

**YEE!**

**YOUTH AND  
ENVIRONMENT  
EUROPE**



# **NEWSLETTER**

**May/June 2010**



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

## Editorial

Dear members and friends of YEE!

Another two months have passed, well, I'd rather say flew by and it is time for another issue of the YEE Newsletter. I hope that it finds you well. This is the first time I have had the honor of writing the editorial, so let's see what is going on in YEE at the moment.

One word that definitely describes YEE right now is 'change'. That is why I'd like to share some thoughts about it with you. Why is change important? Well, because as a wise woman said "if we don't change, we don't grow and if we don't grow, we aren't really living". And this certainly applies equally for people and for organisations as well. Change is something inevitable, that is why we all more or less long for it. We all know how hard it can get when we really decide to go for it. Because change may hurt. Actually, it always leaves us a little bit lost and maybe confused at the beginning... But little by little we get used to new circumstances and start to feel comfortable as new things become familiar. Then we can plunge into work again and take things further...

That is why I am really looking forward to this year's Annual Meeting as it will be of high importance for the future

of YEE. Several alterations in YEE documents will be discussed and hopefully successfully adopted. I believe that we will meet in large numbers so that we can make the changes together. YEE went through many modifications since its establishment in 1983, so now we have to be flexible and understand why further changes are needed. We all want YEE to be able to answer to our current needs and the needs of the world we live in, right? So let's meet in August and make it happen!



It seems like the first half of 2010 is the time of change in YEE. As you may have read in the previous issue of our Newsletter, the YEE office in Toulcuv Dvur welcomed three new members in March. And today we will be saying goodbye to one of the "old" staff members - Katka, the local coordinator, who is leaving YEE. I don't have to say how hard it is to say this goodbye. She brought a lot of inspiration and motivation to the organisation and the value of her work is inestimable. But as we know "life is

change” so instead of being sad I would like to say, in the name of YEE, one BIG THANK YOU, Katka! We wish you good luck and success on your big adventure in Canada!

And to all of us who are staying I wish you wonderful springy-summery days! Yep, hurray, summer is around the corner, the days are getting longer, the sun isn't so shy anymore! So let's enjoy the life-giving energy the sun is

bringing. Let it motivate and inspire us in our further environmental activities. And to quote another wise man speaking about change - let the sun give us enough energy and strength to “be the change we want to see in the world”! ;)

Enjoy the reading!

Adriána Harnůšková  
YEE Secretary General  
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## Goodbye YEE

Dear YEEers,

After two years in YEE I feel it is time for me to leave the organisation and to move on. YEE gave me the opportunity to learn a lot of new things - both formal (like overcoming all the obstacles of the grant application forms and “decoding” messages from national agencies) and informal (here my learning would be very various: how challenging and enriching it can be to work with somebody from a different culture, how the days before deadlines always get shorter or how nice it is to have lunch with your colleagues...). Thanks to YEE I met many nice and interesting people and discovered a little more of their cultures and countries. YEE gave me the chance to be involved in the process of developing a big network and realising a lot of important projects and I am really grate-

ful that I had a chance to be part of it.

I wish you all many interesting projects and a lot of fun when preparing them and bringing them to life.

I wish YEE a lot of active member organisations who will use the potential of the network and give YEE the right direction and the power to do meaningful youth and environmental work.

And I wish my colleagues in the office to keep the atmosphere which we have there now and which I enjoyed and not to get too stressed by the tasks coming. I hope to stay in touch with you, jooo???

Yours, Katka  
YEE Local Coordinator



## YEE board meeting Prague, April 30th - May 2nd, 2010

For an organisation like ours, it is essential to have regular virtual meetings (i.e. on Skype). It helps us to save time, money and - last but not least - it is environmentally friendly. Nevertheless, from time to time some important issues need to be discussed in person... that is why the YEE Board also meets “physically” to improve the activities of the organisation and take the main decisions throughout the year.

The last Board Meeting took place in the YEE headquarters in Toulcův Dvůr, Prague, from April 30th to May 2nd. Four Board members took part in this 3-day event, together with 2 representatives of the YEE Secretariat (and the EVS volunteers, of course!). ;)

This meeting dealt mainly with two topics: the review of the YEE Statutes and Rules of Procedure and with the preparation of next Annual Meeting.

The first part was without any doubt the hardest one: pages and pages of rules to check carefully, amendments to discuss and approve, always keeping in mind the interest of the organisation and

its efficiency. It is necessary to always keep an eye on the Statutes that regulate YEE's life. Just like every other organisation, YEE never stays the same, and its needs can change as well; the rules have to adapt to the present conditions in order to fit to the actual situation. The Board



went through the Statutes and the Rules of Procedure, guided by Anne, our motivated and well prepared Chairperson. Several changes were proposed and discussed by the Board; they will be submitted to the General Assembly during the next Annual Meeting for final approval.

That is exactly what the second part of the Board Meeting was about: the next Annual Meeting. The Board members

**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.**



are doing their best to make it work as smoothly as possible; the aim is to make it appealing for all participants, and to get them involved even in the most demanding activities. For this purpose, it was crucial to recall the last editions of the AM, analyzing their good points and trying to find out which aspects could still be improved. A timetable for the Annual Meeting was prepared; several activities were proposed and drafted...

Other issues were undertaken as well, such as the organisation's strategies and policies; the relationships between YEE and its member organisations; YEE's role as a member of wider networks.

As usual, the friendly and relaxing atmosphere in Toulcûv Dvûr helped every-



body to be efficient, making the most of this intensive 3-day meeting.

We all hope that you will enjoy the outcomes of this work in August, in Josefov-Adamov (the Czech Republic). The AM is coming soon!

Francesco Ballone  
YEE EVS Volunteer  
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## European Youth Forum - Council of Members Strasbourg, April 22th - 23th, 2010

From 22nd till 23rd of April in Brussels the Council of Members (COMEM) took place. It is the biannual meeting of the members of the European Youth Forum (YFJ). The YFJ is the voice of the European youth presenting the opinion of youngsters to the European Union, Council of Europe and the United Nations. The Council of Members (COMEM) is a biannual event which regularly discusses major topics and youth perspectives for the future. From

the last COMEM (November 2009, Torino) many major topics remained un-discussed and lots of matters were unsolved. This year's COMEM was a good opportunity to raise them again.

The very busy agenda of this 2-day meeting consisted of several interesting events. On the first working day a meeting with the European Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities Laszlo Andor took place within the walls of the European Par-

liament. The main theme of the meeting was the issue of youth unemployment. Mr. Andor expressed a particular concern on the issue and urged participants to take an active part in elaborating ways of addressing this problem.

After this meeting and a delicious Belgian lunch, the official part of the COMEM was opened. The first important point on the agenda was the report of the Secretariat and the Bureau on the work which had been done since the last meeting.

The first person who had the floor was the Chair of Advisory Council on Youth, which consists of 70% of members of the European Youth Forum. The Chairperson Antonia Wulff gave a report on the recent activities of the body; naturally, the main part of her report was devoted to the decision of the new Secretary General of the Council of Europe to cut down the youth budget.

The second part of the day was dedicated to discussions on proposed changes to the statutory documents. Each participant could propose any changes, which were discussed by group members and then, if the group considered these changes relevant, they were proposed on behalf of the whole group for adoption.

The first half of the second working day began with working in various thematic squares dedicated as usual to different topics, such as Visa issues, child rights etc. Specially invited experts shared

their knowledge on the discussed topics, which made participation more interesting and instructive.

