



Call for Partners

on **Follow the Rivers** project



**WHEN: AUGUST, 2013 TO OCTOBER, 2014**

**WHERE: PORTUGAL AND PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS COUNTRIES**

**ORGANISER: ORGANIZAÇÃO PARA A PROMOÇÃO DOS ECOCLUBES – OPE**

**PARTNERS: PROGRAMME COUNTRIES OF YIA PROGRAMME**

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## PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Rivers Campaign aims to promote social participation in the conservation of river spaces, following the objectives outlined in the Decade of Education for the United Nations and Sustainable Development. The direct and indirect actions of people have degraded the quality of this essential element of life, contributing to the loss of habitats and biodiversity loss, as well as to decreased quality of life and health of human populations. It is necessary to develop an ecological conscience and work to improve knowledge of the environment. This project proposes a methodology that promotes scientific curiosity and implements the experimental scientific method, through the collection and recording of information and geographic data, physical-chemical, biological, historical events, social and ethnographic, thus contributing to the improvement of the region studied and overall river quality.

It is a fifteen-month Transnational Youth Initiative in which each partner organization works on improving the quality of the rivers in their community.

## CAMPAIGN WILL CONSIST OF:

**1<sup>st</sup> stage** | 2 persons from each organization come to Portugal in order to participate in a two-day seminar on the topic of rivers; the seminar is based on equipping the participants with tools (training, documentation and materials) for the monitoring of water courses.

**2<sup>nd</sup> stage** | After return to their country, the group of at least, 4 elements, start the monitoring project with 2 sessions (one on spring and another on autumn) and 3 activities from a list of proposed activities of direct action on the river:

- river cleaning;
- riverside walks;
- reforestations;
- recovery mills;
- exhibitions (movie screening),
- presentations in schools,
- collection of short stories,...

**3<sup>rd</sup> stage** | Campaign celebration in Portugal, with an Ecological Music Festival (2 days, 2 participants/partner) and publication of booklet on the conditions of rivers of each European partner country.

#### OBJECTIVES:

1. Promoting participatory reflection in order to create an exchange of strategies and methodologies for environmental education in riparian zones;
2. Create a spirit of cooperation among the groups involved, fostering the exchange of ideas and experiences around concerns for regions of study;
3. Monitor and inspect sections of a river or stream, in order to assess the level of quality of the water line adopted;
4. Conduct monitoring regular, with the aim to gather comparative data and intercept (at least two inspections per year);
5. Implement measures to promote the improvement of the river or creek adopted;
6. Aware community to adopt strategies that promote conceptual changes, aimed at improving the environment in general and water lines in particular;
7. Promoting emotional link to the riverside area and local community;
8. Organize events and activities to promote, disseminate and discuss about water and importance of riverine ecosystems;
9. Bringing the local community to take an active role in protecting the environment and reducing the negative impacts of human actions in some riverine ecosystems;
10. Promoting the use of new information technologies;
11. Broaden awareness and information to the general public, promoting awareness campaigns and improvement actions;

**TO BECOME PARTNER OF THIS PROJECT, PLEASE FILL IN THE PARTNER IDENTIFICATION IN THE ATTACHMENT AND SEND IT TILL 20<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY TO ANA LOPES, [OPE.PORTUGAL@GMAIL.COM](mailto:OPE.PORTUGAL@GMAIL.COM), INFORMING US HOW MANY PARTICIPANTS YOUR ORGANIZATION WILL INVOLVE.**