

YEE!

A person wearing a green shirt is holding a small globe of the Earth with both hands. The globe is positioned in the center of the frame, showing parts of Asia and Australia. The person's hands are visible, with fingers spread, supporting the globe from underneath. The background is a soft, out-of-focus blue and green. The entire image is framed by a dark blue border.

KNOWING YOUR NEIGHBOURS

March/April 2009

GET TO KNOW YOUR NEIGHBOURS!



This newsletter is one part of the project financed by EYF next to the website. The main aim of this project is to increase the interconnection of youth organizations from different countries and to facilitate the communication among them.

We want to encourage you to treat YEE publications as a place where your organisations can post information about their activities, their aims, actions, call for partners, etc. The potential readers are youth people working or participating in organizations, youth workers, trainers, facilitators, as well every individuals that will be interesting so it is worth to share with them your knowledge and experience. For every issue we would like to collect articles and have contribution from many various organisations from different regions, from people with different backgrounds in order to give as many points of view as possible. We hope that our newsletter will enable the youth to have more information, docu-

mentation and that it will increase the strengthening of youth organizations and youth participation in different activities. We want to help to interconnect the network and facilitate the transmission among the organizations and particulars. We hope that thanks to these publications more organisations and individuals will be involved in the activities of the youth organizations and in the federation and will be willing to share information, experience and ideas.

This publication are for you to publish all the campaigns, actions and other activities that your organisations are doing. The aim of this publication is to increase the communication among the public interested in environmental youth activities, as well to serve like an environmental information source. So use this chance and send us reports from activities you made, pictures from them, plans for future actions, calls for partners, articles about environmental topics, about issues that your organisations are dealing with, presentation of your organisation. Let the people know what you are doing, others already are doing it!

Start to get to know your neighbour with the issue you are holding in your hands and help us with continuing our project by writing articles for next issues.

Contact us!

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Spring Board Meeting

Prague, Czech Republic
13-15 March, 2009

Fortunately, after long negotiations, at the postponed Board Meeting of February, which in the end was realized in 13-15 of March, all Board Members were able to be present and attend it. All office members managed to join us with the only exception of our beautiful Czech part-time worker Katka. Starting from big and urgent and quite time consuming issues such as the proposal for YEE restructuralization, the slowly but surely coming Annual Meeting in Spain and

going through other important issues such as Member Organizations' situation, next Board Meetings, External Relations issues, there were a lot of matters to be discussed during those 2-3 days in Prague.

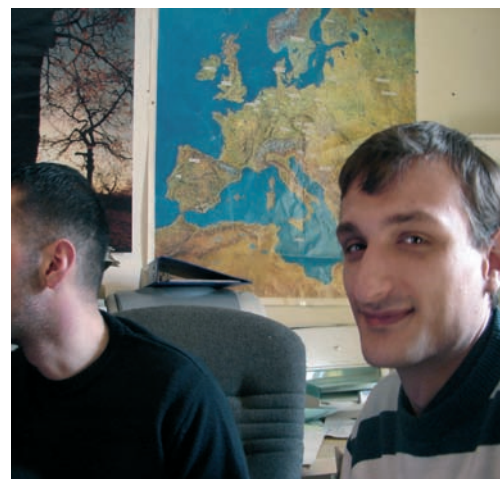
As at last Board Meeting in November in Prague, one of the most important topics to discuss was the restructuralization of YEE. It took nearly a whole working day of discussing different points related to it, such as various matters concerning Board Members, Assistant Officers, Working Groups, the Office, etc. Essentially on some issues we had diverging opinions and could not reach a unanimous decision. Thus, it was decided those issues will be presented to Member Organizations at the Annual Meeting in Spain (to be decided there). However, all changes will be incorporated into a single document and send to MOs in advance.

