



TOGETHER FOR A GREEN EUROPE

**Guidelines for Environmental
Education**

The publication 'Together for a Green Europe - Guidelines for Environmental Education' was created within the framework of the Youth and Environment Europe (YEE) international information and education campaign focused on environmental education for children and youth 'Together for a Green Europe'.

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The European Youth Foundation (EYF) is a fund established by the Council of Europe to provide financial support for European youth activities.

Its purpose is to encourage co-operation among young people in Europe by providing financial support to such European youth activities which serve the promotion of peace, understanding and co-operation in a spirit of respect for the Council of Europe's fundamental values of human rights, democracy, tolerance and solidarity.

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Guidelines for Environmental Education

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EDITORIAL

In the first half of 2012, YEE organized an international information and education campaign about environmental education for children - **'Together for a Green Europe'**. The campaign was run from January till June 2012 in **6 European countries and consisted of diverse local eco activities encouraging children and youth to take care of European nature - their living environment**. Through our campaign we encouraged young people to participate in their local communities and show them the purpose of active citizenship. We also wanted to involve youth in the field of environmental education for other young people and children.

As we consider the environmental education to be of high importance and it is not yet a component of the class work at most of the schools, we decided to run our campaign at primary and secondary schools. It consisted of **workshops on different environmental topics** (ecosystem, biodiversity, nature conservation, wildlife, recycling, fresh water and health, food chain, etc.) and excursions to nature.

The electronic guidebook you have right now in front of you is a follow-up project of this campaign. It consists of some of the methods used during the campaign in all the partner countries - **Armenia, Czech Republic, Georgia, Italy, Latvia, and Romania**. Each country team chose and described those methods that they found the most interesting and successful while implementing the campaign in their country. Hence these guidelines represent a **set of best practices used during our campaign**. You are free to choose and use them separately or select a few and create your own campaign about environmental education running several months or throughout the whole semester or year.

We wish you interesting reading and hope that our guidebook will serve you as a **useful and inspiring tool for your eco activities with children and youth!**

On behalf of the YEE 'Together for a Green Europe' campaign team
Adriána Harnúšková
YEE Secretary General

ARMENIA

WATER MONITORING

AIM: To check different attributes of freshwater. With a practical activity to explain importance of water, ways of pollution and importance of preservation of freshwater.

FOR WHOM:

Over 12 years old; 3 -10 people for each kit

PLACE:

Outdoors, next to freshwater source

LENGTH OF THE ACTIVITY:

20 - 40 minutes

MATERIALS AND PREPARATIONS NEEDED:

water monitoring kits, rubber gloves, paper, pen

DESCRIPTION:

The activity is intended for measuring water temperature, quantity of dissolved oxygen, pH level, and turbidity.

The activity starts with preparing the kits for test. All people directly involved with the test procedure should be wearing rubber gloves.

Each attribute has certain procedure for measuring, described in the manual of the kits. Water temperature is checked first. The facilitator should explain effects that different temperatures of water have on habitats. The same is done for each of the other attributes, explaining the values of different measurements.

The facilitator should involve as many participants in the actual process of measuring as possible.



ECOSYSTEM

AIM: To describe connections in the ecosystem. To discover the reasons and repercussions of pollution.

FOR WHOM: 11 - 15 years old; size of the group: 15 - 30 people

PLACE: Indoors/outdoors

LENGTH OF THE ACTIVITY: 1.5 - 2 hours

MATERIALS AND PREPARATIONS NEEDED:

flip chart paper, markers, colored papers, scissors

DESCRIPTION:

The facilitator starts with asking questions defining what an ecosystem is, what the connections are in it, etc. If needed the facilitator gives a clear description of the ecosystem.

For division of the group into 5 teams any appropriate method is used (e.g. counting from one to five). Each group represents one element of the ecosystem. Elements used are earth, water, air, plants and animals.

(For younger participants) The group is asked to make a circle and hold hands. By the command of the facilitator one of the element-groups is supposed to sit, while still holding hands. At the same time other participants are also pulled down, representing the interdependence of different elements of ecosystem.

The facilitator gives tasks to each element-group to prepare and a flipchart for their element.

On the flipchart there should be a tree of this element. On the trunk should be written the name of the element. On the roots participants should write ways that element can be polluted. On the branches participants should write results of that pollution. After all groups finish their work they present it to the rest of the participants. After presenting all the works facilitator asks to find common reasons of pollution for different elements and different effects that it can bring.



