



**youth organising  
green events**



## **in this issue ...**

- ... greener festivals**
- ... green events, green grants**
- ... eco calendar**

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## imprint

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**Editorial board**  
Małgorzata Zubowicz  
Francesco Ballone  
Paulina Piasecka  
Gjoko Zoroski  
Aisha Hannibal

**Layout**  
Małgorzata Zubowicz

**Contribution and support from:**  
Adriána Harnúšková, Michal Švec,  
Lili Deyanova, Michal Ruman,  
André Vizinho, Armen Melkonyan,  
Veronika Kiss, Albana Bregaj,  
An Lambert

**Pictures from:**  
YEE archive, Michal Ruman, Michal Švec,  
www.sxc.hu, Greener Festival Ltd., Meduli  
Nature, Mélanie Ruppe, Rudolf Karlik,  
GAIA archive, Armen Melkonyan,  
SYC archive

**YEE office**  
Youth and Environment Europe  
Kubátova 1/32  
Praha 10, 102 00  
Czech Republic  
<http://www.yeenet.eu>  
[yee@yeenet.eu](mailto:yee@yeenet.eu)  
Tel./Fax: +420 271 750 643

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# Editorial

Dear readers,

Developing environmental awareness and knowledge in young people plays a significant role in forming culture and habits where sustainable practices are pursued. Youth nature programmes, projects and activities can build their understanding and commitment to environmentally sound values. As such, those programmes can shape young sustainable minds to be able to contribute towards protecting nature as well as using its' resources more rationally and thoughtfully.

It is quite important that the earth's resources are consumed considerably since the majority of them are not renewable but at the same time the human population is largely expanding. This is why the young people, as fresh, diverse, open and free-minded generators of ideas, should be aware of this fact, not only to try to protect the environment but save and preserve its resources as well.

Young people need to be empowered with knowledge, tools and awareness to develop deep appreciation for nature. Climate change and global warming trends necessitate the need for drastic measures, where from small kids to elderly citizens, everybody needs to be actively involved in order to have some tangible results.

Young people can organise plenty of activities in the environment, the nature of the events or projects they can come up with depends solely on the scope of their imagination. They can organize various training courses, seminars, youth exchanges, exhibitions, camps, protests and other activities related to protecting and preserving the environment. Young people can also take a greater part in the decision-making processes of countries, regions, municipali-

ties, organisations, institutions, universities, clubs, all of which concerns environmental protection and conservation. Examples of active young people can be found everywhere in the world, inspiring the minds of many.

Young people are great ambassadors for nature with a variety of ideas. They can take the opportunity to organise projects, raise public awareness, attract political attention and show their generation that their opinion and their values matter and they can bring change into the world.

It's very important to empower young people and show them they are the ones that have to shape their own future and will be responsible for the state of the world and the environment for the generations to come. That is a huge responsibility but the youth of today are full of ideas, potential, courage and opportunities and they should not be afraid to take up this challenge.

That is why we believe in the importance of 'green' events organised by young people. In this magazine we want to show you some examples of 'green' events to inspire you to take action. We prepared an eco-calendar to show you which dates are important to celebrate. You can also find useful articles about project management, searching for partners, and tips how to organise a 'green' event. So enjoy the magazine 'Youth organising green events' and create a green event yourself!

IT'S YOUR ENVIRONMENT! APPRECIATE AND PROTECT IT!

Lili Deyanova  
(Ecosouthwest, Bulgaria)

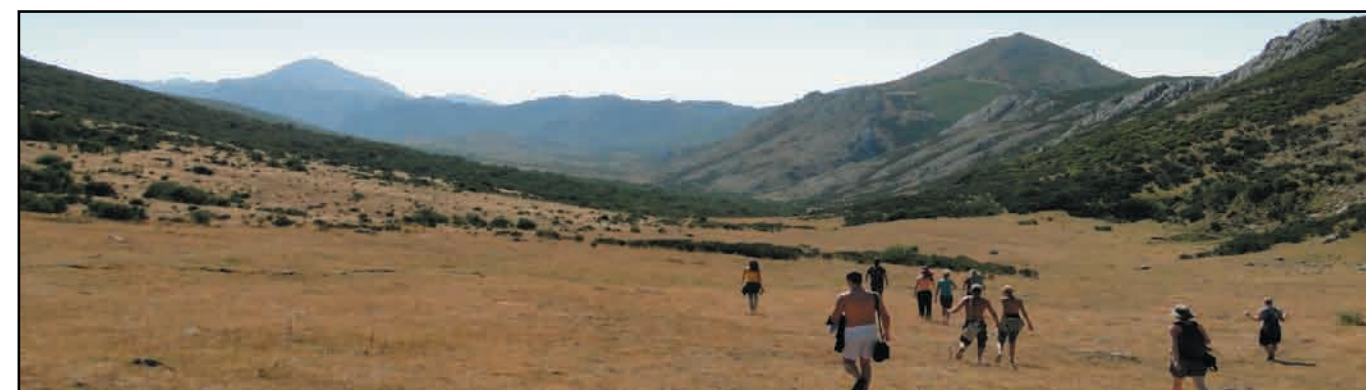


Photo: YEE archive



# Project management

**So you think you can write a project... Check out first guidelines and tips how to develop a good project and write a good application. Also for green events!**

So you think you can write a project... Well, first of all, let's make it clear what a project is, and what are its main characteristics.

**A good project must have a well-defined and realistic purpose, and it must be able to produce a measurable outcome in a limited period of time. It has to be the result of the team work; the project must be made up of stages, and for every stage an accurate evaluation is required.**

## Stages of the project

Let's look at it more closely, and let's see what these stages should be. Of course, this division is not always the same: every project has to fit a real situation, and reality is never so simple and schematic. Nevertheless, it is useful to have a framework to organise our work while you prepare the project and implement it.

There are **3 main stages of the project cycle**:

- 1) Definition
- 2) Implementation
- 3) Evaluation

The first phase, "**definition**", includes the preparatory work and the planning of the project. Which is simply all the hard work which needs to be done before the project even starts. It is decisive, because the success of a project depends primarily on the way it is designed.

The second stage, "**implementation**", cannot be defined very precisely, because it often overlaps with the first one: it is difficult to say when you finish defining your project and start implementing it, because the definition work keeps going on even after the implementation has started.

The project does not finish with the end of the activities: the third stage, "**evaluation**", takes place after the implementation is done. Final reports on the social, financial, organisational outcomes of the project are a necessary part of the project cycle.

## Plan a youth project

In this article, we will have a closer look to the first

stage, which is the most "formal" one, and where you have to fulfil precise criteria for your project to be accepted for funding. So, let's talk about the definition stage of a youth project. To make it simpler, we will follow a few clear steps:

- Understanding the community
- Needs analysis (community, organisation, personal motivations)
- Definition of the aims
- Definition of the concrete objectives
- Methodology and strategy
- Planning the activities

The starting point is understanding what your target is: youth projects are supposed to be made for the young people, with the young people and by the young people. This is why it is necessary to put these people at the heart of the project since its beginning. The project is not done just for the sake of the organisation, nor to make money. It is meant to bring something new to these young people, to make a positive change in some aspects of their lives. Therefore, you have to identify **the community** of young people involved in the project, so that you can choose your target inside this community (e.g. you could consider the "national community" of young people, and then focus only on the teenagers of a precise area inside an identified city). Once you choose your target groups, you can proceed to an accurate analysis of their needs before starting with the project definition.

As you just read, the community is one of the objects of **the needs analysis**: it is necessary to understand **what this community needs**; what are the priorities of these people; what change the project could bring to their lives. The only way to find this out is by asking the opinion of the people involved, so that you will be able to do the right thing when it needs to be done. That is not all: it is always good to ask also other people's opinion (potential partners, sponsors, all those whose support could be needed). The more people you meet in this phase, the better your chances are to have them later on your side.

*In the application form, it is important to describe*

*clearly and in a simple way the social (as well as political, economical, etc.) background of the project, i.e. the conditions that make it necessary and relevant. Don't be afraid to explain even those things that could seem obvious to you, and be true about the analysis you carried out when you apply for funds.*

Once you are done with the first analysis of the community, you should turn to your own **organisation**, which is going to lead the project. Each organisation has its priorities and values, and you should make sure that your project is consistent with them. So, it is necessary to ask the organisation's board, the other workers and volunteers their opinion about your project. You should also evaluate what the organisation may gain from your project and which resources it could offer for your work.

*In the application form, you will have to introduce briefly your organisation. Make sure to point out clearly the link between the project and the organisation, and do not send too much information, unless requested.*

As to **the personal motivations** of the applicant, of course you need some if you want to run a project... but most likely it will not be necessary to write them down in the application form, the accountability of the organisation being the main item there. Anyway, you should be ready to provide information on yourself: the people in charge of the project must be competent and motivated, and have some affinity to the theme or the organisation. In this case, it is better not to write too much, and provide only the requested information.

After defining what the target community needs, it is time to talk about **the aims of the project**: why

the project exists, what its purpose and its reason for being are. You have to state what are the changes you want to bring in the social environment concerned by the project, and try to figure out what the results of the project would be, if they are 100% successful.

*In the application form, be careful about defining the aims in a correct way. The aims are just a priority in the big range of needs the community provides, and they should be presented as an umbrella to the objectives: the aims are the intermediate step between the needs analysis and the concrete objectives. Although global, they should identify: the target group addressed; the issue to be dealt with and the changes proposed; the geographical area concerned by the project; indications about the methodology and the values transmitted. In this part, you don't have to provide any date, nor information about the activities that are going to take place.*

**The concrete objectives** of the project should be defined in a clear way, so that your application can give an idea of what will be concretely done by the project.

