stork managed to come back from his African trip with arrow in the neck. Most birds can be observed returning in March and April. The last birds to come back are those that feed on insects: swallows (*Hirundo rustica*) or **martins** (*Delichon urbica*), because they wait for the insects to “wake up”. The whole „big coming back event“ will be brought to an end by the **swifts** (*Apus apus*) - birds that look similar to swallows, but there is one thing that makes them special: They are fly-lovers and the best flyers in “bird society” and serve as a form of inspiration for aircraft engineers. They never stop flying and spend most of their life in the air. They do everything during flight: hunt, eat, defecate, even date... They do not sit on the ground, but only hang occasionally on walls. That's the easiest way to distinguish them from swallows.

I encourage you to make observations of returning birds or blooming flowers on your own. You don't have to be specialist to report your observations on a national

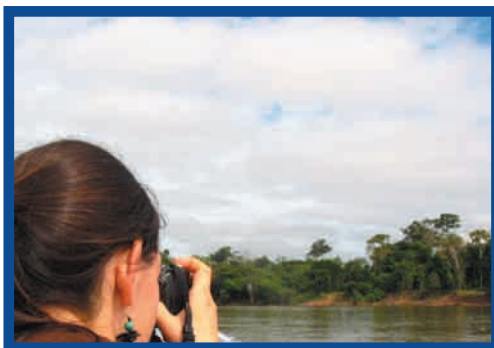
or international level. The most popular international program – a partnership of the biggest national ornithological associations - that involves everyone in spring observations is Springalive. But you can find a lot of organisations on your national and regional level who carry out monitoring of populations in their area. It's enough if you can even recognise cranes from storks, swifts from swallows, notice cuckoo calls or just count all inhabited stork nests.

Your participation is very important because you help scientists in their yearly monitoring of birds by increasing their

data. After years of examining bird migration patterns scientists are in no doubt that the bird calendar is changing.

This year spring came later than usual but generally if you compare long term dates, like around 30 years and longer period, you will see that migratory birds arrive earlier, with swallows a week ahead of what they were in 1970. The scientists predict that it is caused by climate change.

Paulina Piasecka  
YEE EVS volunteer



### Useful links and sources:

- **Springalive project** - [www.springalive.net](http://www.springalive.net)
- The biggest **Nature Forum in Poland** - [www.forum.przyroda.pl](http://www.forum.przyroda.pl)
- Specialist **Polish catalogue of nature** updated by specialists and confirmed by faunistic commission - [www.kartoteka-przyrodnicza.pl](http://www.kartoteka-przyrodnicza.pl)
- **Forum for birdwatchers**: <http://www.birdwatching.pl/>
- **Czech radio platform for recognition of birds** - [www.rozhlas.cz/hlas/portal/](http://www.rozhlas.cz/hlas/portal/)
- **Czech nature forum** : [www.priroda.cz](http://www.priroda.cz)
- **Recordings of birds observations in Britain and Ireland** - [www.bto.org/birdtrack/](http://www.bto.org/birdtrack/)

## Applying for grants... Good Advice From Monika

I wanted to write an article about how easy it is to write a funding application for a training course through the Youth in Action program. That's what I wanted, but then I got an answer from Polish National Agency. It was negative, twice! That's why I want to give you my advice concerning planning, writing, and checking your project's application.

If you have a good idea (it should be really good, innovative, creative and interesting), that's half the work done. Organising a youth meeting, whether it is a youth exchange, training course or seminar, is really fun. But remember, the National Agency won't always like the idea too... You have to think like them: it has to be innovative, have clear educational value, formal things like age, amount of participants and countries they come from are also really important.

The important step is finding partners. You have to write a really good call for partners. It has to include all the proper information regarding costs, place, activities, mail to organiser and form of part III.

The next step is filling in all the boxes in the application. First, read the guide and info on how to fill it in. There's a lot of useful advice! You have to write in each box about cultural diversity, project planning, priorities of the year and so on. (really!)