BIODIVERSITY

AIM: To understand biodiversity and the effects that human activities have on biodiversity. To get to know the “Red Book” animals of the area.

FOR WHOM: 10 - 15 years old; size of the group: 5 - 20 people

PLACE: Indoors/outdoors

LENGTH OF THE ACTIVITY: 1 - 1.5 hours

MATERIALS AND PREPARATIONS NEEDED:

printed description of animals from the local area that are under danger of extinction, paper, colored paper, markers, scissors, paper tape or chalk

DESCRIPTION:

During the previous session the facilitator gives homework to participants providing them with printed description of an animal under extinction from the “Red Book”, asking them to prepare a presentation of this information to the whole group during the next session. The presentations can be prepared in groups, the maximum size should be 3 people per group.

Depending on the age of the participants, they can be asked to make the presentations in different ways. One of the possibilities is to prepare a poster or picture of the animal. For elder age group more formal presentation methods can be used.

During the actual activity the facilitator starts discussion about knowledge that participants have of existing animals and plants from the area. The facilitator explains what the biodiversity is. Then facilitator tells about the “Red Book” and asks participants to present the animals assigned to them.



For explaining human activity effects on biodiversity a simulation game is done:

The facilitator prepares 3 circles of different diameter inside each other on the ground (paper tape can be used for indoors and chalk for outdoors). Participants are asked to choose any animal they want (it can be a bird, a fish, etc.) and to stand at any point inside the circles as they want.

In the first stage humans make a village inside the smallest circle. Facilitator asks which animals will be affected by having a village there, how they will be affected and what will they do. The participants should firstly decide if the animals they represented are affected or not and bring also examples of other animals that can be affected. In the second stage the village grows into a town, with a lot of paved streets, buildings, cars and constructions. Town occupies second circle. The same questions about the effect are given. In the third stage the town develops to a big city with heavy traffic, factories, high buildings, port and other industrial facilities. And again questions about the effects of this development are asked.



CZECH REPUBLIC

IF OUR WORLD WOULD BE A BIG BALLOON

AIM: To understand the extension of the ecosystem and biodiversity of our planet through a creative activity.

FOR WHOM: No age limit, working in the group of 5 people

PLACE: Indoors (obstacle - it will get messy) or outdoors (obstacle - blowing wind)

LENGTH OF THE ACTIVITY: 2 - 3 hours, or divide it into two blocks of 1.5 hour

MATERIALS AND PREPARATIONS NEEDED:

- Big inflatable balloon (you can buy it easily online)
- Wheat flour and water - to create bio-glue - mix it well in a big bowl
- Big brushes to coat the newspapers and balloon with glue
- Stack of old newspapers
- Stack of old journals about people and nature (with lots of pictures from all around the world)
- Some small toys or products of nature to make the globe in the end even more spatial
- Some working clothes (you will get messy)

DESCRIPTION:

Motivation - audiovisual projection of the movie "Home" (you can find various translations of this documentary on Youtube).

Blow up the balloon and hang it above a working table. Spread the flour glue on it and put a layer of torn up newspapers. Do several of these layers. When you are satisfied with the incrustation, you can start to create the collage of pictures cut-out from journals. It is up to each person of the group to choose and stick his/her favorite pictures on the globe model. They can also choose to stick some products



of nature or small toys representing people, houses, animals, cars, etc. It is a group process and all that happens is ok, as this is the way it works on Earth. There will be discussions on what to put where. Some people will like to have certain picture on the globe, some will disagree with it. Just be there and facilitate the discussions and working dynamics.

Final evaluation of the result, working process and feelings should take place around the finished globe model in the end. You can display your globe indoors. It looks cool on group photos ;)



SUSTAINABLE VERSUS CONSUMABLE

AIM: To see the difference between sustainable and consumable lifestyle. To be able to recognize it in our everyday lives. To know we have a choice. To become aware of risks arising out of depletion of raw materials.

FOR WHOM: No age limit

PLACE: Indoors/outdoors

LENGTH OF THE ACTIVITY: 40 - 60 minutes

MATERIALS AND PREPARATIONS NEEDED:

- Big paper circle to stick the pictures on
- Small pictures representing consumable and sustainable life approach (e.g. bicycle versus car, nuclear power plant versus wind power station), think about some more of our everyday lives and choices (you can easily use for example the Clipart of Word)
- Glue, scissors, thick marker

DESCRIPTION:

Motivation movie: Energy, let's save it! or Pee During Shower.

Sit together around the big circle of paper. Divide the paper in two halves with a thick marker and decide which side will represent the sustainable approach and which one will be the consumable part.