Thus, **the objectives should be**:

- **Concrete**: what exactly is the result to be achieved; how many people will be involved, and what competencies will they acquire; what the project will produce, and through which activities?

- **Multiple**: the project must be broken down into several objectives: planning and evaluating smaller objectives will be easier than looking all the time at the project as a whole.

- **Assessable**: try to be concrete and precise in the definition of your objectives: if they are measurable, it will be easier to evaluate the project once it is finished.

- **Timed**: you can distribute your objectives in



## Basic information

**SMART** is a mnemonic used in project management at the project objective setting stage. It is a way of evaluating the objectives or goals for an individual project. The term is also in common usage in performance management, whereby goals and targets set must fulfill the criteria.

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/SMART\\_criteria](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/SMART_criteria)

### Be SMART writing grants and goals:

Specific  
Measurable  
Achievable  
Realistic  
Timed

short, medium and long term, but all objectives must be set against an expected time for achievement.

- **Realistic:** it is wiser to set lower, achievable objectives and take the risk of achieving more than stated, than setting them too high and risk failing to meet them.

- **Flexible:** as evaluations are carried out during the implementation of the project, some adjustments need to be made. Make sure your objectives are flexible, so that you will be able to modify them if it is needed.

- **Recognisable in the activities:** do not confuse the objectives with the activities: the activities are the means by which you can reach the objectives. Of course it is essential to have some connections between them. Make sure that every activity is connected at least to one objective, and vice-versa!

*Before writing them down in the application form, discuss your objectives with those concerned, from your colleagues to the target group. While filling in the application, keep in mind that your objectives should be SMART: Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic, Timed.*

*Try to be simple while you describe them, and avoid repetition. Also, check that your objectives are consistent with the aims and the organisation that carries them out.*

**The methodology** is the social, educational or organisational process through which the objectives are pursued. In short, it is how the project is carried out: the methodology determines the type of activities to be organised and their sequence. It guides the planning of the whole project; that is why it is so important for the methodology to be understood by all partners and participants. When talking about methodology, you should always take into account:

- **Coherence** among the different elements of the programme, which should respect the framework

provided by aims and objectives. They also have to be coherent in their timing.

- **Consistency** of the project with your own values. Theory and practice should always be strictly linked to each other.

- **Effectiveness** of the methodology: it should make the best out of scarce resources, and make the best out of the potential generated by the project.

*When writing down the methodology part, remember that the whole plan should have an internal coherence; remember to make the process understandable to the participants; and try to foresee the possible side effects or reactions to what is going to happen.*

All these elements must be put together in **a plan**, to make them “real” through the activities and place them in a calendar. Every activity has its specific function, but you should keep in mind that each one of them must be seen as a part of the whole project, and keep its connections with the other activities.

While planning, **time** is the most delicate issue. As the activities must be tightly connected, a delay in the implementation of one of them may delay all the others. So, it is appropriate to:

- Consider a starting date and a closing date for the project, so that it is clear when it has to begin and to end.

- Remember to put also preparatory activities in the schedule, as they are part of the project as well.

- Check the correspondence between activities and objectives, and the interactions between different activities.

- Make sure the calendar corresponds to what is happening in the wider world (holidays, deadlines, other activities involving that community in the same period...), and try to figure out what will happen if an activity is cancelled.

- Remember that the project does not finish with the end of the last activity: provide the necessary time in the calendar for final evaluations and reports, follow-up, producing documentation... of course they will not appear in the “public” calendar (i.e. the one which shows only the activities), but you will need a complete “private” overview of all the work you have to do.

*In the application form, don't overestimate the available time or your capacities! It would be wise to allocate only 80% of the time. Yes, you will need the remaining 20% as well, but you still do not know what for. Also, remember to provide some time for intermediate regular evaluations and check-points: they will help you to lead the project in a more responsible way and to recover some energy between activities.*

*Moreover, remember to provide the necessary information for each activity: write down clearly when, where, for whom and with whom it will take place.*

*And, most important, check that all the information is compatible with the budget. In the application form, the budget is a major issue. In this part of the application, you explain what you are asking for from your funding institution.*

About writing **the budget**:

- Expenses **MUST** be exactly the same as the income (which is, the budget must be balanced). Also the budget must be realistic: do not put too high or too low prices... people usually know what things cost.

- You should get some information about the funding institutions' criteria for selection, their rules of calculation, the amount of money that they can provide... follow carefully all these indications, and do not ask for more than they can give.

- Check if you can ask for funds from different sources: maybe you will find complementary ones, and it is always good to diversify your sources of financing.

- Show how much the organisation, the volunteers and the other sponsors are contributing, and do not forget to include contributions in kind or voluntary contributions.

Now that your application form is complete, be careful about the way you send it to **the potential funders**. First of all, choose carefully the institutions (foundations, companies...) to contact: if their



aims are similar to yours, they will be more likely to provide some funding for your project. Therefore, automatically sending copies of an identical project presentation to a large number of foundations makes no sense. Decide to whom you are going to send your application, and adapt it each time to the priorities of the different funding organisations.

Of course, it is important that your application reaches the right person and that you can be funded by them as well: so, where there is a person responsible for dealing with applications, do not write directly to the programme director; and do not forget to include your organisation's full address and the name of the contact person.

In any case, it is always good to keep contact with funding organisations. If you got a grant, it is important to thank them for their support, and during the activities don't forget to mention publicly where the money comes from. It is also appropriate to invite your backers to certain stages of the project, to make them feel more involved and allow them to inspect how their money was spent. Even if you did not manage to get the grant, don't be desperate... remember you have plenty of opportunities and you can try again to apply for funding, maybe with the same project, if you bring the necessary changes in it to make it better... and try to keep in touch with the funding institutions, even if they rejected your project: you never know, they could become your sponsors for the next one!

Francesco Ballone  
(EVS in YEE office)

**Sources:**

- “Project management T-KIT” Council of Europe and European Commission

## ? Basic information

Few reasons **why projects succeed**:

1. the organisational structure is suited to the project team

2. the project team participates in planning

3. the project team is committed to establishing schedules and realistic budgets

4. the project makes proper use of network planning techniques and does not

let the plan become an end at itself

5. the project team works with bureaucracy, politics and procedures and not against them

6. the project team agree on specific and realistic project goals

7. the target audience is involved from the start of the project.



# How to find partners for your youth 'green' event

**Finding the right partners for your green event is one of the many pieces of the puzzle called a successful project. Whether you are not sure about where exactly to look for them or you want to have more options to choose from, keep on reading - this article will help you searching for the missing piece.**

Once you have the idea about what kind of green event you want to organise - where you want to do it, when and how - there is still one important thing you need to think of. Yes, the partners. Now is the right time for you to look for other enthusiastic young people who would like to take part in the project you plan to organise. In the next lines we will give you some tips about where and how to search efficiently for the right partners for your green events. There are many databases and websites on the internet that can be used for your research but in order to save you some precious time, we can offer you direct links to some of them together with short descriptions. Good luck with your research and with all your green events!!!

## Calls for partners on YEE website

When searching for partners, you can start with the YEE website ([www.yeenet.eu](http://www.yeenet.eu)) where you will find a special section dedicated just to the research of potential partners for your projects - Calls for partners ([www.yeenet.eu/index.php/call-for-partners](http://www.yeenet.eu/index.php/call-for-partners)). If you would like to publish your request, there is nothing easier. Just contact us by sending an email to YEE office - [ye@yeenet.eu](mailto:ye@yeenet.eu) and depending on if you are YEE member or not, your request will appear in one of the following subsections:

- YEE calls for partners which promotes projects organised within the YEE network, or
- Other calls for partners where interesting projects of other organisations are published.

## Partner database 'Youth for Europe'

Another useful option is the platform Youth for Europe ([www.youthforeurope.eu](http://www.youthforeurope.eu)) which was created by the NGO Open Youth to respond to the growing interest of youth organisations and young people in general for active participation in international projects on European level. In order to fully use the platform and the services it provides (for free), you just need to become a site member. Once you

are a registered member, it is very easy to publish your project on the website and start looking for new partners. In your profile you click on My projects link from the menu and follow the steps to add a new project. It will appear in the website's Project section where your possible future partners will be able to see it, to apply and/or contact you for more details.

Another interesting and really useful tool of the platform is that you can check what other people think about your potential partners – just go and see the organisations' ratings in the section Organisations ([youthforeurope.eu/index.php?page=organisations](http://youthforeurope.eu/index.php?page=organisations)).

## SALTO-YOUTH

You can also look for partners on SALTO-YOUTH ([www.salto-youth.net/](http://www.salto-youth.net/)) which is a network of eight resource centres working on European priority areas within the youth field. One of the services it provides is that it gives you the opportunity to find partners.

There are two ways to search for them on SALTO-YOUTH website. If your project is related to Youth Initiatives and/or Youth Democracy Projects (i.e. sub actions 1.2 or 1.3 of the Youth in Action Programme), you should go to the section Resource centres – Participation – Find partners! (<http://www.salto-youth.net/rc/participation/partnerrequests/?oldEngineRedirect=true>). There you can download the form and send it filled in to [participation@salto-youth.net](mailto:participation@salto-youth.net) or simply contact SALTO-YOUTH at [participation@salto-youth.net](mailto:participation@salto-youth.net).