Finally, the evening session of the second day was fully devoted to the decision-making process. Several changes to the Statutes were adopted, and the most important was the amendment concerning the position of the Secretary General and Bureau Member. Since the amendment was adopted, the person can be elected to the position of the Secretary General for three times and for the position of Bureau Member for three times, but under condition that the third term will be spent in the position of President or Vice President.

The last, but not least, question discussed was the question of the venue for the next event: the General Assembly - the highest decision-making body of the platform. The only organisation which had applied for being the hosting organisation of the meeting was the Ukrainian Youth Council. So, most likely, the following General Assembly will take place in Kiev in November 2010.

I would just like to conclude that the whole event, as usual, was organised and conducted on the highest level, which gave an opportunity for its participants to enjoy a pleasant working atmosphere and therefore to fulfill all the tasks and purposes set before the meeting.

Kyrylo Ivliev  
YEE External Relations Officer

## European Associations Coordinators' Meeting Brussels, May 6th, 2010

Youth and Environment Europe has a really ambitious working plan for this year. We are all trying to do everything to implement all these interesting and useful projects proposed by member organisations. Lifelong Learning Program – program of Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA) of the European Commission, whose aim is “education and training opportunities for all” appreciated the educative aspect of YEE’s working plan and awarded it with an administrative grant.

That is why, right after the third physical board meeting in Prague, we - Gosia (YEE Coordinator) and Adriana (YEE Secretary General) hit the road in order to attend the European Associations Coor-

dinators' Meeting in Brussels. A meeting organised by the Agency for the representatives of the 21 granted organisations responsible for the implementation of the working plan and/or the persons in charge of financial matters. The aim of the meeting was to give a better view of how the program works and to strengthen cooperation and awareness of activities of the organisations that received the grant. Special attention was given to discussion of the impact of the associations' activities.

We were really curious to find out about the plans and strategies of the European Union in the field of education. It was interesting to observe that the networks that participated in the meeting represent such a wide variety of fields of activities. They make educative projects in the sectors of: policy advice, parents, students, pupils, distance teaching, adult education, academic, entrepreneurship, special education, sport, sign languages, rehabilitation, circus, prisons, and history. YEE is the only organisation covering the field of education in environment and environmental protection.

The morning session was full of presentations about the selections results of the 2009 Call for Proposals, about the new Europe 2020 Strategy and the mobilisation from education and training



### To know more:

- Europe 2020 - A European strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth:  
[http://ec.europa.eu/education/news/news2166\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/education/news/news2166_en.htm)
- The European Year 2010:  
<http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?langId=en&catId=637>
- ET 2020 - Strategic Framework for European Cooperation in Education and Training:  
[http://ec.europa.eu/education/lifelong-learning-policy/doc1120\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/education/lifelong-learning-policy/doc1120_en.htm)
- Compendium  
[http://ec.europa.eu/education/lifelong-learning-policy/doc36\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/education/lifelong-learning-policy/doc36_en.htm)
- Europe 2020 – public consultation – Overview of responses  
[http://ec.europa.eu/eu2020/pdf/overview\\_responses.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/eu2020/pdf/overview_responses.pdf)

actors, and – for us probably the most important part – about the guidelines for administrative and financial management and reporting about the operating grant.

The afternoon session dealing with the topic of “the impact concept” became more interactive. Firstly, an introduction to the subject was made by presenting the concept of impact which was followed by a practical workshop where we were asked to share our experiences and best practices. In three smaller groups we discussed the impact of our activities on the general public and policy making process by talking about our own experiences, possible indicators of achievements/success, methods of impact evaluation, and various ways of interaction with civil society, national governments and European policy makers. The meeting was concluded in the plenary again, where the results discussed in each group were summarized. The official ending was followed by a helpdesk i.e. individual dis-

cussions with coordinators on specific points.

We believe that the meeting was very useful as we learned much important information concerning the administrative and financial management and reporting about the operating grant.

And to conclude, what does this LLP operating grant mean for YEE? First of all, it is a great success that we have been awarded this kind of grant. But, on the other hand, let's keep in mind that receiving the grant is just the first step. As it was clearly stated on the meeting, the EACEA is not giving its financial support without reason – it is awarded based on the working plan of each organisation. Therefore, it is mainly a big commitment and a lot of work to do. Because now we, all together, have to show the EACEA that we deserve the grant. How? By implementing every single project we promised to undertake this year.

Dear all, this grant should be our

motivation for the future. Let's prepare another ambitious but realistic activities plan that we would like to execute the next year. Do you already have in mind some interesting projects you would like to organise? Great! Think about all the activities that you and your organisation would like to take part in and come

to the Annual Meeting with thought-out ideas so that we can discuss them better and prepare another high-quality working plan that will capture the attention of LLP coordinators.

Gosia Zubowicz  
Adriána Harnúšková  
YEE Office



Lifelong Learning Programme

### The Lifelong Learning Programme:

**education and training opportunities for all**

The European Commission's Lifelong Learning Programme enables people at all stages of their

lives to take part in stimulating learning experiences, as well as helping to develop the education and training sector across Europe.

[http://ec.europa.eu/education/lifelong-learning-programme/doc78\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/education/lifelong-learning-programme/doc78_en.htm)

## Council of Europe - Advisory Council for Youth March 8th - 10th, 2010

This year's Council gathered together 30 young and active representatives of various social NGOs and youth councils from across Europe. In their daily life these organisations deal with many important but different issues (sexual minorities, environmental protection, art...). They met in Strasbourg from March 8th to 10th to discuss a range of youth issues under the Council of Europe, in order to present the voice of youth on these issues during the Joint Council of the Advisory Council and Council of Ministers. Youth and Environment Europe had its representative at the meeting, having had the

honour of being elected by the European Youth Forum to represent our network in Strasbourg.

The agenda of this 3-day meeting included the following topics: discussion on the report of the Director of Youth and Sport; discussion on the youth budget under the Council of Europe for the year 2011; World youth conference 2010, and many others.

One of the most actively discussed topics, which caused many uproars among the participants was the initiative of the new Secretary General to cut down the youth budget for the year 2011

by 5 percent, not taking into account the usual annual amount of 2 percent to be cut down. So the task of the participants was to decide which spheres should be cut down and from where money to cover these losses should be taken. The final decision taken by participants, after a long arguing process, didn't satisfy any of them, but, nevertheless, it was the best of a bad situation. It was agreed to move expenditures linked with the European Youth Foundation staff salaries to their own internal budget (while so far they have been related to Council of Europe expenditures), and also to cut down the budget of some youth projects.

Another topic for discussion was the Youth Conference 2010 to be held in Mexico at the end of August. The Mexican delegation at the meeting presented its initiatives, visions and hopes related to this conference. They invited once more all of those who deal with the pressing problems that young people face nowa-

days to join this extraordinary and unprecedented event.

In the meantime, between discussions and arguments, participants had the opportunity to go sightseeing around the ancient, splendid city of Strasbourg, and to taste traditional French cuisine and feel the color of its manifold culture.

To cut a long story short, I would like to admit that despite the circumstances and the fact that there was rather a lot of work to be done and quite a lot of issues to be discussed, in general the meeting was very successful. The participants could share their work experiences from the spheres in which they are engaged and enjoy intercultural dialogue. In my opinion, that is the main goal of such meetings.