Please, keep an eye on the budget. It's not that difficult as you don't have to write out how much you'll need for pencils and how much for lunch etc., but nevertheless, check it ten times!

One of the last steps is taking the signatures of the chairperson. If you work daily with her/him it's easy. But in my case, in my organisation everyone's a volunteer so we have to plan the meeting in advance.



You know Murphy's law - "Anything that can go wrong will go wrong". So when you think everything is ready, I'm sure it's not! If something is missing or it's wrong, find it and fix it! Check your application ten times, check all partners' agreements (part III) - check the name of the project and organisation and if you have all the signatures, attachments and letter to the National Agency.

If yes, kiss the letter (actually a package - it's a lot of paper) for luck and send!



Good luck, finger crossed!

Please don't misunderstand me, I'm encouraging you to write projects, it's a great adventure and experience! If you do it not in the last week before deadline!

Think well about the idea of the project, check all formal requirements, have all

the papers you need, and hopefully you will make it! Remember, the whole board and YEE office is there to help you!

Monika Kotulak,

Member Organisations Officer, YEE  
monika@yeenet.eu

### Murphy's Law of project management

- "When things are going well, something will go wrong. When things can't get any worse, they will. When things appear to be going better, you have overlooked something..."
- "A carelessly planned project will take three times longer to complete than expected. A carefully planned project will take twice as long"
- "Projects progress quickly until they become 90% complete and then they remain 90% complete forever."
- "Project teams detest progress reporting because it so vividly manifests the lack of progress."
- "If project content is allowed to change freely, the rate of change will exceed the rate of progress"
- "One advantage of fuzzy project objectives is that they avoid the embarrassment of estimating the corresponding costs."
- "No major project is ever completed in time, within budget and with the same people that it. Yours will not be the first."

**Murphy was an optimist!**

## Be **SMART** writing grants

**S**pecific  
**M**easurable  
**A**chievable  
**R**ealistic  
**T**iming

## New strategy for youth cooperation 2010 - 2018

According to Eurostat, young people represent 20% of the European population, and according to the forecasts this percentage will drop to 15% by 2050! Thus, effective policies for collaboration on youth issues are now needed at the European level more than ever.

The key document of the Lisbon Strategy in the youth sector until 2010 was the European Youth Pact. This year its period of validity has expired, allowing the entry into force of a renewed framework for European youth cooperation for the period 2010 - 2018.

This new strategy has two main objectives: achieving equal opportunities for all young people in education and in the labour market, and promoting active citizenship for social integration and solidarity. The strategy is to be implemented in eight different areas of action: education and training, employment and entrepreneurship, health and welfare, participation, volunteer activities, social inclusion, youth and the world, creativity and culture.

This new framework is divided into three 3-year work cycles, each of them determining a set of priorities for European cooperation. The resolution also sets the targets for the period January 2010 to June 2010: youth employment is going to be the overall theme for this period. The priority for the first half of the year 2010

will be social inclusion; the second half of this year will focus on youth employment, and in the first six months of 2011 activities will aim to promote citizenship and participation.

In our society, young people are one of the most vulnerable groups, especially in the current economic and financial crisis; and youth constitutes a valuable resource in a more and more aging society. The strategy took a major step towards recognising these facts, and now it emphasises the role of youth work in fighting against unemployment, school failure and social exclusion, as well as improving the skills of young people and providing free time (a paramount topic in the work that YEE is doing, also indirectly).

The new strategy also introduces stringent measures for the better implementation of European youth policies. "Structured dialogue" is one of these measures: a forum to help young people to participate in policy debates which results involve them. The European Steering



Committee is meant to assure the proper operation and monitoring of this mechanism. This Committee will provide a forum for preparing the Youth Conferences of the EU that will take place during the three presidencies; this forum will allow young people across Europe to meet people in charge of EU countries' youth policies.