The second option is to use the section Tools – Partner finding – Find a partner ([www.salto-youth.net/tools/partnerfinding/](http://www.salto-youth.net/tools/partnerfinding/)). You will be redirected to the Partner Finding Database which consists of links to other existing databases developed by the National Agencies of the Youth in Action Programme. To mention some of them:

- Partner database of the EuroMed Youth Platform ([www.euromedp.org/](http://www.euromedp.org/)) which aims to bring young people from the region together, facilitate their networking, share relevant information, and exchange good practices. In the section Search for partners you can undertake research based on various criteria (Interests/field of work, Country or Type of Organisation). There are more than 1000 organisations from 39 countries which means there are many possibilities for you to find the right partner fitting exactly to your project;

- Contact list of organisations ([www.salto-eeca.eu/szukaj.php](http://www.salto-eeca.eu/szukaj.php)) for those of you who are interested in

cooperation between Eastern Europe and Caucasus and Programme Countries. In order to ease research for partner organisations, you can search either do the by simple or advanced search.

Moreover, the good news is that the European Commission is currently developing a common European database for partner finding which will be soon available on SALTO-YOUTH webpage as well.

Have you already found your partner? Great! While making the research if you find some other platforms, websites and tools that might be useful for other youth organisations to look efficiently for good partners for their projects, let us know at [ye@yeenet.eu](mailto:ye@yeenet.eu). We would love to hear about your successful stories and share it with the others.

Adriana Harnuskova  
(YEE Secretary General)

# 'Green' grants

**Short review about grants possibilities that can support your 'green' project. Check the basic information about funders and explore more details through webpages and the handbook of Youth and Environment Europe 'Green grants guidebook'.**

If you tried at least once to organise a project, an action, an initiative, you know that good idea, enthusiasm of organising team and good purpose is often not enough to realise the project. I believe that many ideas can be made as 'low budget' or 'zero money' activities but if we want to make an international project, we have to know how to find right donor, funder.

With this article I would like to give you some information about grants that can support your 'green', environmental initiatives. More detailed information can be found in 'Green grants guidebook' – a guidebook about donors and funding organisations prepared by YEE Secretariat in 2009. It can be downloaded here: [www.yeenet.eu/images/stories/Grants\\_guidebook.pdf](http://www.yeenet.eu/images/stories/Grants_guidebook.pdf)

It is important to have an overview about possibilities and choose the funds that fit to your project's priorities and goals. So check the information below and maybe your project will find a financial support.

## Youth in Action

(programme of the European Commission)

### What it is for?

The Youth in Action Programme is divided into 5 Actions, each of them has its own subactions.

- Youth Exchanges, Youth Initiatives, Thematic networking (Action 1, sub-action 3.1 – Youth Exchange with neighbouring countries)
- European Voluntary Service (Action 2)
- Trainings, seminars, networking (Action 3, 4)
- Meetings of young people involved in youth policies, Cooperation of international organisations (Action 5)

### Priorities/aims:

- 4 permanent priorities: European citizenship, Participation of Young people, Cultural Diversity, Inclusion
- annual priorities (For 2010 e.g.: European Year for Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion, Youth

unemployment and promotion of young unemployed people's active participation in society, Awareness-raising and mobilization of young people around global challenges (such as sustainable development, climate change, migrations, the Millennium Development Goals)

#### Contact:

Website of the Executive Agency in Brussels: [ec.europa.eu/youth/youth-in-action-programme/doc74\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/youth/youth-in-action-programme/doc74_en.htm)

#### Tips:

See the Programme guide to learn all the important info; you can download it in your language at: [http://ec.europa.eu/youth/youth-in-action-programme/doc443\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/youth/youth-in-action-programme/doc443_en.htm).

### European Youth Foundation (EYF) (programme of Council of Europe)

#### What it is for:

The European Youth Foundation (EYF) is a fund established in 1972 by the Council of Europe to provide financial support for European youth activities. It is a fund set up to provide financial support to international youth activities.

- international youth meetings – Category A (international youth meetings for youth leaders, including seminars, conferences, workshops, camps, festivals, etc.)
- youth activities other than meetings - Category B (studies, research projects and the production of information and documentation on youth issues; specialised publications (such as training manuals); newsletters or magazines produced by international youth organisations; information campaigns; exhibitions and the production of audio-visual materials etc; the development of websites or the production of CD-ROMs; the production of posters, badges and stickers; research projects on youth-related issues; study visits enabling youth organisations and networks to make new contacts, extend partnerships and develop co-operation.)
- pilot projects – Category D and D-HRE (for pilot projects, both meetings and activities other than meetings; particularly to encourage new forms of youth participation and organisation)

#### Contact:

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

#### Tips:

- When you fill in an application form, please consult the How to apply section in the left-hand menu. It is there to help you and to avoid eligibility problems.
- After you are registered, check the section “How to apply” in each category (A, B,...) – you will learn even more useful tips and conditions for a success of your application.
- The EYF secretariat will check the grant publications especially for the following aspects:
  - clearly set out educational aims and learning objectives
  - coherent and feasible budget
  - geographical balance of participants
  - international preparatory team
  - multiplying effect.

### European Youth Centres

#### How does it work?

There are two European Youth Centres (EYCs) – one in Strasbourg and one in Budapest. They are international training and meeting centres with accommodation, hosting most of the activities of youth sector of the Council of Europe (they are part of the Directorate of Youth and Sport).

The youth centres provide youth organisations with a meeting place, board and lodging, travel costs, interpretation and preparation costs to hold “study sessions”, and 4 to 7 day long seminars on issues relevant to the Council of Europe's youth work. The Youth Centers provide a flexible and modern

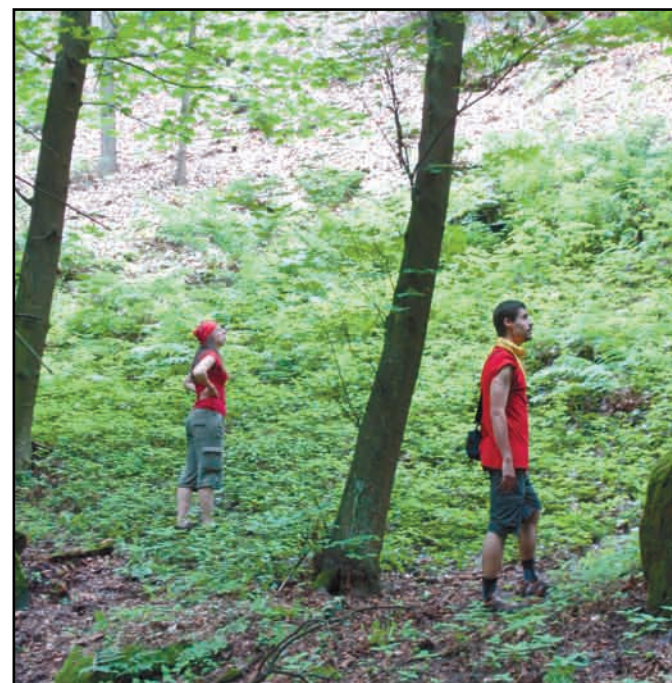


Photo: YEE archive

working environment for international activities, with meeting rooms equipped for simultaneous interpretation, information centres, audio-visual and computer facilities. Applications for study sessions should suggest subjects directly related to the work priorities of the Directorate of Youth and Sport.

#### What is it for?

- Multilateral and international educational activities, such as:
- Training courses
  - Study sessions

#### Contact:

- [www.coe.int/t/dg4/youth/EYC/European\\_Youth\\_Centres\\_en.asp](http://www.coe.int/t/dg4/youth/EYC/European_Youth_Centres_en.asp)
- [www.coe.int/Youth/](http://www.coe.int/Youth/)

### LIFE+ Support to European NGOs Active in the field of Environment (programme of the European Commission)

#### What it is for:

This programme supports overhead costs for organisations (NGOs) and their operational activities costs that are written in their work-programmes.

#### Priorities/aims:

- Limiting climate Change.
- Nature and biodiversity, including desertification, protecting a unique resource.
- Environment and health.
- Ensuring the sustainable management of natural resources and waste.
- Horizontal or cross-cutting issues: implementation and enforcement of EU environmental legislation.

#### Contact:

Website of the Directory General of Environment [ec.europa.eu/environment/ngos/](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/ngos/)

### Life + Environment policy and Governance

#### Priorities/aims:

- Climate change
- Water
- Air
- Soil
- Urban environment



www.sxc.hu

- Noise
- Chemicals
- Environment and health
- Waste and natural resources
- Forests
- Innovation
- Strategic approaches

#### Contact:

Website of the Directory General of Environment [ec.europa.eu/environment/life/funding/lifep-lus2009/call/index.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/life/funding/lifep-lus2009/call/index.htm)

### Life + Nature and Biodiversity

#### Priorities/aims:

LIFE+ Nature and LIFE+ Biodiversity projects should be primarily focussed on nature protection and/or on halting the loss of biodiversity. A project that may have a positive but secondary impact on nature and biodiversity and whose main objective is in relation to another environmental theme should not be submitted under LIFE+ Nature and Biodiversity.

#### What it is for:

- LIFE+ Nature

- Exclusively in relation to the objectives of the Birds and Habitats Directives
- best practice and/or demonstration
- long-term, sustainable conservation measures and investments in Natura 2000 sites, species and habitats
- land purchase and long-term lease or compensation eligible



## • LIFE+ Biodiversity

Not restricted to the Birds and Habitats Directives, but is in relation to the Commission Communication “Halting the loss of biodiversity by 2010 – and beyond”; demonstration and/or innovation; demonstration of the feasibility of measures in favour of biodiversity monitoring, evaluation and active dissemination of these measures are an integral part of the project.

