

YEE!

Knowing your neighbours

July/August
2009



Dear all,

It has been a long time since I had the honor to write the editorial, but here I am again, enjoining writing it.

So what's going on in YEE:

- The Annual Meeting 2009 is coming soon and this year, as you know, it will be hosted by the Spanish member organization Oro Verde. Where will the next Annual Meeting take place?... who knows; maybe in your country, hosted by your organization.

- For the last two years we have been updating YEE to the new times, creating policies, strategies, and this year the change of structure. Will this make the organization more institutional or more bureaucratic? Me personally I don't think so, because the new structure will allow YEE to answer faster and start to be a proactive organisation instead of a reactive one like it is now. What is happening now is that this change is taking a lot of energy and bla bla in order to come to a result. The process is difficult but the results could be really good for the organization. So this Annual Meeting will hopefully be the last year of this kind of changes for a long time and later

all our resources will be again concentrated on the environment.

- A new webpage is online. Did you know about this? On this webpage you can update information, share it with others and we are trying to have it like a resource center for all the people working in youth organizations for the environment.

- For the first time since the EVS project has started in YEE, our grant was rejected by the EACEA. So the volunteers that were selected in the last round to be EVS will come later then it was planned.

- We keep on going with the same format of publication, trying to know as much as possible from youth organizations in order to enable networking and allow young people to express their own expressions (opinions) on it. So just send us your thoughts if you want them to be published!

Well this is just a big overview, not going into detail.

When I arrived at YEE, I didn't like it too much and there were moments when I thought about stopping and

going out, sometimes I am even still thinking of it :), because I want to see more practical work for the environment. I don't want to be the whole day in the office, or discussing things with the board about this kind of stuffs, or seeing some people who should do something and don't do anything, etc. So why do I stay here? Well, partly it is a personal issue that I don't want to discuss here further. I just want to prove myself that I did all I could do in order to turn the things that I don't like. I want to help making a better organization out of YEE, doing really cool things, with a lot of field work, studies for the environment and a lot of interchanges among members that

for me this is what we are here for.

I believe that in general all the people in YEE feel like me. You always have the easiest solution (don't do anything) and later the hardest one (fight and work for the things that you want to see changed) that, at least for me, doing the "hard option" will show to yourself that you did the best and fought for what you believe. Remember the sentence by Gandhi: You must be the change you wish to see in the world!

Berto Mogio
(YEE, Czech Republic)



Nature Trust (Malta) Youth

Nature Trust (Malta) is a Maltese environmental NGO that was founded in December 1962, as an organization by the name of the Natural History Society of Malta. In January 1999 four NGOs merged together to form Nature Trust (Malta) as it is today. Since then the organization has been committed to the conservation of Maltese nature by promoting environmental awareness, managing areas of natural and scientific interest and lobbying for effective environmental legislation.



and attempts to combine this mission together with an element of fun.

Activities are organized regularly by the youth section and are also quite varied, suiting the likes of all members. Guided walks and hikes are by far the most common activities and take place in all parts of the archipelago, from Gozo and Comino to Il-Maqluba, Pembroke and Majjistral Nature Park. Also amongst the activities are boat trips and kayaking trips, both of which are more common in the summer months. The boat trips usually involve a sightseeing tour around picturesque areas of the Maltese Islands and are often accompanied by pauses to swim in these areas.



The youth section that was recently established is a vital part of the NGO

Abseiling in places like Wied iż-Żurriq are also quite popular activities with Nature Trust members. Also organized by Nature Trust are a number of site visits to the Nature Reserves managed by the organization and also talks about the environment of our islands. Trips outside Malta and Gozo are sometimes also organized, particularly to Sicily.

Activities are open to the public and we usually charge a fee which serves to make the activity possible and maintain the site used. Members of the organization are usually given a discount.

The aims of these activities and the ultimate goals of the youth section within Nature Trust (Malta) are essen-

tially to allow the public to appreciate and understand better the environment which they live in. It is also fundamental to notice to what extent the damaging effects are having on the environment and hence create awareness and encourage youth, like me, to join Nature Trust (Malta) and give a helping hand to protect and prevent degradation of the environment we live in.