Already discussed a little bit in November, another quite important and urgent issue to talk about was the Annual Meeting in August in Spain. It was decided that the Chair and Vice-Chair (Michal and Lili) will draft a preliminary version of a Programme of the AM to be ready before next Board Meet-

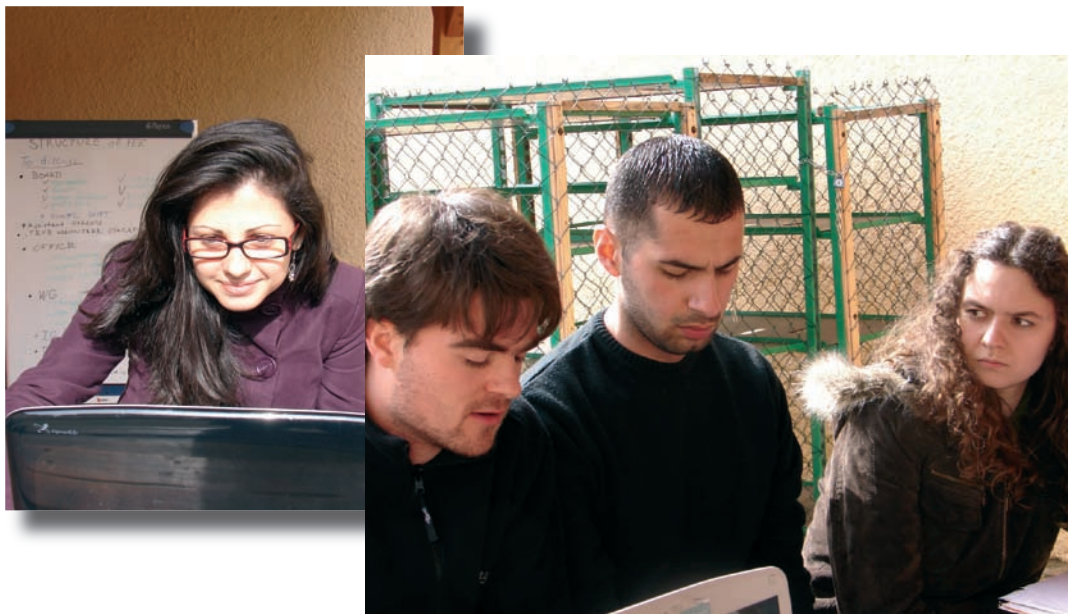


ing in May (It was decided the next Board Meeting will take place in Ghent, Belgium from the 8-10th of May and all Assistant Officers should be invited to join the meet-

ing as well). Some parts of the Annual Meeting Programme were already discussed, such as different Training Courses for the MO's representatives as well as for the new Board Members.



Another issue dealt with at the March Board Meeting was the current situation of YEE projects, where we received detailed information from Stepan (YEE Projects Officer) and the office regarding some current developments in the field. Brecht (MO Officer) informed us what is happening with some YEE Member Organizations, what is he doing to reach them and if there any organizations willing to join YEE. Other important issues raised by Board Members



included some matters concerning External Relations (Lili-ER Officer) and Publications of YEE (Dima-Publications Officer; Beatrise, Gosia and Misa – Publi-

cations issues raised by them as well).

There is a lot of work that needs to be done in the respective fields of all Board Members, but unfortunately sometimes there is lack of coherence, punctuality in meeting deadlines and follow-up in our work. We have the Annual Meeting in Spain approaching and there is a lot of preparatory work that needs to be done beforehand. Therefore, I hope we all will work very hard, everybody will take a note for himself/herself and will fulfill all the obligations he/she has before our next Board Meeting in Ghent.

Lili Deyanova
YEE External Relations Officer/
Vice-Chair



evs presentation

Ahoj!

I am Theresa and since the beginning of April I have been helping as a volunteer in YEE. All went very quickly and unexpectedly but now I am here, I have found my place in the office and my work is interesting and useful.

Now I want to explain quickly why I came here: I am a 20 year old secondary school graduate who, like many other Germans, decided to do voluntary service abroad before starting to study at university. My motivation was to get to know the Czech culture, the language, to meet other young people that like helping and to do some interesting, challenging work in a NGO.

In my previous organization I worked with children but it was not the right place for me, I was the only EVS and I did not learn many new things. I decided to change project to an environmental organization which suits me very well.