### Contact:

Website of the Directory General of Environment [ec.europa.eu/environment/life/funding/lifep-lus2009/call/index.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/life/funding/lifep-lus2009/call/index.htm)

## LIFE+ Information and Communication

### Priorities/aims:

Aims specifically at co-funding information and communication activities for the environment.

### What it is for:

- Disseminate information and raise awareness on environmental issues, including forest fire prevention.
- Provide support for accompanying measures, such as information, communication actions and campaigns, conferences and training, including training on forest fire prevention.

### Contact:

Website of the Directory General of Environment [ec.europa.eu/environment/life/funding/lifep-lus2009/call/index.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/life/funding/lifep-lus2009/call/index.htm)

## Eco Innovation

### Priorities/aims:

Through the Eco-innovation funding scheme, the EU wants to support innovative products, services and technologies that can make a better use of our natural resources and reduce Europe’s ecological footprint.

### What it is for:

- In the field of materials recycling:
- Improved sorting processes for waste materials such as construction, industrial, household, electrical and electronic waste;
  - Eco-friendly design and production of high

quality consumer goods, innovative recycling processes;

- Business innovations that strengthen the competitiveness of the recycling industries.

In the building & construction sector:

- Innovative building products that reduce environmental impact and/or support a rational use of natural resources;
- Innovative sorting, reuse and recycling of construction and demolition waste;
- Innovative water systems including water saving, re-use of natural waters, rainwater collection and re-use, green roofs.

In the food & drink sector:

- Innovative products including packaging methods and material that reduce environmental impact and maximise the use of raw materials in the food sector;
- Cleaner and more efficient processing of food and drink products so as to reduce waste and increase material recycling and recovery;
- Improved efficiency water management processes that reduce the use of water across the food & drink supply chain;
- Innovative products, processes and services reducing environmental impacts of consumption including packaging, distribution and purchasing decisions.

### Contact:

[ec.europa.eu/ecoinnovation](http://ec.europa.eu/ecoinnovation)



www.sxc.hu

# ‘Green’ events

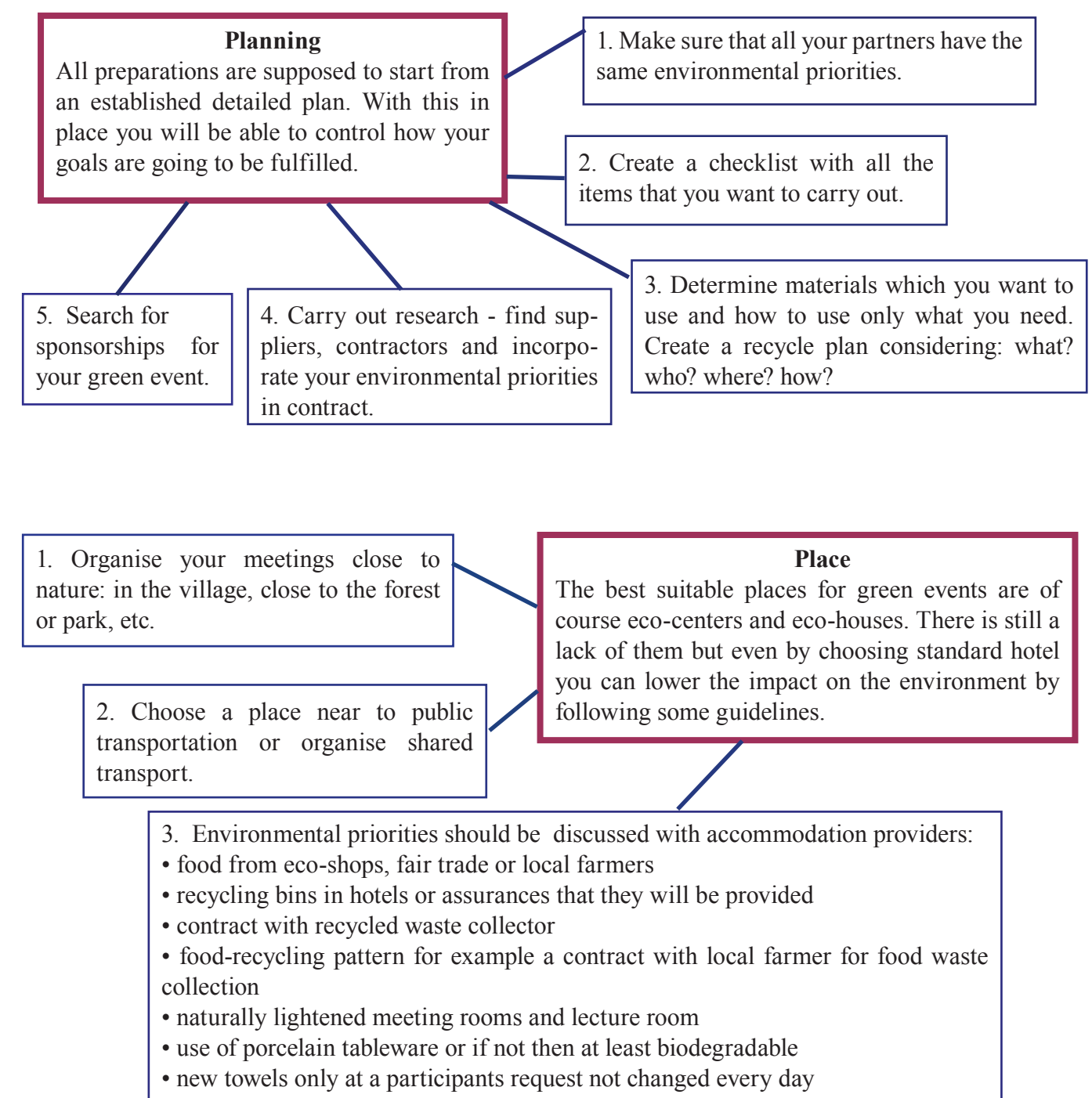
## How to make a project successful while not forgetting about the environment?