For more information about Nature Trust (Malta) do not hesitate to contact the President by email on: info@naturetrustmalta.org or the Youth Officer at youths@naturetrustmalta.org

Zach Engerer,
(NTM, Malta)



PLANNING IN PROCESS ADVANCED PLANNING VISIT (APV) FOR THE YOUTH EXCHANGE 'LEARNING FROM EACH OTHER'

All of you can imagine that preparing the project is a long, detailed process as to organise a useful, interesting and successful event you need not only good ideas but also many practical preparations.

The Czech organization Konopa with the help of Youth and Environment Europe decided to organise the youth exchange 'Learning from each other' that was based on the idea of exchanging methods of work in youth environmental organisations.

We decided to organise an Advance Planning Visit with the support of Youth in Action Program to prepare the ground

for the partnership, to let group leaders get acquainted with the place and other partners so that later the cooperation would work better. We wanted all partners to be involved in the planning of the project as 'the preparation phase should enhance the participants' involvement in the Youth Exchange and prepare them for intercultural encounters with other people from different backgrounds and cultures'.

Advance Planning Visit is a special type of meeting that can take place when the grant is approved by YiA and can last only 2 days. 'You can apply for the Advanced Planning Visit to prepare the project with your different partner organisations, to organise the exchange in the best possible way, have a look at the infrastructure in the host country and find solutions to potential problems.' The particularity of the youth exchange project is based on two important ideas: involvement of participants during the creation and realisation of the whole project and the cooperation of partner groups. It is important that young people are active from the beginning of the project. The youth exchange is like a



creative adventure of young people from different countries with similar interests.

Five group leaders from Sweden, Portugal, Poland, Greece and Czech Republic (the Belgian group leader was not able to come) and me, helping with the organisation part from YEE met in May in Hruba Skala – the castle located in the area called Bohemian Paradise. We were staying in the castle where the youth exchange later took place. We were able to check the accommodation, discuss how to group participants in the rooms



and check places in the surroundings for future activities. We had the occasion speak about the program and plan it better, analyse all potential risks, discuss all the points that would help us to make the youth exchange interesting and attractive for all the participants.

I believe that the APV is an important step in the preparations. It strengthens

the cooperation between groups, makes participants more enthusiastic and full of ideas. However, we cannot forget about the environmental impact of this kind of meetings which are short so some people choose to come by plane. We always have to think if we could not use other methods for the preparation phase but for sure it is hard to substitute the real meeting during which you start to get to know people with whom you will build up the project.

Malgorzata Zubowicz
(YEE, Czech republic)

Source:
<http://www.salto-youth.net/>



In the castle, between rocks, on the meadow Learning from each other – Youth Exchange (03-10.07.2009, Hrubá Skala, Czech Republic)

In July 2009, when the castle in Hrubá Skala in the surrounding of Bohemian Paradise (name saying a lot about the beauty of the place) after many years of peaceful history almost forgot about its protecting purposes, it was occupied by 29 people that wanted to 'learn from each other'. Youth environmental organisations from Sweden, Portugal, Belgium, Poland, Greece and Czech Republic decided to meet and exchange methods of work, techniques and ideas with others using one simple rule – young people will pass the knowledge that they have and receive new information from other young participants.

The organisation Konopa from Czech Republic with the help of YEE decided to organise this youth exchange to transmit the most successful and inventive practises

to other organisations and to improve and to vary the everyday work of youth NGOs. Partner organisations decided to present us things that are important for their work, specific methods and style, like summer camps in the nature for children and youth (JNM, Belgium), guiding tours in the mountains (PTTK, Poland), direct actions and environmental manifestations (Faltbiologerna, Sweden), eco clubs (OPE, Portugal). They also touched topics that are important for their country, region – fire problems in Greece, forest industry in Sweden, biodiversity in Belgium. We were able to learn through various kinds of activities – lectures, presentations, practical workshops (recycled paper, workshops



on handcrafting of hemp), games, walks, songs.

The area of the castle and surroundings full of sandstone rocks with fascinating shapes was inspiring for many activities during the youth exchange. The organising team prepared a treasure hunting during which groups had to find the rock resembling something, tell the story about one special place and create a piece of nature art. The Polish group was teaching us how to lead a group in the mountains and encouraged us to try this role, the Swedish group organised role-play activity for us in which we had to take the role of children going for an excursion to the forest and a game "hide and seek" in which the rules were switched so that only one person was hiding and others were searching. Many activities took place outside – to speak

about nature in the nature.