This new strategy seems to have made a good start, allowing youth participation in the debate since its beginning. For the first time, young people and politicians are working together on concrete proposals for youth policy in the EU, focusing on the period 2010 to 2018. Anyway, this is not something completely new in Europe, as the Council of Europe has already been practising dual management among young people and politicians in the Advisory Council on Youth. Finally, the EU is not basing youth policy only on statistics anymore: this time, young people are really involved in action. As Tine Radinja, President of the European Youth Forum, said: "This framework represents an important step towards an integrated youth policy [...] In nine years time we hope to have a well-oiled system ensuring that young people participate fully in the political decision-making process and monitoring the framework to ensure youth

policy meets the needs of young people".

This strategy covers many, if not all, aspects of concern to European youth activities and plan actions for both long and short term. The tools chosen to implement these actions are not new:

- Reporting
- Evidence-based policy-making
- Peer-learning between countries
- Structured dialogue with young people
- Mobilisation of programs and funds
- Cooperation with other institutions and organisations

This new strategy will seek to improve their performance; it will be possible to address a number of suggestions to the member states, and these tips may be helpful especially in some states where youth policies are not well developed because of a lack of concrete measures.

This new strategy has a lot of potential and gives new tools to youth to influence youth policy at European and national levels. We have made a great start, but the strategy has a lot of very important goals. Now we just have to wait for the results of the first period of implementation. We hope that these results will meet the high expectations of this new framework.

Alberto Mogio Perez

#### More information

- [ec.europa.eu/youth/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/youth/index_en.htm)
- [europa.eu/youth/index.cfm?l\\_id=en](http://europa.eu/youth/index.cfm?l_id=en)
- [www.youthforum.org](http://www.youthforum.org)
- [www.coe.int/t/dg4/youth/default\\_en.asp](http://www.coe.int/t/dg4/youth/default_en.asp)

## Russian NGO calls for help – Police raid the office of “Baikal Environmental Wave”

Environmental work can be a lot of fun. But it can also be a serious struggle as the Russian NGO “Baikal Environmental Wave” (BEW) experienced. At the end of January their 12 computers were confiscated and their homepage shut down under the excuse that they were suspected of using unlicensed software. In fact though, the police raid is strongly assumed to be connected with the organisation's work against the reopening of Baikalsk Pulp and Paper Mill (BPPM) on the southern shore of Lake Baikal.

Working for the protection of Lake Baikal included constant quarrels with BPPM since BEW started taking action 20 years ago. The factory has been a major threat to the world's largest freshwater reserve and world heritage site of Lake Baikal for 40 years, as sewage has been released into the water without any filtration, causing mutations in the lake's unique fauna and polluting the drinking water within a so-called “dead zone” of more than 12 square miles. After a close down in 2008 Prime Minister Putin weakened environmental laws in January 2010, allowing a reopening of the plant.

BEW criticized the Prime Minister's decision and the BPPM's administration for spreading false information about alleged attempts to filter sewage before releasing it. With them are many Irkutsk inhabitants: 2000 people gathered on Feb 13 for a protest to demand the closing of the factory. Russian authorities reacted to this demonstration using armed vehicles.

Homes and work places of BEW's staff have been visited by police officers. This action - approaching ecologists like extremists - reflects how difficult work and how increasingly hard everyday-life for environmentalists can be in Russia.

During the past 20 years Baikal Environmental Wave has constantly committed itself to protecting Lake Baikal and has hosted international volunteers from all over the world. It has also been an important source of information for interested locals and international guests. As you can imagine, due to the current situation BEW is in urgent need of support to be able to continue its environmental work and protect the treasure of Siberia.