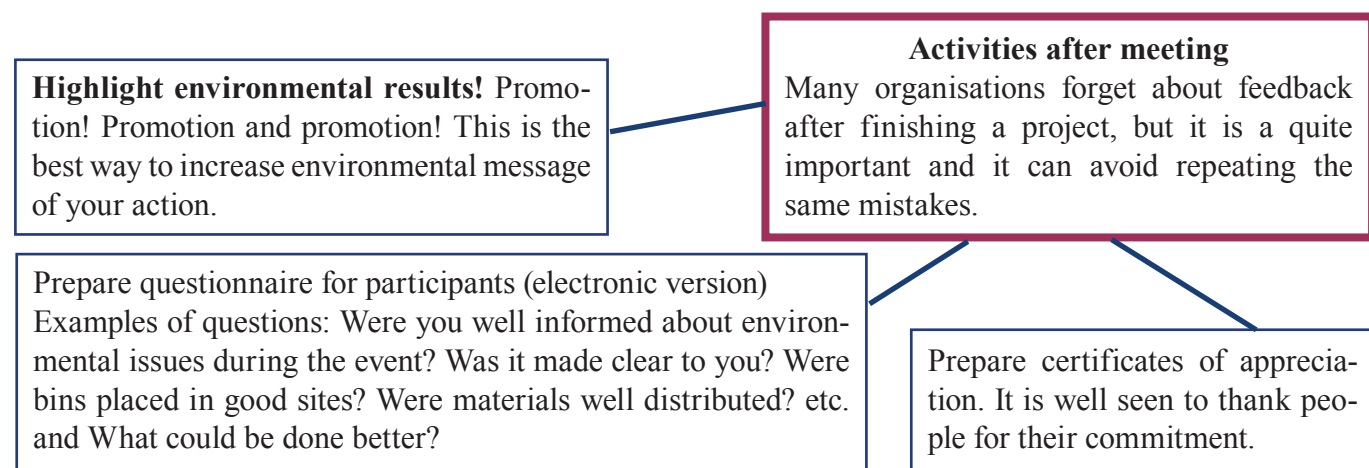
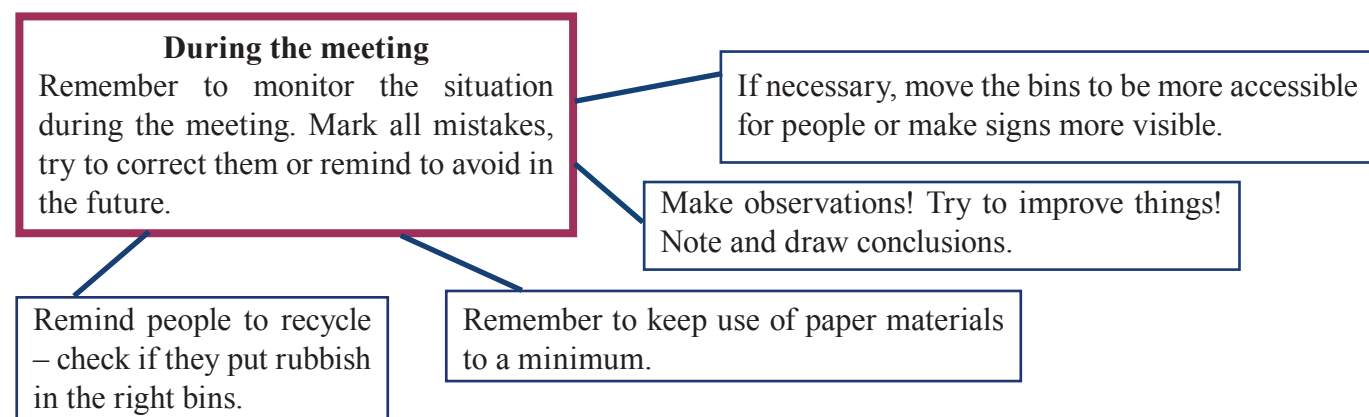
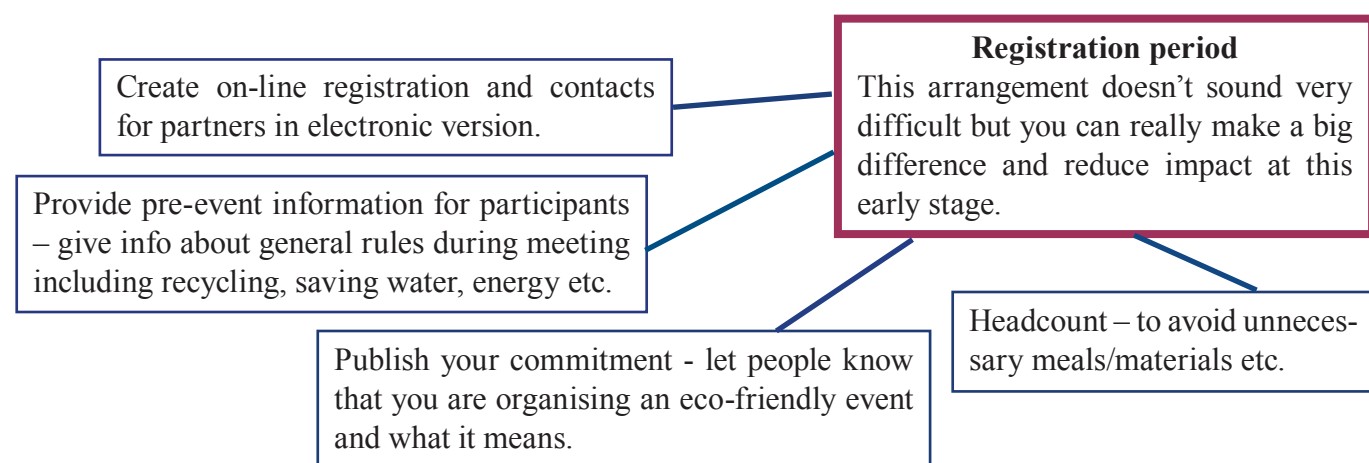
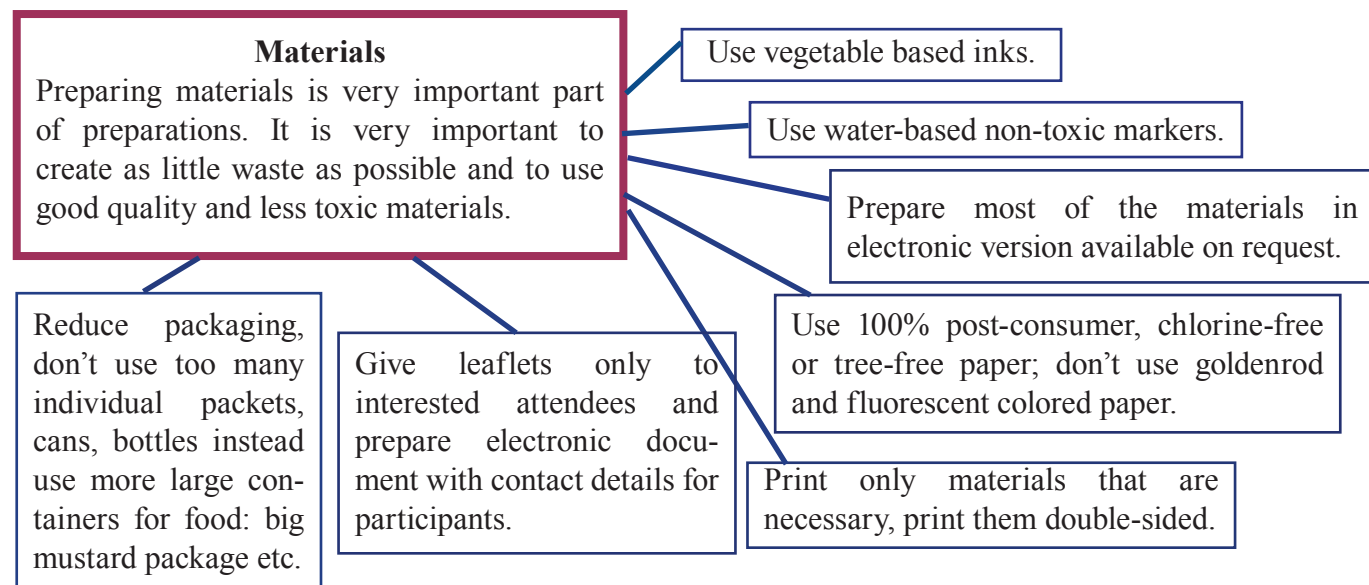
It is quite a challenging task to make your event environmental-friendly. There are lots of conditions that you have to fulfill and they demand you put in a lot of work and time.

But the benefits from bringing your meetings closer to nature are undoubtably worth it. In this way

you can increase environmental awareness and even cut the costs. So why not try to make an effort to transform your project into an eco-friendly event?

How to...? Some handy tips:





**Below you can find the example of event check list that you can use for your green projects**

## EVENT CHECK LIST

Name of event: .....  
Date: .....  
Place: .....  
Organiser: .....

### Planning

		YES	NO	HARD TO SAY
1.	Was preparatory team aware of the impact of the event on the environment and was it determined to reduce it?			
2.	Did the team meet to discuss environmental issues of the event?			
3.	Were any recycle plans and checklists created?			
4.	Was the research for the best-suitable supplies conducted?			
5.	Were any environmental priorities incorporated in contracts?			
6.	Was any sponsor for green event/movement searched for?			
7.	Was any sponsor found?			

### Place

		YES	NO	HARD TO SAY
1.	Was meeting held in an eco-centre?	*		
2.	Was the place situated in the nature? Or close to a green site?			
3.	Did the food come from eco-farms, fair trade or local farmers?			
4.	Were there any recycle bins in the building?			
5.	Was the recycle plan fulfilled? Where there any secondary purchasers of waste?			
6.	Did the meeting take place in naturally lit rooms?			
7.	Were the meals served in porcelain tableware?			

\* if yes, write short your remarks: what was good? what you missed?

.....  
.....  
.....



Materials

		YES	NO	HARD TO SAY
1.	Were all materials used during the meeting eco-friendly?			
2.	Were some printed materials left?			
3.	Were the materials double-printed?			
4.	Were electronic versions of materials available on request?			
5.	Were materials printed on eco-paper?			
6.	Were food packages in reasonable quantity and any unnecessary package was reduced?			
7.	Were leaflets distributed among participants only on request?			

Registration period

		YES	NO	HARD TO SAY
1.	Were the call for partners and registration form available on-line?			
2.	Were any unnecessary materials/meals/leaflets left?			
3.	Did people know that this was an eco-friendly event and what this means?			
4.	Did people get information about general rules of recycling, saving water etc.			

Meeting

		YES	NO	HARD TO SAY
1.	Did anyone made observations and notes about the action?	*		

\*Write observations

Feedback

		YES	NO	HARD TO SAY
1.	Was a participation questionnaire prepared?			
2.	Did participants and co-workers get certificates of appreciation or other ways to acknowledge their time?			
3.	Was the event and the results of the event promoted ?			

Green event – it’s so easy!

It’s just a matter of good will and intensive brainstorming.

I wish you all a lot of interesting ideas while preparing green events. And lots of new ideas on how to improve your meetings and specialism in this area.

More info and guide sources on: [http://greeneventsguide.org/reviews\\_guides\\_main?page=1](http://greeneventsguide.org/reviews_guides_main?page=1)

Paulina Piasecka  
(EVS in YEE Office)

Don’t forget!

There are many celebrations that try to bring our attention to environmental problems. Eco-calendar is a list of dates dedicated to the environment. They happen every year and create good opportunities to organise a ‘green’ event.

Hello young green friends,

2010 is definitely a year with a huge impact on environmental issues. We are celebrating the International Year of Biodiversity for special awareness around the world on the threat of extinction faced by many species, as announced by the United Nations. More people than ever, (if not everyone) are more aware of the impact that their decisions have on nature. From what kind of clothes to wear (for instance, hemp clothing has amazing properties and is better for the environment than cotton) or just to learn that many people in the world are running out of water. We should think again if we let the water run while we are brushing our teeth, or make sure we turn off the lights and electrical devices in our home. Almost every day we hear about environmental damages, think about the catastrophic explosion that caused an oil spill from offshore drilling rig in the Gulf of Mexico.

We shouldn’t lose all hope. On the contrary, we should all stick together and fight harder against corporations and politicians that don’t realise the huge damage that their greedy actions create! Think about the devastating oil spill caused by offshore drilling rig in the Gulf of Mexico. Do they know what impact that has had or even if they realise it, they just don’t care about you, me or anyone else but themselves. Together we are strong, as a young union we have more power than any brand or name so there’s nothing to fear. As a reminder, here is a list of dates dedicated to the environment. Some of these dates Youth and Environment Europe celebrated back through the years. Use them to celebrate with your friends, and within your organisation. They happen every year and create good opportunities to organise a ‘green’ event.