But for me the most important was to observe in how various ways it is possible to speak about nature and environ-



ment, to show it, understand it, perceive with different senses, appreciate it, protect and even sing about it.

We will keep you updated about the ways how organisations started to use learnt methods in their work and how the process of 'learning from each other' is continuing.

For the organising team,
Malgorzata Zubowicz
(YEE, Czech Republic)

The project was financed by Youth in Action program.



Organisations that took part in the Youth Exchange 'Learning from each other' and the program they proposed:

Konopa – Czech Republic – hosting organisation – Educational programme on hemp; workshop handcrafting of hemp materials

PTTK – Poland – a day of mountaineering – interactive workshop about practicing tourism in the mountain areas (How to be a guide – methodology of working with a tourist group)

Youth Center of Korinthia – Greece – presentation about the forest fire problem in Greece, quiz and art workshop about recycling

JNM – Belgium – JNM summer camps, biodiversity excursion

Faltbiologerna – Sweden - How to organize an environmental action; Exchange of environmental games

Organizacao para a Promocao Ecoclubes – Portugal - eco-clubs movement, workshop: environmental demonstrative event 'Rafts in the river'



From the evaluation forms of participants:

'This exchange made me think what I should change in me so that I could be a better person.'

'I liked the other people's personalities, the differences between the nationalities, the themes we discussed and how much good does the environment in people's mind.'

'I will think about ways how to be more useful for nature and mainly how to participate in environmental organisations.'

'I've never seen so much environmental beauty together and I really enjoyed it. I want to know more and more and keep learning from each other so I hope that all the experiences that I had here will help me in my long way to become, as much as I can, a better person.'



Participants' comments:

'You never know you have as much knowledge as you do about your own home country, until you have to compare with others. With every group from every different country given the chance to choose their own subject an interesting mix was created. Every wday was a new challenge and all the time there was a lot to reflect on - is this a big question for us? Why or why not? Some of all we will bring back home are revelations for the environmental struggle to progress.'

Karin (Faltbiologerna, Sweden)

Promoting public participation and implementation of new environmental legislation at the local level - an ongoing project of the Ecologists' Movement of Macedonia (DEM)

Aims of the project:

1. Training of individual members of the local Societies – members of DEM. The purpose is gaining knowledge about long-sighted raising of the awareness of the public in general, its involvement and implementation of the necessary measures for advancing;

2. To establish long-lasting, repetitive and vital program in the particular community in order to overcome the relative problems regarding the protection of the environment;

3. To establish a supporting structure in particular local self-governments for timely reporting concerning environmental harm, damage and simultaneously implement preventive measures for environmental protection;

4. To establish long-lasting contact between particular competent structures in the local community, legislative bodies and civil organisations. It will continually point on the environmental problems, whereby a process of a vital cooperation will be created between the citizens and the municipal authorities;

5. To encourage the Macedonian citizens into active involvement, seeking implementation of environmental law and to educate them as to how they can fulfill their civil rights to achieve common well-being;

6. To complete the national program for decentralized decision-making, supported by the Government of the Republic of Macedonia

Financiers and supporters of the project are: BTD – The Balkan Trust for Democracy, Embassy of the United States of America in Macedonia, Ministry of environment and spacial planning of the Republic of Macedonia, SNV – Netherlands Development Organisation and COSMOFON.

Within this project, The “green telephone” located in the Ecologists' Movement of Macedonia in Skopje, started to function after agreeing with COSMOFON, to be assigned five telephone lines free of charge, on which the citizens can report environmental problems.

Although it was not part of the

primary ideas for the project, this line has shown helpful in the recognising and solving of several problems. Even though this “green telephone” line has had a primarily advisory role in terms of reference to the citizens to whom they addressed the problem, it has also been addressing reactions to the competent municipal institutions, based on reports received from the citizens.

linka” – Valandovo, Ecological Society “Grashnica” – Ohrid Ecological Society “Zdravec 2002” – Makedonska Kamenica, and the Ecological Society “Treska” – Makedonski Brod, from September 2008 have established a network of “green telephones”.