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### What is the Council of Europe?

The Council of Europe, based in Strasbourg (France), covers the entire European continent, with its 47 member countries. This international organisation seeks to develop throughout Europe common and democratic principles based on the European Convention on Human Rights and other reference texts on the protection of individuals. The primary aim of the Council of Europe is to create a common democratic and legal area throughout the whole of the continent, ensuring respect for its fundamental values: human rights, democracy and the rule of law.

[www.coe.int](http://www.coe.int)



## Training Course on Conflict Management and Conflict Resolution

Have you ever had the feeling that your argument has gone too far? And that maybe there was another way to solve it? Then this article might just be for you!

In April 2010, in the very east of the Czech Republic, in the ecological village of Hostetin, YEE organised a training course on conflict management. It was already the third such training in a row – in 2008 we started with Basic Skills for Trainers, in 2009 we went on to TC on Teamwork and Communication, and finally, this year we moved to TC Conflict Management.

However, this time we decided not to learn negotiation and assertiveness techniques. No. This time we decided to look at conflict from the other side – and try to see it as an opportunity, as a situation which can be transformed to something positive or at least neutral. Maybe you are

wondering how it's done... As almost always, you have to start with yourself ;)

First of all, you need to find out what your needs are and how you usually behave in conflicts, and then of course you search for motives and look at the needs of others. Thus, instead of getting angry, you might find the real reasons. Now you have the reasons – what next? You will probably need to express your feelings and opinions – and this is when non-violent communication comes in, in other words, a way of expressing yourself so that others do not feel offended and can accept criticism.

We believe that the training participants not only adopted these methods and techniques but learned more about themselves and the people around them as well. We also hope they will spread it in their home organisations and countries: Armenia, Bulgaria, Ukraine, Poland, Italy, Spain, Portugal, Slovenia, Greece, Macedonia, U.K., Czech Republic, Georgia.

If you would like to know more about the eco-village and about the passive house hostel Veronica, where the TC took place, you can have a look at the article of our EVS volunteer Paulina Piasecka.

If you are interested in the topic of Conflict management, you can take a look



at the handbook on Conflict management and Conflict transformation, which is to be published in June. We will also continue in our effort to organise trainings for youth leaders and building their capacity – the next TC will be on project management.

### Some impressions from the participants from the TC...

*The theme, the place, the village, the people, everything was so nice! In spite of the fact that everybody had different cultures or languages, everybody had quite the same soul.*  
Inês - Portugal

*I especially liked the session about crisis management and the session about mediation. I will always remember the advice given by one of the trainers: when your friends are in trouble or have some sort of problem, you should just listen to them and give them your support and not tell them what they should do, because they are the only ones who know what is the best for them.*

Tjasa - Slovenia

We hope to meet you at some of our next activities!

Your YEE team

PS: We would like to thank all the participants who found their way to the TC despite the weather and volcano problems!

*We were using non formal education methods, which are a great way of developing better individuals as they don't focus on knowledge, but on skills, attitudes and feelings. Moreover, the course allowed me to meet some incredible people, active youngsters coming from different countries, and to make new friends in different organisations that can be potential partners in some future projects. And we enjoyed all this in a really nice environment, in this eco-friendly village of Hostetin.*

Viky - Spain

*This course offered me the possibility to understand myself better and to start exploring other cultures, beliefs, motivations, worries and hopes. It showed me how to look beyond the limits and to find the best possible solution, not just to manage conflict but also to become a new, better and stronger person.*

Irena - Macedonia

*I have been putting the lessons I learnt at the TC into practice and I found that the skills, knowledge and attitudes are very helpful for my personal life as well as for my professional activities. In addition, I explored interesting training and facilitation tools which are directly transferable to my everyday work.*

Kakha - Georgia



Training Course on Conflict Management and Conflict Resolution was funded by **the European Youth Foundation - the Council of Europe** and **Youth in Action Programme - the European Commission**.



Education and Culture DG

'Youth in Action' Programme

## A community that lives in harmony with nature: Hostětín

One of YEE's main aims is to promote environmental friendly practices and ways of living. We never forget YEE's mission while we carry out our activities. That's why for **the Training Course "Conflict management and Conflict resolution"** we chose an eco-village in the Moravia region (the Czech Republic) of Hostetin. It is a perfect example of how people can farm, live and use natural resources in harmony with the environment.

I was asked to write a short article about the ecological solutions in that place but the deeper I got into this topic I started to realize how many of them were used there. It's a perfect example of a well planned action of changing a country site into a really environmentally friendly place. Here is a short overview of facilities used in Hostetin to give you more of an idea about this beautiful place.



Let me introduce you: **Hostetin...** A charming place in the White Carpathians.

On first sight, the small village of Hostetin, with its 240 inhabitants, does

not vary from other peaceful and quiet small villages in the region of **the White Carpathians - UNESCO biosphere reserve**. There is a small main square with a small town hall, small chapel, a bus stop, a shop and of course a Czech hospoda (eng. pub). But if you have a closer look, you will realise that there are some hidden differences that make this village special and different from other Czech villages.

First of all, you won't see any smoke coming out of the chimneys. Instead, when you look up, you will find solar panels for heating water on many of the houses. Right now, 35 systems of collectors are already installed on the buildings. It was possible thanks to the a solar panels installation project called Slunce pro Bílé Karpaty (Sun for White Carpathians). Panels supply each device with 2000kWh every year.

The village has also got its own photovoltaic power plant, consisting of forty 220W polycrystalline panels. The power



plant produces approximately 7 thousand kWh per year.

Local authorities are aware of the need to save produced energy. In 2006, all public lighting in Hostetin was modernised thanks to support from Phillips Lighting. All street lamps were replaced by low energy cost and point lighting.

But there are not only sun collectors and panels that make this village so important. Since the year 2000, a 732kW-powerful biomass power plant warms almost 80% of the houses in the village. That reduces the incredible amount of 1500 tons of CO2 every year! In the heat production process, waste from nearby forests and wood yards is used.

The sewage treatment plant in Hostetin or how a "smart" decision saved a village from an ecological and economical catastrophe. In 70s and 80s, the small stream in the village was not enough to bear all the sewage from the village and supply it with clean water again. If nothing was done, Hostetin could become a sad example of how a lack of clean water in the region stops development. Because of the lack of clean water, local authorities issued a prohibition order stopping further building of new houses in this area. It had an obvious effect on the local community – more and more people were moving out of the region.

Initiated by local NGOs and municipalities, the biological water sewage



treatment plant built in 1997 was like a salvation for the local community. Operation of the plant is quite simple – but as it is said the easiest solutions are the most vulnerable - and cleaning process is based on few kinds of the wetland plants planted in reservoir. They live in close symbiosis with bacteria that rot organic pollutions and make water clean.

### One eco-project leads to others

After the sewage treatment plant success, it was easy to convince locals and authorities to go further. Our training course took place in the 'strategic centre' of all ecological actions in the region: Centre Veronica Hostetin. This centre, which is a premise of ecological organisations, hostel and education centre in one, was built in 2007. What makes this building so special is that it is a perfect example of a passive house.

What exactly **"passive-house"** means?

A passive-house is a building or house which consumes less energy for heating - approx. 7-10 less than normal buildings. To do this, you need new technologies



and solutions.