Start the story for example with our everyday morning, go together with the participants through their common day. What they do, what they use e.g. for washing themselves, what they eat for breakfast, what means of transport they use to get to school/work, etc. Discuss, bring always two contra pictures so they can decide which one is more harmless for our Earth and nature. For older participants you can adjust it a bit - let them find among the pictures the opposites and explain to the others why and what. You will be impressed how much we know and how obvious the things are in contrast to what we actually do in our everyday life.



CLEAN UP THE DUMP

AIM: To realize that everything made by man will become trash one day. We have a choice either to store all kinds of waste at the junkyards which will bury us once or we will sort out the rubbish and recycle.

FOR WHOM: No age limit

PLACE: Indoors/outdoors

LENGTH OF THE ACTIVITY: 15 minutes

MATERIALS AND PREPARATIONS NEEDED:

- Several boxes representing trashcans for all kinds of recycled materials (plastic, paper, aluminum, glass, iron, electronic devices, galvanic cells, organic waste) and hazardous materials.
- Cards with pictures which represent all kinds of waste which fits in to the boxes (e.g. cut out and glue the pictures from supermarket flyers).



DESCRIPTION:

Mix the cards with rubbish and make a pile out of it. Participants can work out the task solo or in the group. The assignment is to sort out the pile of trash.

THE LOCAL AUTHORITY MEETING

AIM: To realize the consequences of our current state for our common future and each one's personal input and role in all of this. To search for possible solutions and learn the mechanisms of local decision-making system. To experience the presentation of personal projects in public.

FOR WHOM: No age limit

PLACE: Indoors/outdoors

LENGTH OF THE ACTIVITY: 1.5 hours - it depends on the size of the group (1/2 hour for creating the future projects and 1 hour for presentation of each of them)

MATERIALS AND PREPARATIONS NEEDED:

Papers and drawing materials for creating project plans.

DESCRIPTION:

In the first stage all participants have the role of designers, who are creating the projects to bring our community life to prosperity. The assignment is to draw a project of sustainable development of our municipality.

In the next stage they will switch the roles of mayor/councilor/designer at the local council meeting. The mayor opens the meeting, he counts votes and announces the results of voting. Five councilors have the right to vote for or against the project. Designers introduce their project at the public authority meeting.

Everyone should be at least once mayor, councilor and present his/her project. No one can take two roles at once.



SORT OUT THE SHOPPING BAG

AIM: To be able to define and sort out majority of the materials which we commonly use. To know where on the packaging we can find the recycling signs and what materials majority of them refer to. To know where to bring diverse kinds of waste for their recycling in our municipality.

FOR WHOM: No age limit

PLACE: Indoors

LENGTH OF THE ACTIVITY: 20 minutes

MATERIALS AND PREPARATIONS NEEDED:

- Real (if possible) containers for waste used in the building where you do the activity
- Plastic shopping bag
- Old electronic device
- Glass and plastic bottle
- Galvanic cell
- Packaging of diverse consumer goods/food (plastic, paper, combined materials)
- Some veggies
- Tetra pack

DESCRIPTION:

Put all the above mentioned materials into the plastic shopping bag. You can create several sets of this “shopping”.

Depending on the size of the group, you can split participants into smaller teams.

The assignment is to sort out the “shopping” as if we would buy it and consume the content at home. There are diverse containers which are available in the house (in the location where you do the activity) and also information about the possibility to bring certain materials to the recycling containers outside.



GEORGIA

TREES AND THEIR IMPORTANCE IN ECOSYSTEMS

AIM: To raise awareness about the importance of trees in our life.

FOR WHOM: Children from 12 to 15

PLACE: Indoors/outdoors

LENGTH OF THE ACTIVITY: 1 hour

MATERIALS AND PREPARATIONS NEEDED:

markers, post-its, pencils, 2 flipchart papers

DESCRIPTION:

Divide participants into 2 groups. Give each group topics to discuss. e.g. 1) Why is it important to use wood in our daily life and 2) Why is it important to reduce the usage of wood in our daily life. Then ask each group to write as many answers as possible on the post-its. (10 min)

After they finish writing, each group should prepare a small presentation of their ideas and prove their answers. (15 min)

After the group work and discussion, each group will make presentation to the rest of the participants and answer the questions that may arise. (15 min)

Then participants can make some changes in their presentation in order to find some solution, how to protect trees, highlight their importance, replace/reduce usage of wood in daily life, etc. (20 min)



HUMAN RIGHTS REGARDING ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

AIM: To get to know more about connection between human rights and environment. To find ways to protect nature.