Before the beginning of the “green telephones” project of putting the telephones to work, the local organisa-

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ЗА КОРИСНИЦИТЕ НА КОСМОФОН ТЕЛЕФОНСКИОТ ПОВИК КОН БРОЕВИТЕ НА КОСМОФОН Е БЕСПЛАТЕН

Actually, the Ecologists' Movement of Macedonia located in Skopje, along with some of its local member organizations: Ecological Society “Ka-

tions used their own office telephones. Open collaboration between us and COSMOFON, and their wish to contribute in the protection of the environ-

ment, has resulted in providing free “green telephone lines” extending the network. Five telephone lines were opened for that purpose and the COS-MOFON network users can dial to them



free of charge.

Working with “green telephone” requires much effort from the particular volunteer, regardless of whether or not he is directly involved in solving reported cases or merely advises.

When the activist receives an anonymous call on the “green telephone”, he undertakes some or all of the stated activities, with regard to the urgency or nature of the reported case. The activist first writes in the case evidence form and then categorizes the call under the following criteria: noise, construction works, waste, traffic, mining, forests, water, public green areas, air, soils, radiation, animals and rest.

The next steps include collecting evidence on site, contacting the competent local and state agencies and institutions, contacting the media, prepar-

ing of local campaign (in case of publicising the problem) in terms of organising round a table, public presentations, TV shows, petitions and so on, and eventually meeting with the person who reported the problem.

Within the framework of the project, an environmental laboratory was authorised by DEM which performed detailed physico-chemical and biological analyses of water from three rivers in Macedonia: Vardar - the biggest river in the country, Treska - its tributary, and Kamenichka Reka - river in the eastern part of Macedonia, flowing through mining region.

Other results are: four projects on the local level have been organised to put effort into cleaning of localities recognized as priorities by the local civil groups; a vital cooperation between the citizens, civil organisations and local governments has been established. The local governments, communal enterprises, forest economies and other institutions, have been actively involved and provided logistics for the volunteer’s actions that carried out.

Gjoko Zoroski
(Ecologists’ Movement of Macedonia (DEM) - Youth, Macedonia)

Visit to the Orphanage

“We don’t need anything, just visit us”,-this is what 10-years old Ani from the orphanage named after Mary Izmirlyan replied to the question what she would like to receive as a gift.

The idea to visit orphanage appeared already in March.

During one of the meetings held in March where everybody was presenting some projects, a girl, Maria, sug-



gested a project to visit orphanage. We liked the idea a lot and started to collect money (as much as you may afford). The trainer of Irish nationality also joined us. “And he was the one to undertake this project”- Gayane, the Project Coordinator of FYCA is telling. She also tells that the money collection process was undertaken by young people afterwards. FYCA also joined the process. First a message was sent to the FYCA members by the FYCA group, and anybody could make a donation. As a result there was



a big group formed of volunteers who were willing to help.

Orphanage children especially need stationery. The volunteers brought not only stationery, but also toys, books and etc. Having already the necessary goods for the children, FYCA volunteers visited the Orphanage named after Mary Izmirlyan. It was a great event for the children and for the volunteers.

The youngest kid, 2.5 years old Rebecca, received the biggest toy from the volunteers, a big squirrel, bigger than Rebecca herself.

In the end of the day, the children were sad for the volunteers to leave, and the volunteers promised to visit them again.

Gayane Asatryan
(FYCA,
Armenia)



Ghent Board Meeting Ghent, Belgium 8-10th of May, 2009

Being one of the last Board Meetings before the actual Annual Meeting in Spain, YEE Board Members and Office had quite a number of important issues to clarify, discuss and confirm at their physical meeting in Ghent. Among some of the most pressing matters were the Restructuralization of YEE and some urgent documents alterations, the Annual Meeting Agenda and distribution of duties, current projects as well as External Relations issues.

One of the most time consuming and urgent tasks of the Ghent Meeting was the amendment of two very important YEE documents, namely the Rules of



Procedure and Statutes. Thus, an entire day was dedicated to this task and Board Members and Secretariat representatives divided themselves into two groups dealing respectively with both documents, reflecting all the changes that need to be incorporated. Afterwards both groups had to introduce their amendments to the other group and everybody had to agree on the proposed changes. When no agreement was possible, all the options were incorporated in the relevant document and left for the Annual Meeting to reach a decision.

Another crucial issue for discussion and clarification was the Annual Meeting Agenda and the distribution of duties among present Board Members. Slowly but surely the agenda was set but distributing the duties was not an

easy task to accomplish, having in mind that half of the Board Members did not really actively participate in taking responsibility for one or another part of the Annual Meeting (having in mind YEE Secretariat takes care of all workshops done during the AM that are responsibility of YEE). In the end all of the AM tasks (voluntarily or involuntarily) were taken up by Board Members and this chapter of the Meeting was finally closed.