Walls are covered with modern layers of isolation without heat bridges (points where heat escapes the fastest from the building). Isolation layers contain straw-which is put in the wall in a 10 cm layer rearranged with cardboard. It is proven that straw has got great heat capacity and stability. In the building there was also a special mechanism of recuperation installed. It allows old air in the building to return heat to the fresh air from outside before it leaves the house. That's why we were supposed not to open our windows and we were reminded not to leave doors open .



Green roof of the hostel Veronica

Many other technical solutions are used in the house:

- Windows in the house with special technical heat parameters.
- Sun collectors on the roof that warm water and are synchronized with a special heating system.
- A and A+ class lighting in rooms and corridors and fluorescent tubes with au-

tomatic control panels with options to darken light.

- A special filter which collects rainwater installed on the roof of the building. This water is used later in toilets and as cleaning-water in centre.

### Green roof...

Maybe for some of us it could look quite silly, but on the roof there are some plants planted and that's not a kind of owner's whim but they have their own appliance. The plants grown on the roof belong to special kinds of drought tolerant plants. Green regulates warmth on the roof and avoids overheating and it is also a perfect water insulator.

### Land of milk and...juice

Real preservative-free apple juice is good for your health. Apple juice with mint perfectly quenches your thirst. And what would you say about apple with beet-roots? Interesting combination? Since 1995, an association of local farmers of Hostetin was searching for new development possibilities. They found out that in the region there were still a lot of farmers, especially small farmers who plant old varieties of fruits (mostly apples) that have to be protected somehow from extinction. That's how the idea of juice plant occurred – to make tasty and healthy juice from very good quality apples certified by the BIO mark.

There are no eco-houses without envi-

ronmentally friendly behaviour.

Even a lot of money invested in our eco-equipment wouldn't have the impact on the environment that correct behav-



Juice plant

iour does. They didn't forget this in the Veronica centre. There you can find information on every corner about everything you shouldn't forget during your stay:

- "Segregate trash" - on every corridor you can find bins for: paper, biomass, aluminium, glass, and dangerous wastes. Paper towels from the toilets are composted for biomass.

- Inscriptions on the wall: "save water" - water is warmed by sun
- "Always turn off the light when you go out"



- "Use the two types of toilet flushing"

Food is prepared only from ecological products. Fair trade products are also available to buy.

### ECO-mark

Thanks to its eco-initiatives Centre Veronica obtained in 2008 the Czech national eco-mark: Ekologická šтерна služba. It is awarded by The National Programme for Labelling Environmentally Friendly Products. The program started in 1994 and was initiated by the Minister of the Environment and the Minister of the Economy. The beneficiaries of the mark are: groups of products and categories for which the negative impact on the environment was reduced. Just like our hostel. Before getting eco-mark products must meet top criteria.



Paulina Piasecka  
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## Greener Festivals

### The way to sustainable festivals in V4

The most enjoyable part of the year - summer - is approaching and festival season is starting right now. We can choose from a variety of festivals, where we can go with friends for fun, enjoy new experiences and inspirations. However, there is another side to our celebrations that we don't want to see.

Do you feel that these big meetings are so also good for the surroundings, nature and for local residents? Lots of people in one place can also mean big pollution from transport, piles of rubbish, a waste of energy and water and the disturbing of nature.

Fortunately, festival promoters decided to stop ignoring this situation. They agreed to meet representatives of companies and NGOs around round tables of the project "Greener festivals" organised by Czech association Konopa. The first meeting took place in April in Prague at Toulcuv Dvur (an ecological farm) and the second one was held in May in Brno.

Michal Ruman, from organising association Konopa, introduced participants to the possibilities and potential solutions for environmental-friendly festivals. „How can we reduce the negative impacts of our festivals?“ asked participants of round tables and then they started talking about using biodegradable dishes, renewable energies, water recuperation



systems, compostable toilets, local food and other different ecological technologies.

The main topics of the brainstorming and discussions marked the sorting and composting of garbage, careful diet, bio food from local farmers, energy and transport. Participants found out that for them it was important to learn how to engage audiences in order for them to change their behavior. The public could be a positive influence on a festival's surroundings through planting trees or helping inhabitants. This is the way to make festivals sustainable. Using considerate promotional materials, small gifts and good merchandising can be a method for motivating the public.

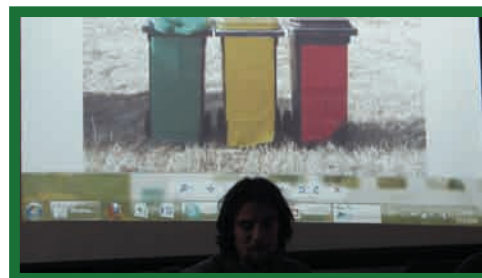
Promoters want to show them a good example of using green technologies and techniques which they can practice in their daily life.

But most important for doing it is of course cooperating among stakeholders, exchanging their experiences and information.



The possibility of discussion and bringing solutions to problems has been the greatest result of the meetings in Prague and Brno. "We don't hope that the round table will solve the whole problem. Our goal is to open discussion and contribute to finding an optimal model for future cooperation" said Michal Ruman, chairman of the organising association Konopa. "We want to start a platform to meet the increased interest of festival organisers, who are often intensely interested in green solutions", he added.

Open discussion among stakeholders, festival promoters and the public will continue on the web page Sunny Campaign [www.sunnycampaign.net](http://www.sunnycampaign.net). There will be



space for sharing experiences, know-how and presentations of good examples from pilot festivals included in the project.

The round tables, as well as the entire project "Engaging the public through sustainable festivals", are organised by Konopa association and five other NGOs from the Czech Republic, Hungary and Slovakia. The project is supported by the International Visegrad Fund and Partnership Foundation.



It consists of not only round tables but also festival preparations and the publishing of a guidebook for festivals' promoters with examples of useful ideas and solutions.

Organisers of the project came together in Slovakia at the end of May. In the new and very interesting Ecocentrum of Sosna Association (Slovakia) nearly ten pilot festivals were set up in these three countries over the last ten months.. This final meeting was very important for sharing practical principals and techniques used during events and it was a big chance to learn from each other. New know-how of the principals of making festivals more sustainable will be used in a guidebook in Czech, Hungarian and English.

Next year participants of the project want to make one big festival together and try to keep their co-operation throughout the four countries from the Visegrad group. They will be looking for new partners from Poland to join them. It's our collective dream to continue the project.

Katerina Hanacikova  
Volunteer of Konopa association

## EDEN Center: every day is Earth Day



April 22, **World Earth Day** is here again, reminding us that we have responsibilities beyond our own houses. It is a day when we should

express our special gratitude to our planet Earth, which supports all forms of life.

It became a tradition that on Earth Day many citizens, children, youngsters and elders dedicate some of their time to plant a tree, clean up a public area, inaugurate a garden or participate in events designed to raise citizen's awareness of environmental issues.

40 years have already passed since the first Earth Day was celebrated. On 22 April 1970, 20 million people joined in one of the largest public manifestations in history, with a view of giving voice to their concern about the environmental situation at the time, and to show their support in Earth's defence.

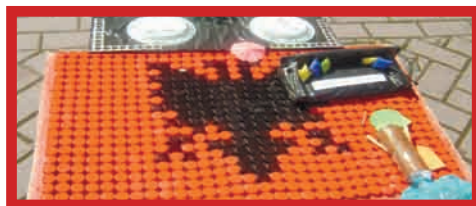
Since that time, Earth Day challenges us to take seriously our job as guardians of the natural environment. It inspires us to think beyond our survival - to act on behalf of this planet that we share together with all of its other residents. If Earth Day makes us think of how to make it possible to breath clean air and drink unpolluted water or live in a safe environment, then it has fulfilled its mis-

sion. If Earth Day gets us to worry about environmental protection, nature and biodiversity, usage of natural resources then it has served its goal.