Katharina Schulz

#### More information

- [www.lookeast.org.uk/index.php?q=node/58](http://www.lookeast.org.uk/index.php?q=node/58) (donations)
- [baikalwave.blogspot.com/](http://baikalwave.blogspot.com/)
- [www.greenrightnow.com/connect2utah/2010/02/01/siberian-officers-raid-office-of-enviros-fighting-paper-mill-pollution/#more-8619](http://www.greenrightnow.com/connect2utah/2010/02/01/siberian-officers-raid-office-of-enviros-fighting-paper-mill-pollution/#more-8619)

## Hnutí Brontosaurus (Brontosaurus Movement)

“Our goal is not only to take lots of pictures and collect lots of memories during the events we organise, but also to work to renovate castles, help trees, clean meadows and springs in order to create good feelings and help the world become a better place.”

### What is Hnutí Brontosaurus?

Hnutí Brontosaurus is a non-governmental, non-profit organisation that's been helping to protect the environment and historical sites in the Czech Republic - as well as helping people living here - for over 35 years. Several generations of Brontosaurus participants have taken part in hundreds of weekends and summer holiday events focused on taking care of the Czech countryside and the cultural heritage of the Czech Republic. However, Hnutí Brontosaurus events consist of more than just rewarding voluntary work.

Hnutí Brontosaurus offers young people an alternative to consumerism, encourages their creativity, shows them new and unconventional ways of spending their free time and provides them with a space for self-fulfilment. Brontosaurus courses and events include outdoor education, various games, workshops, discussions, informal education and more.

In the past few years, Hnutí Brontosaurus has also been expanding its activities abroad; we provide assistance to monasteries and schools in Ladakh, India, and help to protect Czech cultural heritage in Banat, Romania.

This balanced combination of rewarding voluntary work, education, new experiences and good fun is what has been attracting high school and college students (as well as working parents with children) to our diverse array of programs for over 35 years.

Akce příroda (Project Nature) is a program focused on weekend trips where volunteers landscape precious orchid meadows, maintain educational nature paths, help organic farmers with their farms, plant native species of trees in local forests, clean springs, help in shelters for hurt animals, renew alleys, etc.

Akce památky (Project Historical Sites) is a program offering help to conserve old castles, renew and restore small, local sights in the country, and maintain chateaux and churches.

During the summer break, the Prázdniny s Brontosauřem (Holiday with Brontosaurus) project offers similar activities, spiced up with outdoor education.

The year-round activities of Brontosaurus children's groups center around environmental education. Program Vzdělávání (Education Program) provides training for new volunteer organisers of Brontosaurus events.

## YEE ANNUAL MEETING 2010

The Annual Meeting will be hosted by Czech member organisation of YEE - Hnutí Brontosaurus (section ZČ HB Modrý kámen) in the ecological center Švýčárna that they run. Brontosaurus Movement is dealing mainly with nature protection and cultural monuments conservation, informal experiential education, promotion of sustainable development among students of high-schools and universities.

### EVC Švýčárna

Švýčárna got its name from the Swiss style in which it was built. EVC Švýčárna is located opposite a complex of former ironworks in Josefov Valley by Adamov, a town to the north of Brno. This ironworks was founded in 1732 by Liechtenstein nobility and its activities ended in 1877. The building of Švýčárna used to be an ironworks pub and a spa with mineral waters containing iron.

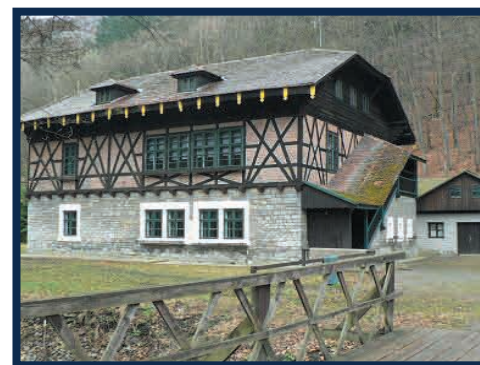
During the 20th century EVC Švýčárna was used as a pub with accommodation. Since 2006 ZČ HB Modrý kámen has been taking care of this place. It has been used as an ecological free-time activity centre. EVC Švýčárna is here for groups of children and young people, families

and schools. At EVC Švýčárna the organisation ZČ HB Modrý kámen runs activities, programmes and rents the place to others, mostly non-profit organisations. EVC Švýčárna consist of couple of buildings. ZČ HB Modrý kámen tries to recover the historical face of the area via rebuilding of destroyed parts of buildings.