Other current issues such as External Relations, projects, changes in YEE office personnel (partly dependant on decisions at the coming AM) were discussed, although quite superficially in my opinion, as well. There were still some unclear issue that needed further discussions and elaboration, but both Board and Secretariat had to concentrate on the coming Annual Meeting in Spain.



In one way or another most of you Member Organizations probably have heard one of our Board Members, Brecht Verhelst (Member Organizations Officer) has left us, which means that the rest of us would have to work harder. YEE Annual Meeting is about a month away from us so we have to work hard until we see each other in Spain and have a successful and fruitful meeting as well as enjoy the beauty of the region!!!

Sincerely,
Lili Deyanova
(YEE External Relations
Officer/Vice-Chair,
Ecosouthwest, Bulgaria)

EVS Goodbye Gosia is finishing her EVS project

Dear YEEers,

I started my EVS project with the Annual Meeting (AM) in Romania (the best way to learn what is going on in YEE). Now we are preparing workshops for the AM in Spain and I still can't believe that between two annual meetings is obviously one year distance cause it shows how long I am already in YEE. During this time I have never had time to stop – I was responsible for 3 magazines, 2 newsletters, many grants, projects, ac-



tivities, website and Youth Exchange 'Learning from each other'.

I took a lot from one year in YEE, I also hope I gave a lot. I tried to be useful and YEE started to be really important for me – the organization where you feel needed and you are doing things that for me make sense. I think the EVS project in YEE is perfect for people with initiative, who want to learn a lot and constantly ask questions. I managed to deal with all the tasks that I felt ready for, for instance I had the chance to make a few publications, learn how to use the graphic program, decide about the design of the publications, give propositions for activities and help to organize them, write grants, organize the youth exchange – and this is what I would like to continue to do during the next years.

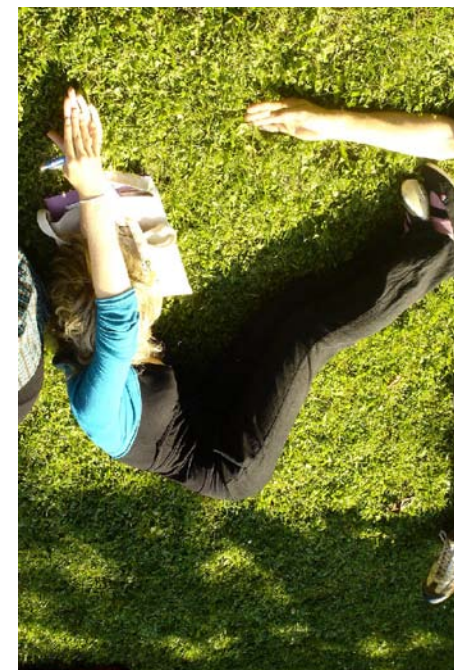
Although some people from the office call me workaholic, I am really not tired of YEE and for sure I will continue to help. There are many cozy things connected with this place – nice atmosphere, stupid jokes, communal lunches, the cat Knedlik on my lap, sneezing because of the dust, ice coffee...

I am not saying goodbye to YEE, it would be too hard just to disappear after such a promising adventure. I will try to help how I can because now I know well how many things have to be done in the office every day.

I hope future EVSes will enjoy the work in YEE as much as I did!

See you all at the Annual Meeting!

Gosia
(YEE, Czech Republic)



Funding opportunities

This time we will dedicate this section to grants coming from foundations and that tackle organizations from outside of the European Union too, Europe doesn't finish at the borders of the EU ;-). So in the next grants you can find information in order to buy land to create protected areas and in order to develop projects.

1. EECONET

It is a funding promoted by the IUCN, International Union Conservation Nature. It allows organisations or institutions to buy land in order to convert it in protected areas.

The goal of the EAF is to fund third parties (semi-state governmental organisations e.g. National Parks, and non-governmental organisations) to buy or lease important natural sites which contribute to the Pan European Ecological Network.

What it is for:

to buy or to lease important natural sites, or purchase concessions, as a means of securing biodiversity and landscape pro-

tection in order to contribute to the Pan European Ecological Network

Who can apply:

Small NGOs from following eligible countries: Albania, Armenia, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Macedonia, Hungary, Lithuania, Moldova, Poland, Romania, Russia, Serbia, Slovenia, Turkey and Ukraine.