This year the Earth Day in Tirana, Albania was celebrated in a small street covered in red slabs with the name of the Albanian hero "Ismail Qamali", with a collaboration of EDEN Center, Municipality of Tirana, Embassy of Kingdom of Netherlands and UNICEF under the slogan "Take care of me! – Every day is the Earth Day."

The event was opened by the children of the elementary schools who made a parade with recycled materials that were prepared by them. Other pupils walked in parades while exposing the posters with messages and logo awareness, as well as parades with textile bags painted by the children themselves.

In this 40th year celebration of Earth Day children promoted positive attitudes towards environmental protection and enhanced the future challenges for each of us. Part of the activity was also showing the handmade artworks that children from different schools of Tirana did in



the framework of the project CLEEN, as well as the promotional materials for waste reduction within the campaign "Act Now!"

Increasing individual responsibility is the key to move from awareness toward action. This will bring man closer and in balance with nature. Regardless of the role we have in society, whether citizen or consumer, producer or promoter, or court decision, we all have a common role to play

In conclusion, it should be recalled that the protection of the environment is a process and not an end. Self-amuse-



ment should never be an option valuable when dealing with the protection of the basic elements of our lives. So we have to act now! There is not time to wait longer, each day spent is a day lost on the aim of reaching the natural balance.

Albana Bregaj  
EDEN Center

## Stepanavan Youth Center (Armenia) receives European Water Champions award

**Stepanavan Youth Center (SYC)** received the **2009 European Water Champions award** for its project titled "**Water and Youth**". The Water Champion awards are granted across all continents (Africa, Asia, Australia/Oceania, Europe, North America and South America) to organisations or individuals in recognition of their level of relevance, educational effort, support and innovation in the promotion of water quality. To receive an award one must take part in the World Water Monitoring Day (WWMD) program. The WWMD is an international education and outreach program that engages citizens around the world in conducting basic monitoring of their local

water bodies in order to arouse and build public awareness and involvement in protecting water. For this basic monitoring of the water easy-to-use test kits are available. The tested parameters are temperature, acidity (pH), dissolved oxygen (DO) and clarity (turbidity). The results of these tests are shared with other participating communities around the world through the WWMD website. More information





on the Water Champions awards and the WWMD can be found on their website [www.worldwatermonitoringday.org](http://www.worldwatermonitoringday.org)

In 2010, SYC organised the third edition of the **"Water and Youth"** exchange project (previous editions were in 2005 and 2006). The project took place in Stepanavan, Lori region in Armenia. There were 37 young people from 6 countries present. The participants were from the European Union (Czech Republic, Poland and Romania) and from Eastern Europe/Caucasus (Armenia, Georgia and Russia).

The aim of "Water and Youth" is environmental awareness and the environmental education of youth and the focus is on water quality and problems related to water resources, pollution, etc. The approach is theoretical and practical.

One of the theoretical aspects of the project was an introduction and discussion about the main problems with water resources in the world (depletion, shortage, silt deposition, eutrophication,...), water delivery, consumption, shortages and sanitary problems. There were also presentations about water-related issues like hydro-power and climate change.

One day the group visited the Environmental Monitoring Center in Vanadzor where the quality of air and water resources is measured. The current and historical methods to perform these measurements were discussed and the employees from the center also gave an



explanation about the history and future of environmental issues in Northern Armenia.

Another excursion was a visit to Lake Sevan, which is one of the most important water resources in Armenia. The group used a test kit to perform some water monitoring tests, which include temperature, dissolved oxygen, saturation, pH and turbidity of the water. All results were satisfactory.

The next "Water and Youth" exchange project is planned for September/October 2010. In this edition local schools and educational institutions will cooperate in the project so not only the international youth will be involved, but also the local youth from Stepanavan. In the schools there will be educational sessions about water quality and some water monitoring tests with classes will be organised.

An Lambert  
EVS in SYC, Armenia

## Monitoring of the ecological situation in Khakheti region

On 23rd May 2010, the Tbilisi office of SAEM (Georgia Youth EcoMovement), organised an ecological project for young people interested in eco tourism and the ecological problems of Georgia.

Students from different universities and representatives of the school of Georgian guides, together with staff of SAEM Tbilisi went on an Eco monitoring trip in Khakheti region, Georgia.

All participants of the project observed the current situation in this region and discussed the problems that it is facing. As a part of the tradition of the region we made a circle around the 900 year old oak tree based in the capital of Kakheti, Telavi.

Participants were shown many interesting places: Guurjani, Telavi - 500 year old grape tree and "900 year old oak



tree", Shuamta park area, Alazani Valley and the Gremi monastery complex area.

In the near future SAEM is planning to organise more such projects involving youth. We believe that it is important to show young people interesting natural places so that they can appreciate nature more.

Dmitri Kopitov  
SAEM – Georgia Youth EcoMovement

## Let's do Dimzēni! A camp of WoesteLand

This summer Dutch youngsters of WoesteLand are going to the self sufficient biological & vegetarian farm Dimzēni in Latvia! The owners of the farm have an unused (for now) little house and we are going to renovate it as much as we can. At the same time we will help them on the farm feeding the goats, walking them, working in the garden, learning

how to make cheese...

You wake up in your tent and smell the aroma of freshly baked bread from the traditional oven. You walk to the well and fetch water for tea. In the background you can hear the river and goats. Is it possible to start your day any better?

In the east of the European continent are countries that are not filled with cities

and ugly new buildings. While the capitals of these countries in inimitable rate adjust to the life of the EU, in the countryside there is time and space to do everything for yourself. Far from the luxury city self-sufficient living is a must.

During the day we get our food from our own vegetable garden, and in the evening we cook a traditional Latvian meal. Meanwhile, we learn Latvian building-techniques and apply those to a little house next to the farm. Fortunately, there is also time to wander through the meadows and woods to enjoy the Latvian landscape.

In the evening we make campfires, play musical instruments and dance and sing till its dark.

### Let's do Dimzēni

Location: Dimzēni, Latvia

Age: 18 - 30

Date: 14 - 27 August 2010

Price: 330 €

### INFO:

[www.woesteland.nl](http://www.woesteland.nl)

Facebook: Woesteland



**WoesteLand** is a Dutch Youth Group of the IVN, an association for nature- and environmental education. The group consists of enthusiastic young volunteers who are organising activities for youth at home and abroad.

WoesteLand wants to involve youth to explore nature and environment in a nice and fascinating way. Participants do voluntary work in the nature, eat vegetarian and as much as possible organic food.

The activities are low-budget and in the middle of the nature. People between 12 and 30 years old are invited to join.

[www.woesteland.nl](http://www.woesteland.nl)

## Ejafjallajökull: much ado about... what?

“Ejafjallajökull” has been a nightmare for millions of people over the last few weeks, and not only because of its difficult pronunciation. The ash cloud produced by the Icelandic volcano challenged the whole mobility pattern of our continent.