February 2: World Wetlands Day

World Wetlands Day marks the date of the adoption of the Convention on Wetlands. On this day, in 1971, the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance was signed. Wetlands are a very important part of our biodiversity and it is essential to see that they are well protected.

March 22: World Water Day

World Water Day promoted by the UN to focus on water issues: The World Water Day 2010 and its campaign was envisaged to:

- Raise awareness about sustaining healthy eco-systems and human well-being through addressing the increasing water quality challenges in water management,
- Raise the profile of water quality by encouraging governments, organisations, communities, and individuals around the world to engage proactively in addressing water quality e.g. in pollution prevention, clean up and restoration.

March 23: World Meteorological Day

World Meteorological Day is celebrated by worldwide meteorological community on observing the planet for a better future.

End of March: Earth Hour

Earth Hour is a symbolic event where everyone in the world participates together in turning off their lights for one hour.

April 22: Earth Day

Earth Day is intended to inspire awareness of and appreciation for the Earth’s environment. The first Earth Day was held on April 22, 1970 and is one of the most important dates in the history of



Environmental workshops for children organised by Youth and Environment Europe in April 2008 in Prague, the Czech Republic to celebrate Earth Day.

Photo: YEE archive



democracy because it signifies the birth of the modern environmental movement. It increases awareness about environmental issues nationally and locally. In addition, it allows individuals, organisations, corporations and government entities the opportunity to face common concerns about ecological crises and create initiatives for a greener way of life.



Photo: YEE archive

YEE at World Environment Day 2008.

### May 10-11: World Migratory Bird Day

World Migratory Bird Day is a global commemorative event to highlight and celebrate migratory birds and the phenomenon of bird migration

### May 22: International Day for Biological Diversity

International Day for Biological Diversity is a UN-sanctioned international holiday for the promotion of biodiversity issues

### June 5: World Environment Day

World Environment Day is established by the UN to stimulate awareness of the environment and enhance political attention and public action. It first began back in 1972, established by the UN General Assembly to create human concern on environmental issues. Every year since 1987 WED has had a different theme related with some pressing issue. The theme for this year was "Many Species. One Planet. One Future". It echoes the urgent call to conserve the diversity of life on our planet. From little-known plants and insects to familiar birds and mammals, about 17,291 species are threatened with extinction. However, this is just the tip of the iceberg because many species disappear before they are even discovered.

### June 8: World Ocean Day

World Ocean Day celebrated under the support of the UNESCO Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission reminds us that the ocean is vital and that each of us must preserve it as best as we can.

### June 17: UN World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought

UN World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought is celebrated every year worldwide to highlight the urgent need to curb desertification and to strengthen the visibility of this serious dry lands issue.

### July 11: World Population Day

World Population Day is an annual event to raise awareness of global population issues

### September 16: International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer

International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer offers an opportunity to focus attention on the protection of the ozone layer. Since 1995, on 16 September each year, the International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer is celebrated. This date has been designated by the United Nations General Assembly in its resolution 49/114, to commemorate the signing of the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer.

This commemoration around the world offers an opportunity to focus attention and action at the global, regional and national levels on the protection of the ozone layer. Many countries devote this special day to promote, at national level, the concrete activities working in accordance with the objectives and goals of the Montreal Protocol and its Amendments.



Photo: YEE archive

YEE team measuring water during World Water Monitoring Day 2008, the Czech Republic.



Photo: YEE archive

YEE team measuring water during World Water Monitoring Day 2008, the Czech Republic.

### September 18: World Water Monitoring Day

World Water Monitoring Day is an international education and outreach programme that builds public awareness and involvement in protecting water resources around the world by engaging citizens to conduct basic monitoring of their local water bodies.

### First Monday in October: UN World Habitat Day

UN World Habitat Day is celebrated to highlight the important status of cities as refuge for the displaced and home to expanding populations in search of a future: The United Nations has designated the first Monday in October every year as World Habitat Day to reflect on the state of human settlements and the basic right to adequate shelter for all. It is also intended to remind the world of its collective responsibility for the future of the human habitat.

### Second Wednesday in October: International Day for Natural Disaster Reduction

International Day for Natural Disaster Reduction is to focus on sustainable development to enable the building of disaster resilient communities.

### December 11: International Mountain Day

International Mountain Day is an opportunity to create awareness about the importance of mountains to life.

International Mountain Day is an opportunity to create awareness about the importance of mountains to life, to highlight the opportunities and constraints in mountain development and to build partnerships that will bring positive change to the world's mountains and highlands.

### Arbor Day or National Tree Planting Day

Arbor Day or National Tree Planting Day is celebrated in many countries at different dates in which individuals and groups are encouraged to plant and care for trees.

For these days you can organise a special project for the morning assembly in your organisation or hold an exhibition or a competition. You can present any of the following items listed below.

- Enact a play highlighting the issue in the city square;
- Hold a discussion on the specific issue;
- Ask the schools in your city to organise and hold a painting competition or poster competition;
- Have tree planting programmes;
- Take up a 'clean your neighbourhood' event;
- Have a photograph competition;
- Arrange a wall display highlighting the occasion...

These are only suggestions - you can expand them with your own creativity and add your ideas.

However, update your 2010 calendar and keep these dates in mind for 2011. Think green!

Gjoko Zoroski  
(YEE Publications Officer,  
DEM-Youth, Macedonia)



Photo: YEE archive

YEE team measuring water during World Water Monitoring Day 2005, the Czech Republic.



# Marching Forward to Sustainability

**Konopa together with 5 partner NGOs from the Czech Republic, Slovakia and Hungary has just finished the project 'Engaging the public through sustainable festivals'. We focused on different aspects of events, learnt from other's experiences, prepared a series of pilot greener festivals and finished with creating the 'Guide for greener festivals'. Here is a summary of our experience.**

Festivals are marching towards sustainability all around the world. There is a great movement of festival organisers, NGOs and eco-companies (and more and more artists) that work together to make festivals greener. The philosophy behind this movement can be described in one sentence:

**"To be a power moving all of society towards environmentally friendly solutions."**

There are plenty of guidebooks, movies and festivals websites that can be used as an endless source of inspiration. There is the Sustainable Events Alliance – international association of different stakeholders not only from the festivals sector but from all kinds of events – from football matches to religious ceremonies. There are competitions where the best solutions are chosen every year such as Greener Festival Award and Green N'Clean Award.

Ben Challis, the co-founder of a Greener Festival Ltd. describes his experience:

"When we started 'A Greener Festival' in 2005 we knew that there were a small number of amazing festivals around the world which were extraordinary examples of the very best practices in sustainability. But there were many festivals who struggled to find information on what do to make their events environmentally friendly, and there seemed to be a lack of practical help and advice for them. Five years later how things have changed! Not only is the threat of climate change a new realism, there is also the recognition that even if the science IS wrong, the human race needs to live within its means if it is going to survive. We are polluting, poisoning, over fishing, over logging and over heating our planet. And we only have ONE planet. It is time for change. Not only can festivals be great examples of change - but they can also encourage and motivate other people to change."

## From our experiences

Events that Konopa and its partners prepared differed in scale, site characteristics, topic and tar-

get group, from small local outdoor and indoor celebrations to big-scale summer festivals. But all of us tried to show that events can be made with respect to the environment and each other and that there are many solutions suitable for anybody's everyday life.

We prepared several motivation activities such as:

- distribution of leaflets with good practices about how to live more sustainably in everyday life and during festivals
- presentations and speeches, workshops and games connected with environmental topics
- solar cooking and how to produce mechanical energy using a bicycle
- selling of Fair Trade products, organic teas and coffees, using of recycled paper etc.
- promotion of responsible ways of travelling, tourism and more ecological and modest lifestyle
- promotion of separated waste collection
- promotion of ideas of natural gardens
- tasting of bio products
- encouraging interest on nature protection

We worked on environmental impact of our festivals by applying sustainable solutions at festival's site:

- we separated waste collection at all festivals
- we used our own cutlery
- we used paper cups and plates or bio-plastic dishes and we composted them afterwards
- we bought organic food from local farmers to produce meals for the participants and volunteers of the events
- we used sustainable ways of transport if possible (no planes at all, mostly public transport, bikes and cars filled to capacity)
- we chose local suppliers for our meetings
- we promoted water savings (e.g. composting toilets at SOSNA ecocenter)

But the project had more objectives too. In the following two areas we focused on other festivals' promoters, and those who are in the centre and who affect the final face of a festival. So we prepared two round tables, one in Prague and one in Brno, with festival promoters, enterprises and NGOs representatives' in attendance. The programme was composed of introduction with pictures and videos mainly from abroad, discussions where the best practices and experiences could be shared and practical workshops on the visions and strategies for greener festivals creation. Lots of ideas were developed and new partnerships settled. The first positive outcomes are visible at festivals such as Brutal Assault or Boskovice where there were no environmental actions taken before.

## The guidebook for greener festivals

We want to make our project durable, so that is why we decided to prepare a guidebook that can be used by promoters in our countries. For the moment we have two guides, one in Czech (can be used in Slovakia too) and one in Hungarian.

What is the guidebook about? Meegan Jones, the author of Sustainable Event Management: A Practical Guide writes in her preface to the Czech guide:

"... I believe reducing the environmental impact of an event's production all comes down to how much stuff is used. And of the materials and supplies you use, what it is made from, how it is manufactured, where it needs to travel from to get to you, how you use it and how you are going to dispose of it when you're done.