After some time of waiting or even looking for something I could do except from EVS until September, I was ac-



cepted to work in Toulcuv Dvur, a farm which provides educational programs for children. As most of you probably know, the YEE office is situated in this ecological centre and since the organizations are in touch with each other and I knew Beatrise, Gosia and Berto, we arranged that I can help here.

For me it is a great chance to get to know the possibilities of environmental youth work in Europe. I did not know much about it before. I will stay in Praha until the end of August but I already



the world, especially in Uruguay where I lived for one year and learned to love during that time.

I am interested in literature, politics, cultures, relationships and communication and, surprise surprise: environmental protection. I am one of these people that always considers how to behave in order to protect or at least not destroy the environment. For example, I force my family to buy organic food and “fair trade” products and take public transport instead of the car. I am going to study either political sciences or Latin American studies in Berlin. My beloved sister has been living there for 3 years and our younger brother will also move away from the small, boring town where we grew up. Travelling is a good thing and I have grown a lot by discovering other cultures, habits and ways of thinking. Nevertheless, I feel that I have a strong connection with my family and friends in Germany and want to be with them during the next period of my life.

But for now, I am very happy to be a part of YEE, to help, to gain and to give and hope to meet many of you soon!

Theresa

Youth in Action

In this chapter we will dedicate the fundraising section to another “famous found” among youth organisations. Youth in Action, YiA, Programme from the European Commission youth section.

The YiA programme is divided in five sections, call actions. With different subcategories in between. The objectives of this programme are:

- promote young people’s active citizenship in general and their European citizenship in particular
- develop solidarity and promote tolerance among young people, in particular in order to foster social cohesion in the European Union
- foster mutual understanding between young people in different countries
- contribute to developing the quality of support systems for youth activities and the capabilities of civil society organisations in the youth field

tions in the youth field

- promote European cooperation in the youth field.

Each year they have different annual priorities for 2009 are the next ones:

- European Year of Creativity and Innovation
- young people’s active participation in the European Parliament elections
- combating violence against women
- sport as a tool to promote active citizenship and social inclusion of young people
- promoting healthy lifestyles through physical activities including sport
- promoting the inclusion of young people with disabilities
- awareness-raising to global challenges (such as sustainable development and climate change)
- young people’s involvement in the revision of the European framework of cooperation in the field of youth policy
- intercultural dialogue

They also have permanent priorities for the period of funding 2007- 2013:

- European Citizenship
- Participation of young people



- Cultural diversity
- Inclusion of young people with fewer opportunities

When you will realise a project under this call you should take into consideration if that your project should be in one or more of this priorities. As well your project should also promote the next aspects: Non formal learning, multilingualism, Anti-discrimination, equality between women and men, visibility of YiA programme, youthpass, dissemination and exploitation of the results, anti-discrimination and protection and safety of the participants.

The actions that the project are divided are the next, we will just said the actions that can be applied by NGOs, informal groups, international NGOs.

Action 1: Youth for Europe

1.1 - Youth Exchanges

Youth Exchanges offer an opportunity for groups of young people from different countries to meet and learn about each other's cultures. The groups plan together their Youth Exchange around a theme of mutual interest.

1.2 - Youth Initiatives

Youth Initiatives support group projects designed at local, regional and national level. They also support the networking of similar projects between different countries, in order to strengthen their European aspect and to enhance cooperation and

exchanges of experiences between young people.

1.3 - Youth Democracy Projects

Youth Democracy Projects support young



people's participation in the democratic life of their local, regional or national community, and at international level.

Thematic Networking

With a view to increasing the impact of the Programme, an annual call for proposals may be published aimed at supporting thematic network projects.

Action 2 - European Voluntary Service, EVS

The aim of the European Voluntary Ser-

vice is to support young people's participation in various forms of voluntary activities, both within and outside the European Union. Under this Action, young people take part individually or in groups in non-profit, unpaid activities.

Action 3 - Youth in the World

3.1 - Cooperation with the Neighbouring Countries of the European Union

This sub-Action supports projects with Neighbouring Partner Countries, namely Youth Exchanges and Training and Networking Projects in the youth field.