### Let's start with a few figures:

- Much of European airspace was closed for **7 consecutive days**;
- **100,000 flights** were cancelled;
- Airlines losses amounted to almost **€ 1.4 million** (according to conservative estimates);
- **10 million people** were unable to travel. *(source: IATA)*

As you may know it was enough for the whole European airline industry to panic: aviation is critical to Europe's life and economy, not only for travellers but for shipping business as well. And even now that the peak of the crisis is gone, airlines still face a “logistical nightmare”: it's very hard to catch up after their hyper-organised schedules have been messed up for several days.

The media coverage of the ash cloud crisis was big, and everybody got a lot of information about stranded travellers' situations. But almost nothing was said

about the local Icelandic situation and about people living there and the impact of the eruption on the Icelandic environment. Moreover, the media did not help to explain what the effects could be of this phenomenon on the environment. Scientists, in fact, barely agree on the actual outcome of the eruption and on its mid-long term effects. They agree on the fact that the size of Ejafjallajökull's eruption was not that big compared to other significant eruptions in the last decades, e.g. the one of Mt. Pinatubo in the Philippines in 1991. Also, each year in Alaska as many as 4 eruptions of the same size as the Icelandic one (or bigger) occur. But, of course, the attention level in those cases is much lower, because of their smaller human impact.



Copyright: © Magnus Møller

Let's see what these eruptions usually produce, and what their effects are on the environment and climate.

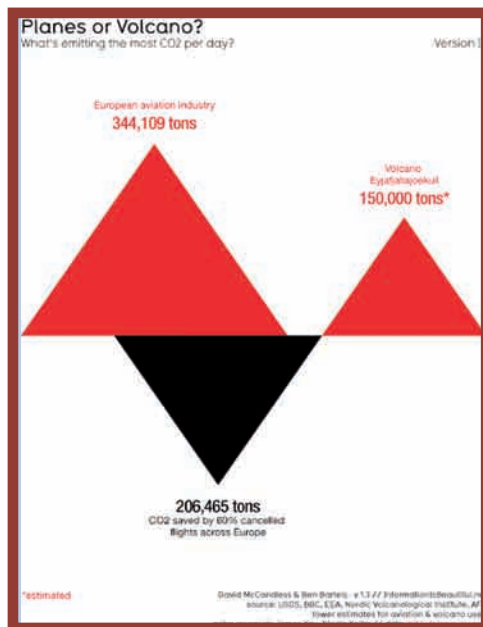
### Volcano eruptions produce (mainly):

- Lava
- Ash
- CO<sub>2</sub>
- SO<sub>2</sub>

Eruptions can have several possible negative effects on human health: ash particles can provoke respiratory problems, skin and eyes diseases. Big amounts of SO<sub>2</sub> in the atmosphere can even be lethal. In addition, after an eruption acid rain can occur: volcanic ash has an acid coating, which can be washed away by rain and pollute water supplies and damage vegetation.

Moreover, livestock could ingest ash, especially in the area near the volcano, and this is a danger to their lives. These effects on humans, animals and vegetation depend on the size of the eruption. As to the climate impact of volcanic activity, it is more complex because of the variety of materials produced.

**CO<sub>2</sub>:** you already know it is a warming factor: more CO<sub>2</sub> in the atmosphere equals higher temperatures. But Ejafjallajökull did not produce a significant amount of CO<sub>2</sub>. So, even though the volcano produced approximately 150,000 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>, the overall effect of its eruption was still a reduction of CO<sub>2</sub> thanks to the amount saved by cancelled flights.



(see graph - source: [www.informationisbeautiful.net](http://www.informationisbeautiful.net)).

**SO<sub>2</sub>:** it is a cooling factor, which could even be used in geo-engineering techniques. Once it is in the atmosphere it reacts with water and this compound keeps reflecting sunlight hitting Earth for approx. one year. So, it can act as a short-term global cooler, in the form of a sulphuric acid aerosol. This is why big volcanic eruptions are generally followed by several months of cooler-than-average temperatures at a global level. Nevertheless, this is what generally happens; not always.

**Ash:** Volcanic ash provides a similar cooling effect because the aerosol particles can absorb and scatter the Sun's radiations (air pollution does the same,

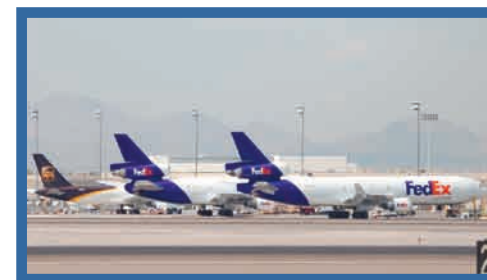
producing aerosols). But this cooling effect is not significant compared to the total amount of warming produced by the volcano, which balances its own cooling effect.

Thus, volcanoes produce warming and cooling agents at the same time: the result is that the eruption itself does not have a relevant impact on climate, especially if the size of the volcano is relatively small. It proves, once more, that nature has got its own balance. A medium-size volcanic eruption is nothing special for the planet. The Earth is equipped to deal with the gases that come out of volcanoes and has been for millions of years. What was all the fuss about, then? It was about the human impact and the effects of this natural phenomenon on our society and its mobility patterns. This time the relevant effect on the atmosphere was due mostly to the indirect outcome of the eruption: many flights did not take off, and they failed to produce their usual amount of CO<sub>2</sub>.

In the week when the crisis met its peak most delivery service businesses tried to avoid their usual air routes to find emergency alternatives. Maybe they will soon revise their usual shipping patterns to avoid such emergencies in the future. In the same way, thousands of passengers were desperately trying to find other ways to get to their destinations, and they "re-discovered" trains and ships, and in many cases they really enjoyed this different way of travelling. The uncertainty

regarding future eruptions could push people to book their summer holidays by other means than plane. Now rail and ferry companies hope to convert this rush into prolonged growth; they are greener alternatives, and some people do care about it. Besides, especially for relatively short trips, "fast trains" are often as fast as planes and more punctual. It's time to wonder whether our society could switch to a different mobility pattern as the current one is becoming less and less sustainable and reliable.

On a political level, European response to the crisis was inadequate: the



decision-makers were slow and lacked coordination. One of the factors that made the crisis even worse was the absence of a single European regulator for air traffic control. With a single regulation system, the whole process would have been faster and safer. On the contrary, currently the European Union's sky is fragmented into 27 national air spaces, each one having its own rules and regulatory institutions. In times of emergency it can be quite hard for them to agree quickly and to make decisions.



The establishment of a European coordinated air space would also allow airlines to reduce fuel consumption as it would make air routes more linear. So the need for the Single European Sky is an environmental issue as well as a matter of money: it could save € 5 billions and reduce carbon emissions by 16 million tonnes each year (i.e. the total annual amount of emissions for a country like Slovenia or Estonia - source: IATA). The EU had planned to start implementing the Single European Sky reforms by 2012. Hopefully, this crisis will encourage our politicians to hurry up.

The Ejafjallajökull eruption itself

is unlikely to affect climate change. Its indirect effects seem to be far stronger than its direct outcomes. The financial losses due to the airline crisis were definitely a negative effect. European politicians could use this occasion to boost the procedure for the creation of the Single European Sky. Now it is the customers' turn: they can decide to start changing their mobility patterns, choose different means of transport for different needs, and consider the environment whenever they travel.