Everything flows from our need to consume. Be frugal, cut budgets, get creative. Use products, materials and supplies made from sustainable materials. Re-use. Mend, Alter. Salvage. Hire, but don't buy.

Once you have your need to consume under control, you can then focus on the operational logistics of your own event, looking at it in a similar light to the manufacture of a product. Reduce the amount of energy needed, conserve water, don't use toxic pollutants which could end up in the waterways or ground, reduce transportation, use sustainable energy production. Choose the green option.

The other two tenants of sustainability are

economic and social. Nurture the communities that host your events through giving back to them. Consult and communicate with the community. Buy local. Be sensitive to noise, light, traffic congestion and other disruptions to local amenities. Involve local people, volunteers, contractors, and businesses. Look outside of the local community to the wider world, consider the conditions of workers who make the products, materials and supplies you use to create your event. Use fair trade. Buy organic. Don't buy sweat shop products."

Do you want to know more? Visit Sunny Campaign webpage [www.sunnycampaign.net](http://www.sunnycampaign.net) where you can find all resources mentioned, pictures, videos.

Michal Ruman  
(YEE Coordination Officer,  
o. s. Konopa, the Czech Republic)

Big thanks to Partnership Foundation, International Visegrad Fund and YEE for their support.



Michal Ruman at Reagee Meeting, May 2010, the Czech Republic.

Photo: Konopa archive



Photo: Meduň Nature



An example place for separating waste. Who could make a mistake? (Reggae Sun Ska)

Photo: Michal Ruman



Solar showers are mobile luxury, which also slowly finds its place at festivals.

Photo: Michal Ruman



Bioplastic cups and dishes slowly conquer festival world. Compostable after using (made by Bioplaneta).

Photo: Greener Festival Ltd.



A festival reality is not always sweet to the eye. Even if you try as much as in Glastonbury.

Photo: Mélanie Ruppe



Composting toilets at the Musicalarue festival offer comfort to visitors and valorisation of excreta.

Photo: Michal Ruman



Buy-out of cups is a well-tested way of tidying up during the festival and recycling of valuable material. „Ecological payment – 2 crowns for for every packing. We’re not careless! We recycle. And you?“ (Žizníkov, the Czech Republic, 2009)

Photo: Michal Ruman



The leaflet of the project ‘Engaging the public through sustainable festivals’

Photo: Rudolf Karlik



What about children? Is there a place, where they can play? Sustainable festival promoter should be ready to answer also these kind of questions.

Photo: Michal Ruman



Returnable cups can be used several times. Although they are made of oil plastic, they are still the most environmentally friendly solution. Cups with a nice picture may also be a useful festival souvenir.

Photo: A Greener Festival Ltd.



Mobile sun light electricity generator (and accumulator) ready to work.



# Creating a sustainable village in Portugal

Since late 2005 GAIA, a famous Portuguese environmental NGO, started a project in the south of Portugal called Centro de Convergência (Convergence Centre) with the aim of fighting desertification, promoting sustainable rural lifestyles and an integrated planning for the Alentejo region. Through using diverse resources such as Permaculture Design, volunteer support, community art for local development and a multidisciplinary team of youngsters full of motivation and abundant (renewable) energy.

We have established the Convergence Centre in Aldeia das Amoreiras in May 2007 and since then we have been organising a great number of cultural, social, artistic and ecological activities in this small village directed towards the local population, neo-rurals who came to live in the region and visitors coming to understand and experience what's it like to live in a small village and what's it like to implement a holistic local development project.

After 3 years of work directed towards observation, social integration, networking, cultural animation, gathering support and professional training we have decided not to work on the whole region but to focus on the village of Aldeia das Amoreiras, which has around 200 inhabitants and therefore a good scale to work with an holistic integrated perspective for sustainable (un)development. It is far bigger than creating a sustainable farm and far simpler and more feasible than creating a sustainable region.

So our aim is: **to create a sustainable village out of Aldeia das Amoreiras.**

This aim raises several critical questions such as what is a sustainable village? What are the more important issues of sustainability to address in Aldeia das Amoreiras? How will we design the transition towards sustainability? How will we implement a sustainability plan? Should we ask the population what is their dream and do just what they think? What if the local inhabitants don't want environmental sustainability?

Even though our groups working principles are based on strong sustainability values and Permaculture ethics, we have decided that we cannot reach a definition of sustainability that is applicable to this village without consulting the local population.



Photo: GAIA archive

Therefore we have designed a series of participatory sessions street by street where we ask the people what their dream is for the village.

Asking the populating what their dream is for the village of Aldeia das Amoreiras and drawing their house in a common map is a process designed to stimulate free thinking, involvement, artistic expression, poetry, emotions and unity among the people of the people of Aldeia das Amoreiras.

After the meetings in all the streets we organised a local party on the 26th of June 2010 where we presented to all the population the dreams of everybody in a video documentary and in street maps drawn in the participation sessions. In this party we also organised a market for local products, traditional games, music and a big traditional dinner cooked at home and brought to the party by the people from the village.

Before we gather the whole population around a big plan for sustainability in the end of 2010 we need to achieve some victories and create a feeling of empowerment and success around the process of participation. In July and August we intend to gather a group of people around some easily realisable dreams and achieve some results.



Photo: GAIA archive

To design a sustainable village we need to solve all major problems felt by the population with the support of the population and we must find their causes and identify the best solutions that are socially fair, economically possible and the most ecologically possible within the carrying capacity of the ecosystem.

We have invited a Portuguese group of Permaculture designers called Perma-D to design the Permaculture solutions to the problems identified by the population in a series of participatory sessions to be organised in focus groups from July to August 2010.

To provide further input for the Permaculture design of Aldeia das Amoreiras we are analysing with GIS the land-use of the landscape embedding Aldeia das Amoreiras to understand if this village can feed itself or not according to soil qualities, areas, properties and land-uses. Furthermore, we are designing a trans-disciplinary questionnaire for all the population. In addition we have invited an economist to analyse the potential and feasibility of all solutions proposed by the local population, Permaculture designers and other technicians.

So we ask people, street by street, what their dream is for the village, then, in focus groups explore what are their problems and what solutions they can identify. We gather and analyse all data possible and we organise a Permaculture design to give green integrated solutions to make true the dreams of the population. Lastly we bring all the population together to discuss all possible solutions suggested by technicians and local inhabitant themselves.

Ideally, at the end of 2010 the population of Aldeia das Amoreiras will have chosen a strategy

to implement ecological, social and economical sustainability in Aldeia das Amoreiras.

Next year in 2011 we intend to implement the strategy and sector solutions WITH the local population in groups of specific interest. We want to empower and capacitate the people so that they are able to make their dreams come true. We will invite the partner organisations and create a bridge between the village and the city. We also hope to encourage more youngsters to live here and bring innovation, creativity, ethics and participation into the everyday life of Aldeia das Amoreiras.

Participative democracy is a dream that does not need authorization from the central government. We can make it happen if we empower a local population. The transition for sustainable regions can be done if people manage their own resources in a finite limited comprehensive natural, social, economical and political system. The self sufficiency of sustainable regions and villages should be complemented by export and import of goods and services from/to other regions. But export should only be a small part of a regions and villages income.

The transition to a sustainable world can happen if the earth is managed in smaller territories that are sustainable in themselves. And the merging of many sustainable villages and regions will result only in a sustainable world.

I believe that we must define a territory we can manage and start making it sustainable. What about you?

André Vizinho  
(GAIA, Portugal)  
andrevizinho@gaia.org.pt  
www.centrodeconvergencia.org



Photo: GAIA archive



# Kaleidoscope of 'green' projects

Read short descriptions of 'green' projects and find an inspiration for your 'green' events!

## Tamjdem

Tamjdem is a fascinating initiative that brings volunteering closer to young people to enlarge their knowledge about different Czech NGOs. The volunteers spend a weekend of micro-camping in a Czech organisation and gain experience in the essence of voluntary work by helping out for the whole weekend.

During one weekend (March 2010) Youth and Environment Europe hosted fifteen incredibly enthusiastic and friendly volunteers who decided to spend some of their free time working in the ecological farm. Our team was very international. It was high time to start tidying up the farm to welcome spring in.

If you would like to learn more about the Tamjdem camps go to the website [www.trochujinak.cz](http://www.trochujinak.cz) and find out how to join or organise a perfect volunteering weekend.



YEE archive



Paulina Piasecka  
(EVS in YEE Office)



YEE archive

## Green bus

"Green bus" is an alternative method to provide eco-education and such project is being realized now in Armenia. The bus covered with drawings and paintings made by children will pass far and wide over some regions of Armenia, round the many cities and villages from June to July, being equipped with valuable literature, information and interesting films about nature and the environment. The "Green bus" will serve as an alternative and unusual 'library' and 'cinema' for a lot of children and young people living in remote districts of Armenia. The 'Green bus' will stop three days at each bus stop in order to introduce its target group i.e. children and young people with rich resources and visual literature about creating a healthy environment: how to clean it up, how to preserve nature, and about the most amazing things related to the wonders of nature. The personnel of the "Green bus" will hold interactive environmental games, seminars and short training courses. The bus will move starting from a symbolic day – 1st June, being of course the Children's Protection day.