How to apply:

download the application form from their website. The secretariat will guide the applicant during the application process to ensure that the information provided is correct and provides the Board with the material that is needed in order to reach a decision.

- All applications must be supported by a letter of support from a regional or national government

- Five copies of the application form must be submitted together with: a general map of the country showing the location of the project area, a detailed map of the project area, and photographs or slides of the area

- A copy of the annual report of

the applicant organisation

Deadlines:

Last deadline was 1st of August 2009

Contact:

EECONET Action Fund EAF
P.O. box 11232 , 2301 EE Leiden
The Netherlands
Tel. +31.71.5122900
Fax +31.71.5124069
Email eaf@eucc.net
Website www.eeconet.org/eaf/

2. DARVIN INICIATIVE

Priorities/aims:

The Darwin Initiative offers funds to encourage the sharing of UK biodiversity expertise with local partners in countries with a wealth of biodiversity, but who lack the means to protect these resources and to assist in meeting their CBD commitments.

What it is for:

institutional capacity building
training
research
work to implement the Biodiversity Convention
environmental education or awareness

Who can apply: Organisations based in UK for projects to be held in UK or Tajikistan, Armenia, Georgia, Ukraine, Turkey, Romania, Bulgaria, Albania, Serbia, Hungary, Czech Republic, Poland, Lithuania, Russia, Slovenia

How to apply:

Darwin projects are initiated by an institution from within the UK
You should download and send the application form to the following address: darwin-applications@ltsi.co.uk

Deadlines:

Different deadlines along each year.
Next one 18 August 2009

Contact:

<http://darwin.defra.gov.uk/>
Projects-Eilidh Young-Tel:01314405181
darwin-projects@ltsi.co.uk
Applications -
darwin-applications@ltsi.co.uk
LTS Pentlands Science Park Bush Loan
Penicuik EH26 0PL

Berto Mogio
(YEE, Czech Republic)

Lets do it!

Estonia sets an example for environmental care

There was more than 10 000 tons of illegal waste lying around in Estonian nature. In October 2007, a group of active citizens realised that something drastic needed to be done. They developed a special software and geomapped more than 10 000 dumping sites all over the country. And on 3rd of May 2008, engaging hundreds of organisations and more than 50 000 volunteers, they cleaned it all up in just 5 hours!



What was the situation in Estonia?

Half of Estonia's territories are covered with forests. However, the forests were trashed with 10 000 tons of garbage. Household and construction waste could be found everywhere in forests and roadsides of the small country of Estonia. Many people believed it is acceptable to bring your garbage to the forest and they had been doing that for years.

The idea to become active:

There was a group of people who

believed that all this could be changed. They wanted to 1. get rid of all the waste laying in the Estonian nature and 2. to stop people doing illegal dumping, which is a lack of care and respect towards the nature, towards yourself.

The idea was named "Lets do it" and the plan to accomplish those two goals was to clean up 10 000 tons of waste in just one day. To do that, it was necessary to engage at least 40.000 volunteers. A big task, but not an impossible one!

The starting point:

In the beginning there were just a few people and a good idea. There was no public acknowledgement of the problem, no specific information about the extent of the problem and the experiences local groups had made were not very motivating. Their results did only last a short time and illegal dumping would not be stopped.

But how to do it?

1. step: seeding the idea

First of all, partners for such a big action had to be found.

Estonian top specialists, opinion leaders, NGOs and the largest organizations were contacted. They were simply invited to join the team and accepted the invitation, because they were also convinced, something had to be done.

In a few weeks there was a team of 20 volunteers that eventually grew to 620 people.

2. step: engaging partners

Such an event must be planned and promoted well and it needs support by the whole society.

The initiators won the support of opinion-leaders, NGOs, the largest companies, top IT specialists, politicians, the media and even the president, gathering

eventually more than 500 official partners that helped with all their resources. Some helped with their staff, others allowed the use of their technical equipment or transportation means and media channels gave the "Lets do it" – project free space to advertise.

3. step: mapping of garbage

The third step was creating the virtual garbage map in order to estimate the



amount and type of garbage.