Francesco Ballone  
francesco\_evs@yeenet.eu

## Influences of oil on wild birds

I hope that I don't have to convince anyone that an oil leak has a big influence on the environment. It is a general truth confirmed by many scientists and activists. It's enough to watch hot news from 'action site' to see with your own eyes this destructive impact. One of the animals that suffer a lot from petroleum is birds. They are exposed to a series of ailments like hypothermia, weight loss, gastritis and finally stress. Are rescue attempts enough to save them? What is the percentage of released birds and what is happening after that? These are a few questions that many of the people interested ask themselves when such significant

natural disasters like in the Gulf of Mexico happen.

Rescue efforts during oil disasters are very complicated and complex. Birds have no ability to fly away after contact with oil. Their feathers are stuck together by the oil substance. They are transported to special institutes to be cleaned up from



the lay of oil. Cleaning processes are quite long and only experienced professionals can do it. It is incredible stressful for wild birds, who are not used to people. Treating them consists of a few stages. The first one is very important: stabilising their overall condition. Birds are examined, supported by nutrition and kept in a quiet and warm environment. If all parameters of health like body temperature, blood values and weight are stable, the bird can be washed. For washing there is a special dishwashing liquid and hot water is used. If water gets dirty the bird is moved to another tube and its cleaned until the water is free of oil and dirt. Sometimes there are 10 tubes needed for only one bird. Then the pollution from the feathers is rinsed. The next stage is drying and restoring waterproofing. The whole action can take around 5 hours for only one bird. Then bird's health is monitored during the following days. The waterproofing, flying, and swimming abilities are also checked. If all parameters are satisfied the bird is released.

But how many birds survive oil pollution? For example, at the beginning of the 70's from 819 rehabilitated birds 23 were

released. International Birds Rescue Centre affirms that, thanks to the new technologies and chemicals, they increased the survival rate from 3 percent in 1971 to 90 percent in 2000. Unfortunately, this number doesn't reflect the exact number of survived birds but only released. Oil is a silent killer. After pollution a bird by instinct tries to clean its feathers through peeing. During that activity the toxins get to the digestive system. Intoxication causes inflammation of the intestine and gastritis. In other words they are dying starving in short or longer time (it depends on the percentage of toxicities in the organism) because the digestive system is damaged. To monitor the survival rate realised birds carry rings. Birds with such rings are found dead very often. Some of the scientists are careful when mentioning survival numbers (it is mostly based on statistical predictions). But some of them admit that the survival rate of oil-soaked birds is under 1 percent. Some even oppose cleaning birds claiming that euthanising them is the most humanitarian way.

After the 21 April tragedy, there were already 6 new smaller oil industry incidents reported on the North American Coast. In Singapore, 18 000 barrels of crude oil was spilled on the coast after a collision between a tanker and another ship. Every oil spill, even for a minute, causes huge problems for the environment. We cannot forget that due to the

pollution of the oceans and seas with petroleum substances more birds died than after big catastrophes. We can only hope that more restrictions will be implemented within the petroleum industry and bigger pressure will be put on security and reaction to leaks.

Paulina Piasecka  
YEE EVS Volunteer



### Sources:

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## Promotion of a green waste management system in the Dnipropetrovsk region

Green technologies' implementation for the integration of environmental and social concerns into state policy is one of the priorities for contemporary Ukraine in terms of the European integration process. Ukraine's waste policy is a challenge for sustainable Europe. It is well known that more than 30 billion tons of waste has already accumulated in the country or 50 thousand tons per 1 square kilometer.

The target area of the work is the Dnipropetrovsk region which is one of the most unsustainable territories in Europe.

Here more than 9 billion tons of industrial waste has accumulated. The region produces 42% of all black metallurgy, contains 14% of Ukraine's chemical industries and produces 8% of machine building. Municipal landfill is a common practice for different cities and rural territories in Ukraine. [1]

According to the modern definition, green technologies is the application of environmental science to conserve the natural environment and resources and to curb the negative impacts of human

involvement. Sustainable development is at the core of green technologies. When applying sustainable development as a solution for environmental issues, the solutions need to be socially equitable, economically viable, and environmentally sound. [2, 3]

Disposing of waste in a landfill involves burying waste to dispose it, and this remains a common practice in different regions of Ukraine. Poorly-managed landfills create a number of environmental impacts such as wind-blown litter, attraction of vermin, and generation of toxic liquids. Other products of organic waste are methane and carbon dioxide which pose a serious risk to climate change. At the same time advanced green technologies are not popular in Ukraine.

Another product of landfills is gas (mostly composed of methane and carbon dioxide), which is produced as organic waste breaks down anaerobically. This gas creates problems, kills surface vegetation, and moreover it is a greenhouse gas.

In those conditions it is necessary to develop multi-sectoral activity for promotion of a green waste management system in the Dnipropetrovsk region. Promotion of sustainable ways of living in terms of implementation of the environmental national legislation and development of regional strategies and policies is required. Citizens should be more concerned with environmental protection, sustainable



production and consumption, recycling, waste management and energy saving.

The purpose of the work is to create a favourable environment for the development of green waste management systems according to the modern concept. The concept in terms of waste minimisation includes reducing, reusing and recycling. It is directed towards the extraction of maximum practical benefits from products with minimum amounts of waste.

One of the essential strategic parts of the concept is Extended Producer Responsibility, which promotes the integration of all costs associated with products throughout their life cycle, including disposal into the market price of the product. This means that the enterprises are required to be responsible for the products after their useful life as well as during manufacture. A polluter pays for the damage caused to the environment – this is the Polluter Pays Principle – and the waste generator has to pay for its appropriate disposal. [4]

Talking about the strategy of recycling we have to define what kind of recycling should be developed. The process of extracting resources or value from waste is

generally referred to as recycling - meaning to recover or reuse a material. There are different methods by which waste material is recycled: the raw materials may be extracted and reprocessed, or the calorific content of the waste may be converted into electricity.

### Waste management technologies options

We would like to describe methods for energy recovery. The energy content of waste products can be utilised by using them directly as a combustion fuel, or indirectly by processing them into another type of fuel. Recycling through thermal treatment ranges from using waste as a fuel source for cooking or heating to fueling boilers in order to generate steam and electricity in a turbine. Pyrolysis and gasification are two related forms of thermal treatment where waste materials are heated to high temperatures with limited oxygen availability. [4, 5]

Physical reprocessing refers to the widespread collection and reuse of everyday waste materials. These are collected and sorted into common types so that the raw materials from which the items are made can be reprocessed into new products. Materials for recycling may be collected separately from general waste using dedicated bins or sorted directly from mixed waste streams.

Biological reprocessing is an important component of the system. Organic

waste materials (plant material, food scraps, paper products) can be recycled using biological composting and digestion processes to decompose the organic matter. The resulting organic material is then recycled as mulch or compost for agricultural or landscaping purposes. In addition, waste gas from the process (such as methane) can be used for generating electricity.

The activity of the work should combine scientific, industrial and public work. Investigation on waste management markets in the region will be targeted to implement the recycling technologies on the regional level.

The research is the essential part of the work. It includes investigation into how to decouple waste increasing (in all sectors) from economic growth and put more emphasis on waste prevention and re-use and how to secure investment in infrastructure needed to divert waste from landfill, cost benefit analysis and the development methods to calculate pay-back time for investments. The environmental benefits from investment, recycling of resources and recovery of energy will be investigated as well. [5]

Another part of the work is promoting waste recycling among consumers by increasing the level of knowledge in the local community. Both businesses and individual households will have the opportunity to reduce their own waste, purchase products and services that generate

less waste and reduce the environmental impact.