3.2 - Cooperation with Other Countries of the World

This sub-Action concerns cooperation in the youth field, in particular the exchange of good practice with Partner Countries from other parts of the world. It encourages exchanges and training of young people and youth workers, partnerships and networks of youth organisations.

Action 4 - Youth Support Systems

4.1 - Support to bodies active at European level in the youth field

This sub-Action supports the operation of non-governmental organisations active at European level in the youth field that pursue a goal of general European interest (ENGOS). Their activities must contribute to young people's participation in public

life and society and the development and implementation of European cooperation activities in the youth field in the broadest sense. Grant requests related to this sub-Action are to be submitted following specific calls for proposals.

4.3 - Training and networking of those active in youth work and youth organisations

This sub-Action supports the training of those active in youth work and youth organisations, in particular the exchange of experiences, expertise and good practice as well as activities which may lead to long-lasting quality projects, partnerships and networks.

4.4 - Projects encouraging innovation and quality

This sub-Action supports projects aimed at introducing, implementing and promoting innovative approaches in the youth field.

4.5 - Information activities for young people and those active in youth work and youth organisations

This sub-Action supports activities at European and national level which improve young people's access to information and communication services and increase the participation of young people in the preparation and dissemination of user-friendly, targeted information products. It also supports the development of European, national, regional and

local youth portals for the dissemination of specific information for young people.

4.6 - Partnerships

This sub-Action is for the funding of partnerships in order to develop long-term projects which combine various measures in the Programme.

Action 5 - Support for European cooperation in the youth field

5.1 - Meetings of young people and those responsible for youth policy

This sub-Action supports cooperation, seminars and Structured Dialogue between young people, those active in youth work and those responsible for youth policy.

5.2 - Support for activities to bring about better knowledge of the youth field

This sub-Action supports the identification of existing knowledge relating to the priorities in the youth field, established in the framework of the Open Method of Coordination.

How to apply?

You have an application form that you can download from the national agency of your country or from the EACEA. I recommend to download from the national agencies sites, due that in some case they usually request more information that in the Executive Agency. Each year the forms has a new format, so do not forget to download the actual one.

When to apply and where?

To the national agency of each country

Projects starting between	Application deadline
1 May and 30 September	1 February
1 July and 30 November	1 April
1 September and 31 January	1 June
1 December and 30 April	1 September
1 February and 31 July	1 November



For projects submitted to the Executive Agency there are three application deadlines a year:

Projects starting between	Application deadline
1 August and 31 December	1 February
1 December and 30 April	1 June
1 March and 31 July	1 September

Which countries can participate?

European Union countries for all the actions plus countries that are candidates for accession (Turkey) and

Iceland, Norway and Liechtenstein.

For actions 2 and 3.1 can also neighbouring countries of the EU. Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Macedonia, Kosovo, Montenegro, Serbia, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova, Russia, Ukraine, Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestinian Authority of the West Bank and Gaza Strip, Syria, Tunisia.

Participants and promoters from Other Partner Countries of the World can participate in Action 2 and 3.2.

Where you can find more information:

<http://europa.eu/youth/>
<http://eacea.cec.eu.int>
http://ec.europa.eu/youth/index_en.html
<http://www.salto-youth.net/training/>

As well you can contact me and I will be glad to explain you more things about the Youth in Action Programme at berto@yeenet.eu

Alberto Mogio Perez
YEE Secretary General



GAIA - Grupo de Ação e Intervenção Ambiental - is a Portuguese grassroots environmental organisation that was founded 13 years ago at a University in Lisbon, and currently has 3 nodes: Lisbon (headquarters), Oporto and the Alentejo, approximately 400 members and thousands of supporters.

GAIA cooperates with several national movements and associations, such as the Portuguese Platform Against GMO - Plataforma Transgénicos Fora (connected to the GENET network), No to Nuclear, CPADA (Confederação Portuguesa de Associações de Defesa do Ambiente), participates in movements as Critical Mass and is a member of international networks such as YEE and EYFA.