### The protected area of Moravský kras

EVC Švýčárna is located in Josefov valley in the protected area of Moravský kras. Moravský kras is one of the most beautiful karst areas in Central Europe. The landscape character is formed by plateaus with many sinkholes separated by deep canyon grooves. The water-flow created various cave labyrinths here during long geological evolution.

The area of Moravský kras is mostly covered by original forests (beeches, yew-trees, fir-trees ) together with a rich herbal floor. Moravský kras is a tourist favourite for its natural beauty, climbing, cave and cycling possibilities. The deepest chasm in Central Europe is also located here.



EVC Švýčárna



Dear friends and member organisations,

We would like to invite delegates of member organisations to take part in the Annual Meeting, AM, of the federation Youth and Environment Europe which will take place from August 8th to 15th 2010 in Josefov-Adamov, the Czech Republic.



The official opening will take place on Sunday evening, August 8th at 19:00. The meeting shall finish on Sunday, August 15th in the afternoon.

The main issues that will be dealt during this meeting will be: to get input from members to YEE strategic working plan for 2010-2011; to review the working groups with their new members and set their working plans; to elect the new board of YEE; to discuss the budget for 2010; to discuss about the possible reorganisation of YEE by making changes in the Statutes and Rules of Procedure and, last but not least, to inspire each other and have fun together! You will have a chance to exchange ideas, get in touch with new organisations, develop projects at the international level and take part in some of the practical activities of the hosting organisation.

### Compose your delegation:

Please choose a delegate of your organisation for the Annual Meeting of YEE. This person should be in a decision-making position in your organisation, should be well informed about the work, activities and developments of your organisation. What is the most important is that your delegate is asked to discuss these issues during the Annual Meeting.

Moreover, he or she should be motivated and have the capacity not only to contribute to the planning of the projects during the AM but also to actively participate in the implementation process in the upcoming business year as a member of one of the Working Groups that will be established.



The implementation of a project involves such tasks as getting informed about fundraising possibilities and writing grant applications with the help of the Secretariat, searching for and maintaining contact with partner promoters, trainers, searching for an accommodation, preparing the content of the project.

### Register for the meeting:

The **deadline** for sending the registration forms is: by **Friday, June 11th 2010**. You can register by sending a mail to our office. If you have any questions or you need some clarifications, please do not hesitate to contact us at: [yee@yeenet.eu](mailto:yee@yeenet.eu)

The Statutes of Youth and Environment Europe define who can participate in the Annual Meeting:

### 5.2. Composition

The Annual Meeting shall consist of the representatives delegated by the member organisations. These representatives shall be duly accredited by their organisations and shall be under 30 years of age.

### 5.3. Attendance

The Annual Meeting is composed of two groups: the full members and the associate members. Every full member organisation may send as many representatives to the Annual Meeting as it wishes but may accredit only one of these representatives as its voting delegate. Every associate member organisation may send as many representatives to the Annual Meeting as it wishes.

Due to limited financial resources YEE can only reimburse travel costs to one representative of member organisation (full and associate). Condition is that the organisation has paid the membership fee to YEE in 2010. Reimbursed is also one delegate of those organisations that will apply either for associated or for full membership to YEE.

The reimbursement covers 70% of travel costs (2nd class train; air flights are only reimbursed under exceptional circumstances, please always consult with YEE office) and 100% of accommodation and food costs.

We are looking forward to meeting you in the Czech Republic.

Warmest regards,

YEE board and office

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