Therefore, for example software like Google Earth was combined with other freeware programs and a new garbage mapping software was created. Using the technical equipment, the mapping became very easy. Just by walking around the forest and pressing few buttons on their mobile, the initiators and volunteers could mark down a trash site. Location, picture and info about the trash were immediately sent to the virtual map on their website.

During 7 months, 720 volunteers worked hard to locate all the waste in the forests. 15 regional mapping weekends were organized and as a result 10 656 waste dumping sites were located.

But the most important question remained:

4. step: how to get 40 000 people to clean up?

The first task was to bring the problem to everyone's awareness. The largest publicity and advertising campaign ever done in Estonian history was organized— for free!

Estonian well-known actors, musicians and well cultural leaders gave their voice and face to the campaign.

Out of a sudden “Lets do it” was everywhere.

5. step: registration

People interested in helping were now asked to register as teams consisting of 3-15 volunteers via internet. Each team was responsible for cleaning up certain trash points.

They got specific instructions, a map with the garbage sites assigned to the team and necessary contacts before the day.

Just 2 weeks before the actual clean-

up day, there were only about 10 000 participants registered. The initiators had done what they could. The rest was up to the people.

The action day: May, 3rd 2008

More than 50 000 people came out to the villages, towns, forests and roadsides all over the county of Estonia. That's 4% of the population of 1.3 million. They managed to clean more than 10 000 tons of waste between 10 am and 5 am. In only 5 hour an entire country was changed to the better.

There were also Americans, Russians, Germans, Swedish, Chinese, Fins and Lithuanians. The international media was following

How much did it cost?

Under normal circumstances it would have taken the government 3 years and 22 500 000 Euros for doing it.

Like this, it was done for 500 000 Euros and in only one day.

Following up:

“Lets do it”, in the end of the day, achieved three goals: 1. Raise the awareness of Estonians, 2. clean the whole of Estonia and 3. motivate people to get active in their own country. As a consequence of this, activist groups in Ger-

many, South Africa, Romania, Japan and other places in the world were formed.

Furthermore, a garbage cleaning action could be realized in Latvia and Lithuania. The 18th of April 150 000 people gathered waste in these two countries.

The message is clear: even if we don't have anything but an idea and a few people in the beginning, a big movement can be evoked.

Link:

<http://www.minueesti.ee/?lng=&leht=88,97>

Theresa Brosge
(EVS in YEE, Czech Republic)



<-- Before

After -->



World Water Week

17. – 22.08.2009

Stockholm, Sweden

<http://www.worldwaterweek.org/>**YEE Annual Meeting**

11.- 20.08.2009

Villamanin, Spain

yee@yeenet.eu

SUMMER SCHOOL: Water, Engagement for Our Future

24. – 28.08.2009

Valencia, Spain

<http://www.aer.eu/events/summer-school/2000-2009/aerss2009.html>**CONGRESS: World Water Congress**

01. - 04.09.2009

Montpellier, France

<http://wwc2008.msem.univ-montp2.fr/>**CONFERENCE: European biomethane fuel conference**

07. - 09.09.2009

Göteborg, Sweden

<http://www.eea.europa.eu/events/european-biomethane-fuel-conference>**CONFERENCE: European biomethane fuel conference**

07. - 09.09.2009

Göteborg, Sweden

<http://www.eea.europa.eu/events/european-biomethane-fuel-conference>**European Youth Forum's Open Doors**

09.09.2009

Bruxelles, Belgium

www.youthforum.org**International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer**

16.09.2009

CONFERENCE: 9th International Conference on Risk Factors of Food Chain

18. – 19.09.2009

Rackova dolina, High Tatras, Slovakia

CONFERENCE: Environmental Health Risk 2009

21. – 23.09.2009

New Forest, United Kingdom

<http://www.wessex.ac.uk/conferences/2009/ehr09/index.html>**CONFERENCE: Implementation and Enforcement of Environmental Legislation**

23. – 25.09.2009

Sibiu, Romania

<http://www.gnm.ro/implementationconference/>**CONFERENCE: EESD 2009 - International Conference on Eco-systems, Environment and Sustainable Development**

23.09.2009

Amsterdam, Netherlands

<http://www.conferencealerts.com/seeconf.mv?q=calxiims>**CONFERENCE: The Water Framework Directive - Emerging Water Management Challenges**

29. – 30.09.2009

Lille, France

<http://www.eea.europa.eu/events/international-conference-the-water-framework-directive-2013-emerging-water-management-challenges>

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