FOR WHOM: Children and youth

PLACE: Outdoors

LENGTH OF THE ACTIVITY:

Around 1.5 hours

MATERIALS AND PREPARATIONS NEEDED:

pencils, markers, post-its, flipchart papers

DESCRIPTION:

It is better to make this activity in a yard near the forest or river bank to feel connection between nature and people and highlight the bad impact of humans on environment. First ask participants how people and nature are connected to each other. (5 min)

Discuss the participants' ideas and give more detailed information about this connection. Also, discuss the main cause of the following problems: e.g. global warming, air/water pollution, loss of biodiversity, deforestation, etc. (25 min)

Divide participants into 4 groups (depends on the number of participants) and ask each group to find at least 2 examples of humans' bad impact in the area they are. (15 min)



Then divide participants again into 2 groups. Give each group some topics to discuss and make a small presentation (e.g. Pros and cons of living in an urban area and pros and cons of living in a rural area). (10 min)

Later each group should make their presentation and discuss all together in order to find the ways how to live both in big cities and countryside and at the same time take care of nature. (20 min)



WASTE MANAGEMENT

AIM: To get clear information about waste management and to learn to use waste and second-hand materials to create new things that might be useful.

FOR WHOM: Children and youth

PLACE: Indoors/outdoors

LENGTH OF THE ACTIVITY:

Around 1.5 hours

MATERIALS AND PREPARATIONS NEEDED:

plastic bottles/bags, scissors, plastic foam, glue, pencils, post-its, flipchart and some audio visual materials

DESCRIPTION:

First ask participants what they know about waste management, its bad impact on environment and people. They should write down their opinion on the flipchart paper. (10 min)

Then, give more detailed information about waste management, it would be good to screen some short movies about the topic for more visual effect. (20 min)

After getting information about waste management, divide participants into 4 groups and ask each group to think what should be done to reduce the problems caused by bad waste management. (15 min)

Then each group will present their ideas. (20 min)

After the presentations divide participants into 2 groups, give them plastic bottles/bags, scissors, plastic foam, glue and ask to create new things that might be useful according to their imagination. (15-20 min)

An interesting exhibition of all the things produced can be made afterwards.



ITALY

ITALY

DEFINITION PUZZLE: TREASURE HUNT

AIM: To lead the participants through a treasure hunt towards the definition of a complex concept. In this case the chosen concept is 'ecosystem'.

FOR WHOM: Children over 10

PLACE: Indoors/outdoors

LENGTH OF THE ACTIVITY:
20 - 30 minutes

MATERIALS AND PREPARATIONS NEEDED:

A big flipchart paper, colored markers/pens (big ones), tape, cutter or scissors, a lot of creativity! If you need some support to draw you can use inputs from the internet to find some shapes to copy.

DESCRIPTION:

Prepare a big flipchart paper with the definition of 'ecosystem' written in big and bold letters. Cut it in triangles, squares or rectangles. (You can also choose to have different colours per part of the definition.)

Prepare the place beforehand. Before the participants will come, hide the cut pieces of the definition.

Divide the group into teams and ask them to choose a group name.

Tell them that they have to find some pieces of paper. The team that will find more pieces will win.

At the end all together they will have to collect and compose the puzzle and find the right way to do it.

Open a discussion about the definition to check if the participants understood the concept, if they agree, etc.



PHOTO QUIZ: ANIMALS AND PLANTS

AIM: To expand the knowledge of different species of animals and plants, where they live and if they are alive/at risk of extinction/have a normal life.

FOR WHOM: Children over 10

PLACE: Indoors

LENGTH OF THE ACTIVITY: 20 - 30 minutes

MATERIALS AND PREPARATIONS NEEDED:

- Data projector
- Two or more flipchart papers (depending on the number of teams)
- Two or more A4 sheets for the animals' and plants' names list. The list has to indicate also where the animal/plant lives and if it is at risk of extinction or not.
- Colored markers/pens
- A small present for the winners
- An unusual funny thing or method to use as a 'push button'. In our game we used: Hard plastic glasses and small paper balls made from paper and tape.

DESCRIPTION:

Firstly collect photos of various plants and animals and prepare a presentation of these pictures to be displayed later during the game on the data projector. Write carefully names of the animals and plants from the photos on the A4 sheets of paper (you can also print the list beforehand).