Photo: Armen Melkonyan

Armen Melkonyan  
(Human Rights and Conflicts Research Institute,  
Armenia)

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

As you may already know, the United Nations declared 2010 to be the International Year of Biodiversity. In order to save global biodiversity for our future benefit, real commitments are needed from all decision-makers and also from the public. CEEweb proposes a way to raise political and public awareness on biodiversity through its "Pan-European Biodiversity Picnic" campaign, which has been running for three years.

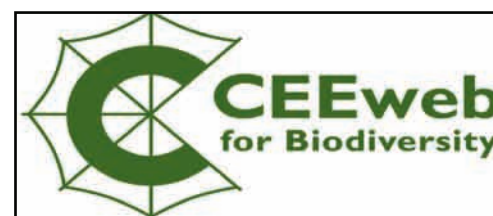
Using the momentum of the International Year of Biodiversity in raising awareness towards biodiversity concerns has special relevance in 2010. The Picnic is a multi-stakeholder initiative aiming to raise awareness on biodiversity and to strengthen commitment to its' conservation through regular events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

The Picnic intends to bring together: heads of state institutions, political leaders, trade unions, chambers, farming organisations and other advocacy groups and business leaders. It is also an important day for social and youth organisations, artists, scientists, conservation groups and other stakeholders to come together every year on May 22th, International Biodiversity Day.

Are you already thinking about joining the Picnic? Here is what you need to consider for making the Picnic a success in your country:

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

For more information, please contact: Veronika Kiss, Programme Coordinator, CEEweb for Biodiversity ([kiss@ceeweb.org](mailto:kiss@ceeweb.org)) or check the link at the CEEweb website: <http://www.ceeweb.org/Picnic>



## Every day is Earth Day

April 22, World Earth Day 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 and it has gained greater momentum over the years. 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 the 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 breathe clean air and drink unpolluted water or live in a safe environment, then it has fulfilled its mission. If Earth Day gets us to worry about environmental protection, nature and biodiversity, and the use of natural resources then it has served its goal.

This year the Earth Day in Tirana, Albania was celebrated under the slogan "Take care of me! – Every



day is Earth Day.”

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

In this 40th year celebration of Earth Day children promoted positive attitudes towards environmental protection and emphasised the future challenges for each of us. Another important activity was also showing handmade artworks that children from different schools of Tirana made as part of the project CLEEN, as well as the promotional materials for waste reduction within the campaign “Act Now!”

Photo: EDEN archive



Albana Bregaj  
(EDEN Center, Albania)

### Youth Exchange “Water and Youth”

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 to promote environmental awareness and environmental education for young people. The focus is on water quality and problems related to water resources, pollution etc. The approach is both 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, and 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 Centre 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 centre 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 levels and turbidity of the water. All results were satisfactory.

The message of environmental awareness of “Water and Youth” was not limited to the participants of the youth exchange, but was also distributed to the local community by making handmade posters that were distributed in Stepanavan and Vanadzor.

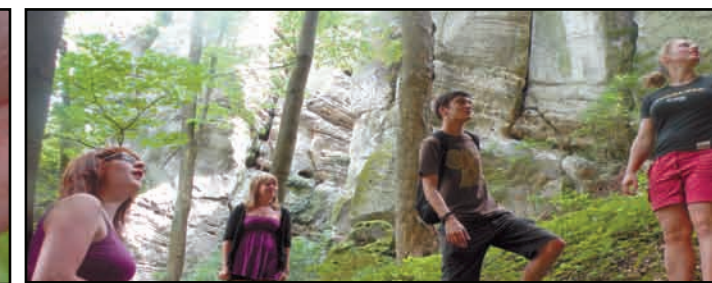
The next “Water and Youth” exchange project is planned for September/October 2010. In this edition local schools and educational institutions will cooperate in the project so not only international young people will be involved, but also the local young people from Stepanavan. In the schools there will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

Photos: SYC archive



An Lambert  
(EVS in SYC, Armenia)

Photos: YEE archive



### Youth Exchange “Learning from each other”

In July 2009, 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 vary the everyday work of youth NGOs. Partner organisations decided to present things that are important for their work, specific methods and activities, like summer camps in the nature for children and young people (JNM, Belgium), guiding tours in the mountains (PTTK, Poland), direct actions and environmental manifestations (Faltbiologerna, Sweden), and eco-clubs (OPE, Portugal). They also touched upon topics that are important for their country, or region, for example: fire problems in Greece, forest industry in Sweden, and biodiversity in Belgium. Participants were able to learn through various kinds of activities



Making recycled hemp paper. Learning from each other, the Czech Republic 2009.



Bird-watching. Learning from each other, the Czech Republic 2009.

Photos: YEE archive

– lectures, games, walks, songs, presentations, and practical workshops (from making recycled paper to workshops on the handcrafting of hemp).

The setting in a castle with its surrounding areas of sandstone rocks with fascinating shapes created inspiration for many activities during the youth exchange. The organising team prepared a treasure hunt during which groups had to find the rock resembling something, tell the story about one special place and create a piece of natural art. The Polish group was teaching us how to lead a group in the mountains and encouraged us to try this activity, the Swedish group organised a role-play activity for us in which we had to take the role of children going for an excursion to the forest playing a game of “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 discuss nature immersed in nature.

The most important part was to observe how in various ways it is possible to speak about nature and the environment, to show it, understand it, perceive it with different senses, appreciate it, protect and even sing about it. We will keep you updated about the ways in which organisations start to use these learnt methods in their work and how the process of ‘learning from each other’ continues.

This year, September 6th – 13th, the second round of the youth exchange will take place - this time in Poland and will deal with games and activities of environmental education.

To read more about the project visit **YEE website**:

<http://www.yeenet.eu/index.php/events/yee-completed-activities/108-learning-from-each-others>



## Children for Nature and Environmental Day (Vanadzor, Armenia, 19 June 2010)

Stepanavan Youth Center (SYC) organised a Children for Nature and Environmental Day in the buildings of Zangak Social Center in Vanadzor. The aim of this day was to educate children about the importance of environmental care and the focus was on garbage disposal, more specifically littering, and on deforestation. The information about these subjects was provided in theory by discussions with the children and via hands-on activities.

There were about 70 children present and they were divided in different groups according to their age. The youngest children (7-13 years) were engaged in activities focusing on garbage and littering. As an introduction they watched a movie made by Armenia Tree Project and School 119 in Yerevan. This is an animated movie about environmental care that is aimed at young children. Afterwards the main messages in the movie were briefly discussed with the children: be careful with fire, don't litter and don't cut the trees. Following this introduction there was a further discussion about garbage, garbage disposal and its environmental effects, littering, time necessary for decomposition of materials...

The input of the children was very important in this part. After these discussions it was time for a more practical approach so the children were given the assignment to make two drawings: one about actions that negatively influence the environment and one about how environmental care should be done. Afterwards the children could explain the contents of their drawing to the rest of the group.

About 30 children also collected garbage in the nearby park. Due to the bad weather conditions, this garbage collection couldn't be performed for a long time, which lead to quite some disappointment among the children.

The group with the oldest children (14-16 years) discussed for more than an hour about environment, garbage, littering, environmental care... The children raised very interesting questions and most of them participated very well in these discussions. Following this extensive discussion they watched a movie about deforestation from Armenia Tree Project. The issues raised in this movie were briefly discussed and then the children participated in a symbolic planting of trees at the premises of the social center.

This Children for Nature and Environmental Day was the first in a series of environmental education sessions on different topics that the EVS-volunteers at SYC are going to organize in the next months in the region of Stepanavan and Vanadzor.

The two movies that were displayed, can be watched online at:

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hl\\_9l54LLMg](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hl_9l54LLMg)

<http://video.google.com/videoplay?docid=-6789229094044255216#>.



Photos: SYC archive

## Youth in green mov(i)e

We would like to share with you the results of the project “Youth in ‘green’ mov(i)e” – Youth and Environment Europe’s promotional movie.

The project ‘Youth in ‘green’ mov(i)e’ aimed to create a general information movie about Youth and Environment Europe – the network of youth environmental organisations that has already a long history.

An international team was working for 6 months gathering materials about YEE, pictures from various projects, documenting international meetings, and cooperating with professional film makers.

The movie shows how young people can join the organisation and how to get involved in activities, what the main fields of work are and what type of activities YEE organises. We prepared two movies – a long and short version. We hope you will find them useful – they show **young people organising green events!** Use the movie to present Youth and Environment Europe to your members, volunteers, and people interested in the international environmental activities. We would like to encourage you to screen the movie during your projects, meetings, and even to organise special screenings.

We hope the movie will inspire you and encourage you to get more involved in activities with Youth and Environment Europe.

The movie can be found here: <http://www.yeenet.eu/index.php/yee-promo/yee-movie>

Enjoy watching!  
For the YEE movie team,  
Gosia Zubowicz  
(YEE Main Coordinator)



The project was financed by the European Youth Foundation - the Council of Europe and co-financed by the Lifelong Learning Programme - the European Commission.

## Next Y&E Magazine “Environmental education through the eyes of young people”

**Y&E Magazines** aim to study one, important environmental topic in a deeper way. They give the possibility to share the knowledge on the topic among young people. Young people from youth environmental organisations are authors of articles.

We are starting to prepare the next issue: “**Environmental education through the eyes of young people**” that will deal with environmental education. If you want to:

- exchange knowledge on the important environmental topic
- exchange methods of work, activities of environmental education
- create a useful tools kit for youth workers

send us your article till September, 15th at [gosia@yeenet.eu](mailto:gosia@yeenet.eu)

More information about Youth and Environment Europe at: [www.yeenet.eu](http://www.yeenet.eu)