Capacity building, training, discussions, advocacy and expertise are common methods for raising awareness in all sectors, including government.



What outputs and outcomes of the work will we achieve? Increased waste prevention and re-use, enhanced investment in waste management infrastructure, established recycling of resources and recovery of energy, improved recycling services for public and commercial customers, the involvement of different UK & Ukrainian parties (authorities, public concerned, experts and business), effective collaboration for the development of large-scale industrial and construction projects.

We are also taking into account key risks: the unstable political situation in the City Council and City Administration, the absence of a clear vision of the local authorities concerning development of waste management, rapid increases in land cost, conflicts between regional and local authorities, the different approaches of regional and local government regard-

ing waste taxes, the absence of clear tender procedures in the waste market, different interests and opinions of citizens concerning waste management issues.

Nevertheless, we are confident that only green technologies are the key principles for governmental policy on waste management in Dnipropetrovsk region as well as in Ukraine. Its promotion and implementation will support Ukraine in the European integration processes.

Concerning waste management policy in Europe, Environment Commissioner Stavros Dimas said: "Uncontrolled disposal of waste and untreated urban waste water present serious hazards, which is one of the reasons rules have been adopted by the EU to ensure the highest levels of protection for citizens and the environment." [8].

Pavlo Khazan

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## Eco-friendly water usage

Eco-friendly water usage is becoming more of a concern. Many of us are aware of the international water crisis, but we feel unclear about the specifics.

You've heard for sure of carbon footprints, which measure human impact on the environment in units of carbon dioxide. Maybe you've even calculated your ecological footprint, a measure of the land it would take to produce the resources you use and absorb the waste you create. But have you ever considered your water footprint? Your water footprint is the total amount of water you use, not only the water used in your home, but also the water used to produce the food you eat and the products you buy. Actually, it is an indicator of water use that looks at both the direct and indirect water use of a consumer or producer. It includes other factors such as water utilized to cool power plants that provide your electricity, and water saved when you recycle. You may not drink, feel or see this water, but it makes up the great majority of your water footprint. A producer of beef uses approximately 4,500 litres of water to produce a single 300g steak. This data accounts for the water used to grow the cattle feed, the water used by the bio-tech industry to produce the drugs, which are designed to keep the cattle (and the consumer) safe and healthy, the water used in the processing and distribution of the

beef, etc. Upon careful evaluation of the life-cycle of a product, service or crop, such as beef, one begins to realize just how much water is actually used. And the figures are shocking. According to a 2006 United Nations Human Development Report, unsafe water and inadequate sanitation claims more lives through disease than any war claims through guns. Every 15 seconds a child dies from a water-related disease – often, from diarrhoea.

Making small changes in your daily life – being mindful of your running taps, fixing leaky pipes or carrying eco-friendly water bottles – will all help combat the global water crisis. More importantly, sharing the knowledge you've learned will help to raise awareness and bring about even larger change.

Consider the biggest problem with water usage: washing at home. One estimate says the average home wash uses 430 litres of water. You don't want to be a water-waster, do you? Use less by buying a nozzle that controls the flow from your hose, or by using a bucket - this will help you keep an eye on how much you're



using. You might even collect rainwater or gray water from your house and wash with that. Guess what commercial car washes do? Mix air and water half and half, so they get pressure without volume. Smart. And as a result, most commercial washes use 60 percent less water in the entire process than you use just rinsing off your car. Are you one of those people I see busily washing their cars on Saturdays? Washing the car at home might be cheaper and handier. It's nearly always better to go to the commercial car wash. They use less water, and in the U.S. they are required to send their used water off for treatment, or to take other measures that lessen the impacts of their discharge. Some of them even reuse their water. Home washes, on the other hand, usually drain directly to storm sewers that eventually empty into streams, lakes, rivers, or bays, affecting our fish friends and the health of the water.

Commercial car washes use power, land, and harsh detergents that may leak into the environment. However, the

amount of water used for washing a car at home can be anywhere from between a whopping 300 to 530 litres of water, while commercial car washes average less than 170 litres per car. So if you do decide to keep washing the car at home, here are a few tips. Try not to do it very often. When you do it, park the car on your lawn, which acts as a natural filter for the soap, dirt, oil, and other gunk that would otherwise run down your driveway and straight into the drains.

One more trick: if you can't afford to replace your toilet, or you live in a rental, try filling a plastic jug with water and placing it in your tank to displace the water that would normally be flushed away. This will save a gallon per flush. Some recommend putting a brick or two in your tank, but make sure they are clean and solid, as you don't want to call a plumber because your toilet's clogged with brick pieces.

But that doesn't mean that we should waste it; despite its apparent abundance - there is after all more water on the earth's surface than there is land - water is a valuable commodity that should not be wasted. Teaching our children to value, respect, and, above all, not waste water, is an important - and ecologically sound - lesson that should be taught from an early age!

Gjoko Zoroski  
YEE Publications Officer  
DEM-Youth, Macedonia

## Water - its importance in pictures

YEE is preparing a project of **pictures exhibition “Water - its importance in pictures”**. The goal is the protection of fresh water resources. We want to achieve this by raising understanding of the importance of fresh water among the public. The project will aim to point out fresh water in the scope of human rights (especially the right for decent living conditions).

So check the YEE website [www.yeenet.eu](http://www.yeenet.eu) and Sunny Campaign website [www.sunnycampaign.net](http://www.sunnycampaign.net) for more information to be published soon. We look forward to your contribution!

Collected pictures will be published on websites and the exhibition will travel from country to country.

## YEE Magazine - Call for Articles

YEE team is preparing the next issue of **Y&E Magazine**. Each issue of Y&E Magazine aims to study one, important environmental topic in a deeper way. We gather articles from young people that deal closely with the topic of the magazine.

This time Y&E Magazine will be called **‘Youth organising green events’**.

We hope you will be willing to contribute to this publication. We are waiting for your articles on the topic - maybe you have organised your ‘green’ project, maybe you have some tips for others, maybe you would like to know more...

**With this publication we want to:**

- help young people in starting their own initiatives
- present useful guidelines for project planning
- exchange good practices and recommendations from experienced people



Please send your the articles by June 14th to [gosia@yeenet.eu](mailto:gosia@yeenet.eu)

## Training Course in Ukraine

### Ambassadors for Sustainability. Renewable Energy and Climate Change Dimensions

We invite young motivated and active people to take part in the training course “Ambassadors for Sustainability. Renewable Energy and Climate Change Dimensions” organised by MELP (Youth and Environment League of Prydniprovyia) in cooperation with Youth and Environment Europe.

The 7-days programme of the training course will include many kinds of activities, such as seminars, lectures, workshops, outdoor activities etc.

The purposes of this programm are to improve understanding of the ideas of discussed issue from various points of view by participants, to share accumulated experience of invited experts and to facilitate following co-operation among the project participants in the sphere of environmental protection.

Organizers of the training course both MELP and YEE have a long history and since the beginning of their establishment have been constantly dealing with the issues of sustainable development and environmental protection that makes sure the project will be carried out on the highest level and, of course, will be interesting and useful for its participants.

For more information, please don't hesitate to contact:  
[kyryll.ivlev@gmail.com](mailto:kyryll.ivlev@gmail.com)

**Dates:** 17th - 23rd of July, 2010

**Place:** Dnipropetrovsk region in Ukraine

**Organiser:** MELP (Youth and Environment League of Prydniprovyia) in cooperation with Youth and Environment Europe

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