Ask the participants to form groups and to choose a name for their group. Give them the flipchart paper and ask them to write the name of their group on it. They will keep the flipchart to write down the names of animals and plants that they will guess correctly during the game. Give to each team the list of names of the animals and plants. They will use it during the game.



The projection of pictures starts and the participants have to look at the photos on the screen and after consulting the list, they have to guess which animal it is.

The team that 'pushes the button' first, has the right to answer first. Even if they are right

the facilitator should not tell the correct answer until all the other teams give their answers as well. Each team has the opportunity to change the answer only once at the end of each round of answers. When all the rounds of answers are finished, the facilitator gives the correct answers. The team that gave most of correct answers wins and should receive the prize.

At the end of the activity the facilitator should screen all the pictures again. This time with the correct names, the places where the animals live and if they are at risk of extinction or not. It is nice to give some prize to the other teams as well.

DEEP ECOLOGY: EXPERIMENTING NATURE

AIM: To teach participants to perceive nature with all senses.

FOR WHOM: Children over 10

PLACE: Outdoors

LENGTH OF THE ACTIVITY:
20 - 30 minutes

MATERIALS AND PREPARATIONS NEEDED: blindfolds

DESCRIPTION:

Firstly ask participants to choose a partner or stay alone. The whole group should be outside in a garden, a yard or some other natural space (forest, park, beach, etc.). Participants will be blindfolded and they will be free to go around, with their partners or alone (if alone, make sure that the facilitators watch them carefully in order to avoid any injury), touching, smelling and listening to nature.

After the exercise there will be a visual quest: the facilitators will lead the participants imagining their life without the sounds, the smells and the emotions they had in contact with nature.

Final discussion and debriefing.



WASTE RELAY RACE

AIM: To learn by doing how to manage the separation of rubbish for recycling.

FOR WHOM: Children over 10

PLACE: Outdoors or indoors in a big space

LENGTH OF THE ACTIVITY: 1 hour

MATERIALS AND PREPARATIONS NEEDED:

- Plastic bags for rubbish
- Gloves
- Papers indicating the names of the waste category
- Small pieces of rope to fix the bags around trees or somewhere around
- Different kind of waste collected before
- A small present for the winners

DESCRIPTION:

The participants are asked to clean the place where the activity will be run. Moreover as a kind of preparation you can ask the different classes of the schools involved to put apart some plastic, glass and paper for the activity, separating the rubbish into three different bags.

The waste relay race game:

Participants are divided into two teams and put in two lines. They will have a bag full of unsorted rubbish in front of them and they will have to take a piece of rubbish and run, looking for the right bag where to put it. There will be 3 different bags: for paper, plastic and aluminium. For glass (if they find it in the bag) they will have a task to put it on the ground next to the relay race starting line for each team. On the way back, they will have to touch the hand of their friend waiting for him/her at the beginning of the line. The team finishing the round after putting the pieces of rubbish in the right bags wins. (In our case they won a ride on some very strange stilts, made from recycled cans.)



SIMULATION: FOOD MARKET

AIM: To lead the participants through the process of understanding and learning about the impact of waste management on food contamination.

FOR WHOM: Children over 10

PLACE:

Outdoors or indoors in a big room or area

LENGTH OF THE ACTIVITY:

60 minutes plus 30 minutes debriefing

MATERIALS AND PREPARATIONS NEEDED:

- Tables, chairs, paper, pens, pencils (big and small), chalks, material to draw and color, tape, scissors, cutters.
- List with possible food or products to sell in the market. Prepare the list of questions for each food/product. The questions have to concern the area and how the product is produced there, the way of packaging and distribution.



DESCRIPTION:

Ask the participants to choose a partner or divide them into pairs. They will have to build-up their stand in the food market they are going to create all together. They will have to choose which food/product they will sell and prepare their stand with the products. They can draw and create the products using paper and materials they will be able to find around (also recycled material).

First part: When they are ready, the 'shopping' can start. The facilitators will act as clients. Facilitators will be shopping in all the stands and for each food/product he/she will have some questions. If the seller is able to answer majority of the questions correctly, the 'client' will buy the product, otherwise he/she will change the stand. Questions for all the stands will be prepared beforehand.

Second part: At the end there will be a short debriefing in which the participants will be able to ask questions or to discuss the problems that emerged concerning contamination of the products they were selling or contamination potentially produced by the products they were selling.

The exercise needs a very good facilitation during the second part.

LATVIA

ECOSYSTEM AND PEOPLE

AIM: To get to know the ecosystem and think of all probable problems and dangers that the environment is facing in order to solve and reduce them, what is the impact on humans, what humanity is responsible for and what we can do to preserve the environment.

FOR WHOM: Children from 10 to 18

PLACE: Indoors

LENGTH OF THE ACTIVITY:

3 hours

MATERIALS AND PREPARATIONS NEEDED:

flipchart papers, markers, group division activity



DESCRIPTION:

The work should be organized in smaller groups of 4-5 participants. Each group receives one environmental topic and has to describe it by writing their ideas down on a big flipchart paper.

Possible topics for the groups:

- 1) What problems are caused by pollution?
- 2) The growth of population - how did it affect and change the environment?
- 3) How does the establishment of different technologies influence the nature?

Afterwards the groups exchange the papers and add further comments.

Each group presents their work in a big circle and the discussion should be led by a facilitator.

The final task: each participant should study how his/her hometown has changed in the last 70 years.

ECOSYSTEM AND BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

AIM: To get to know basic information about biodiversity and the ecosystem in order to see the existing problems clearly. This will help participants to find out what the main threats to biodiversity are and what should be done to avoid them.

FOR WHOM:

Children from 10 to 18

PLACE: Indoors

LENGTH OF THE ACTIVITY:

3 hours

MATERIALS AND PREPARATIONS NEEDED:

Different materials from which participants can prepare dioramas or collages:

- Markers, pencils, colors, glue, papers, scissors, newspapers and magazines, plastic bottles, cloth, cardboards, etc.



Facilitator should prepare information about climate changes on the global level and where the following processes - desertification and deforestation - take place.

DESCRIPTION:

In order to introduce the topic, start with discussions about the different threats that endanger the biological diversity and about the various causes of this pollution. You should then discuss more in details some concrete problems connected with your region or country. In Latvia, we discussed the situation about the Baltic Sea.

Afterwards, ask the participants to prepare a diorama-collage about the above mentioned topic (in case of Latvia, the topic was 'The Baltic Sea and the danger'). Dioramas should be prepared from newspapers, PET bottles, etc.

Later on, a presentation about desertification processes (the Sahel, drying out of the Aral Sea), and deforestation processes (the Amazon) in the world follows. While discussing these topics, encourage participants to be active and express their knowledge and opinions about these issues. Also encourage them to speak about it with their peers in the future and raise their awareness to take care about the nature.

RECYCLING ISSUES

AIM: To have clear information about recycling, its important role for the environment. To gain skills on recycling, how to do it properly and what should be taken into account.

FOR WHOM:

Children from 10 to 18

PLACE: Indoors

LENGTH OF THE ACTIVITY:

3 hours

MATERIALS AND PREPARATIONS NEEDED:

- Flipchart papers
- Markers
- Stickers with signs that are used for recycling bins in the city
- Various colorful recycle bins
- Different trash from people's daily life



DESCRIPTION:

At the beginning of the workshop, give the participants various information sources related with the waste management and its division, collection and the whole recycling process.

After the theoretical part, divide participants into different focus groups, and each group should receive one sticker of the trash bin showing the type of material that is specific for one of the bins. In each group participants should summarize the information sources received beforehand and prepare a short and catchy presentation in order to inform other participants about the recycling of the type of waste they have (plastic, paper, glass, bio waste, etc.). Ask the participants to present their ideas in front of the whole group, try to encourage a lively discussion about participants' experience and practices of recycling in their everyday life.

At the end, you can organize a small competition. Participants stay in the same groups as beforehand. Each group receives a similar type of the daily trash produced by people. The trash bins with stickers are put at a distance from all groups. Each group should divide the trash in correct bins. The team that manages to separate the waste as the first, wins.

WASTE MANAGEMENT AND ITS IMPACT ON SOCIETY AND HUMAN'S LIFE

AIM: To get clear information about waste management, to know what problems it causes and how to reduce them. To learn to use waste and second-hand materials to create new things that might be useful.

FOR WHOM: Children from 10 to 18

PLACE: Indoors and outdoors

LENGTH OF THE ACTIVITY: 3 hours

MATERIALS AND PREPARATIONS NEEDED:

Give participants homework before coming to this workshop - to give a 'second life' to things that they do not use anymore or that could be transformed into more useful equipment.

- Card-boards, Newspapers and magazines
- Used plastics, PET-bottles
- Milk or coffee packages
- Used CDs/DVDs
- String, Cloth, Glue, Scissors, Markers, Elastic string, etc.

DESCRIPTION:

As an introduction to the topic, firstly prepare an interactive presentation about the trash

scavenging process: who is doing it, what kind of enterprises work in this field and what kind of trash they take away.

Afterwards, ask participants to share their opinions about their own and also overall society's attitude towards the polluted environment. Discuss about the scavenging process itself and what new things



could be made from the trash i.e. from those things that we usually throw away and do not need anymore. Ask participants to think about and make some multi-functional objects that would be possible to make from the trash and that they could use for the second time. Participants will certainly come up with many different ideas (e.g. small bags/purses from tetra pack packages, flowers from cans, belts from used DVDs, shopping bags from old T-shirts, etc.). The activity is very creative and fun!

Exhibition of all products that participants had developed could be displayed and explained interactively to their other peers.

If possible, try to arrange a visit to one waste and recycling place in your town to see all the gained knowledge about recycling in real life as well.

FRESH WATER AND HEALTH

AIM: To realize the importance of the quality of drinking water. To get to know what should and should not be in drinking water so that people can drink it. To get acquainted with different opinions in the group and formulate one's own arguments supporting one's own point of view on the issue.

FOR WHOM:

Children from 10 to 18

PLACE: Outdoors

LENGTH OF THE ACTIVITY:

3 hours

MATERIALS AND PREPARATIONS NEEDED:

1. Contact the purification plant that you plan to visit, explain them the aim of the visit and the profile of participants. Facilitators should get to know the place in advance.
2. Prepare different examples of water that people consume in their daily life (bottled water, tap water, etc.) - you can ask participants to prepare it as well.
3. Simple equipment to measure the basic elements in the water, or you can use the tools in the water plant if they have.

DESCRIPTION:

The framework of this workshop is more practical and research-based, because the workshop should partly take place in the water yield and purification plant.



Firstly there should be a guided tour around the water plant to get to know the general facts about getting the water that people consume daily. For example, in the workshop that was held in Latvia participants learned that the water is received from underground waters in the depth of 130-190 m. Later on, the guide can show and explain about the various equipments used in the plant - each of them has different function in order to receive the good drinking water suitable for consumption.

Now check the different types of drinking water that people consume daily. If there is some bottled water, participants can find different elements that the water contains and what affect do they have on the human body. If there is an example from the tap water, try to arrange with the water plant the possibility to check the elements that the water contains.

Close the workshop with a facilitated discussion with the participants about the importance of water in human's life.

EXHIBITION OF AUDIOVISUAL MATERIALS

AIM: To find out how the students learnt the different environmental topics and understood them. To realize the own learning of participants during the different workshops and its impact.

FOR WHOM: Children from 10 to 18

PLACE: Indoors

LENGTH OF THE ACTIVITY: 3 hours

MATERIALS AND PREPARATIONS NEEDED:

- Place with display
- Presentation of materials (story behind each of them)
- Each author can prepare a small workshop for their peers

DESCRIPTION:

In case you decide to implement several workshops about environmental education and if you have some interesting results/products to display, then a closing workshop like this can be useful for you.

Find a suitable place where to organize the exhibition and display all the works/



materials that were produced during the previous workshops - the trash that can be used for the second time, dioramas, etc. Ask the authors to tell to the other fellows in the school more about the event and the various activities that were organized. In this way, participants will have the chance to put their gained knowledge into practice by informing their peers about what they learned.

Authors of the materials/products can also prepare small workshops for the visitors about the preparation process to show that it is easy to make something new from things that we can find around in our daily life, etc. In this way it can be an informative, educative and practical closure and multiplying of the results from the previous workshops.



ROMANIA

ECOSYSTEM AND PEOPLE

AIM: To learn the general concepts of ecology. To get to know the existing environmental problems.

FOR WHOM: 11 - 16 years old

PLACE: Indoors

LENGTH OF THE ACTIVITY:
2 hours

MATERIALS AND PREPARATIONS NEEDED:

- Laptop
- Data projector with sound facility
- Flipchart papers
- Pencils, drawing set, glue/tape



DESCRIPTION:

To find out participants' level of understanding and knowledge about the topic, prepare a short test about ecology, biodiversity, waste management, recycling, green energy and organic food. The questions should be clear and short (it can be mixture of open questions and multiple choice questions).

The facilitator should then offer a clear insight on the issues in the test by an interactive presentation using flipchart and data projector (some short movies about the topic can be screened in order to make it more visual). Later on, the facilitator should initiate a discussion firstly with all participants then in small groups. While working in the group, each participant should provide his/her point of view and each group should create together one flipchart paper presenting the main issues discussed about the topic. In order for everyone to see and check the work of the other groups, ask each team to stick their flipchart on the wall of the meeting room at the end.

INTRODUCTION TO SUSTAINABLE LIFESTYLE

AIM: To empower youth to act in a sustainable way. To get to know the existing sustainable lifestyle best practices. To connect the Children's Day with sustainable living.

FOR WHOM: 11-16 years old

PLACE: Indoors and outdoors

LENGTH OF THE ACTIVITY:
2 hours

MATERIALS AND PREPARATIONS NEEDED:

- Laptop
- Flipchart and sound facility
- Pencils
- Drawing set
- Papers
- Post-its
- Glue / tape



DESCRIPTION:

In the first part, the facilitator should prepare some general facts about sustainable lifestyle and show a video for the participants. The visuals should be supported by exact figures to be presented to children afterwards.

In the second stage, in order to get acquainted with experiential learning, ask the participants to link the Children's Day (as a day with a special impact on both childhood and community) and the concept of sustainable lifestyle and to make a drawing that symbolizes the two aspects.



When the drawings are ready, ask participants to bring them outside and create an informal exhibition where both children and parents (as the essence of the community) can discover them.

MEET THE EXPERT: SUSTAINABLE LIFESTYLE

AIM: To raise awareness on sustainable lifestyle. To understand better the problems the country is facing. To get more clear and concrete information about what sustainable lifestyle means from the expert's point of view.

FOR WHOM: 13 - 17 years old

PLACE: Indoors

LENGTH OF THE ACTIVITY: 3 hours

MATERIALS AND PREPARATIONS NEEDED:

- Laptop
- Data projector with sound facility
- Flipchart
- Markers

DESCRIPTION:

Start the session with the expert's experience in the field and the insights from a specialized point of view. The presentation should be adapted to the target group, the participants should be able to ask questions for further explanation if needed during the presentation as well as afterwards.

At the end, there should be debriefing where participants together with the expert will discuss the ways to reduce the existing problems of their country and how they can be involved in the process.



CLEANING THE NATURE

AIM: To organize a tour around the local area and clean it from plastic bottles and other garbage. To discuss about environment and especially about waste and water issues.

FOR WHOM: 13 - 17 years old

PLACE: Outdoors

LENGTH OF THE ACTIVITY: 6 hours

MATERIALS AND PREPARATIONS NEEDED:

- Transportation from school to the selected place
- Bags for the waste, gloves



DESCRIPTION:

Early in the morning, gather all the participants for an informal meeting with the facilitator in order to discuss about the day in the nature and its purpose (cleaning of the local area). You can ask all the participants to wear white t-shirts - as a symbol to show that nature is pure and we should keep it like this.

In the second part of the activity, ask participants to create small teams and establish their own focus and action plan concerning the day in the nature. This is the way to empower youngsters to have a strategy in fighting against some of the issues that affect the environment.

For the final part of the workshop, at the end of the day, ask participants to gather all the bags with the garbage that they collected in order to point out both the quantitative aspect and the message (qualitative) that such action can and should be done by everyone.



**Partner organizations of the campaign
'Together for a Green Europe':**

Stepanavan Youth Center, Armenia
www.stepyouthcenter.org

Alliance for Society Advancement, Georgia
www.asa4you.org

Youth for Society, Latvia
youthforsociety.org/yfs/

R.E.E.s. Rare Earth Elements - Terre Rare, Italy
rareearthelements.wordpress.com/english/

Young Partners for Civil Society Development Association, Romania
www.youngleaders.ro

Youth and Environment Europe, Czech Republic
www.yeenet.eu
in the cooperation with the NGO Nase Kamenka, Czech Republic
www.nasekamenka.cz



This publication was created by Youth and Environment Europe.

Youth and Environment Europe (YEE) is an umbrella organisation uniting European environmental youth non-governmental organisations. Since its foundation in 1983, YEE has been a platform for many organisations that study nature and are active in the field of environmental protection.

The aim of YEE is to provide a platform where these organisations can cooperate and to encourage youth to be involved in environmental protection. YEE creates an opportunity to contact other European organisations, to exchange experiences, ideas and to work together.

Find out more about YEE at www.yeenet.eu.

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‘Together for a Green Europe’ campaign was run in 2012 in 6 European countries and consisted of diverse local eco activities encouraging children and youth to take care of European nature - their living environment.

These guidelines represent a set of best practices used during our campaign.

We hope it will serve you as a useful and inspiring tool for your eco activities with children and youth!