With the objective of creating workable alternatives for a sustainable and just society, GAIA supports a sociological and political bottom-up approach to environmental issues. We defend a critical analysis of today's society, the testing of social, economic and cultural alternatives, the stimulation of citizen autonomy, self-training and participation and finally crea-

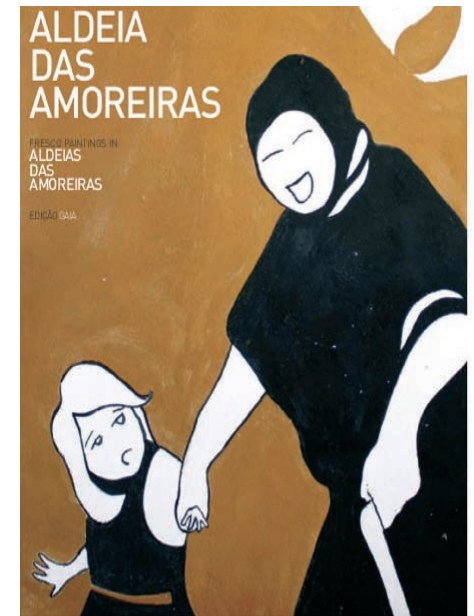


tive and non-violent direct action to further our causes.

GAIA has a strong activist component, resorting to creative and non-violent direct actions and promoting work from the grassroots. It addresses ecological problems by criticizing the social and eco-

nomical model, that exploits and harms our planet, our society and our future generations. In parallel, it looks for positive alternatives for a world based on social justice and ecological sustainability. GAIA is one of Portugal's leading environmental associations.

The organisation is entirely run by volunteers following a non-hierarchical, pluralist and cooperative structure. Examples of our campaigns/projects are: the campaign against GMO 'Free Seeds/Sementes Livres'; the Mouraria Social Centre with several activities for locals such as Vegan Organic Community Dinners, "Open Space" style Debates and DIY Workshops; Urban Organic (Community) Vegetable Gardens; Eco-consumption Campaigns (Eco-Xmas; Buy-Nothing-Day,...), or Peace and Non-violence, while promoting fair trade and alternatives to



monetary-trading based in trust and community sharing in a daily-basis.

Also, we have the "Aldeia das Amoreiras" Social Centre based in Alentejo to promote community, improve eco-



logical, social and cultural ways of life in this human desertified rural region.

And we warmly welcome you to get in touch with us!

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Fältbiologerna

**Fältbiologerna -
nature and youth**

Fältbiologerna is an independent national nature organisation for and by youth in Sweden. Our organisation aims to spread interest and increased knowledge about nature among young people. We are also an important part in the political debate on environmental issues. Fältbiologerna has over 4 500 members, which are active in local clubs, regional districts and networks. The national level is taking care of administration, book publishing, our quarterly magazine, and is planning national campaigns. Fältbiologerna has a thorough knowledge about nature that gives us a solid ground for our opin-



ions in the environmental debate. We are arranging courses, camps and excursions to spread knowledge about nature and environment. With a choice of methods that span from education and lobbying to non-violent direct action, Fältbiologerna aims to be a radical voice in the environmental politics.

Campaigns

Fieldbiology, Johannesburg, public transport and forests - Fältbiologerna has two main campaigns for 2002: -to increase basic knowledge about fieldbiology, as birds and plants -to pressure local politicians to follow





Agenda 21 and use the Johannesburg summit to raise environmental issues at the national election in September. Other ongoing campaigns are the protection of primeval forests, the Youth Environmental Parliament and the campaign against establishment of large-scale shopping malls. Recently, Fältbiologerna won our 'the BET' climate campaign (hurray!) and we will continue to fight for sustainable en-

ergy politics. We are also working against nuclear weapons. For 2003, the annual meeting decided that Fältbiologerna will campaign for free and improved public transport and forest conservation (using birds as indicators for valuable forests). Besides the cooperation with B.Y.Co., Fältbiologerna are for example working with Green Action in Zimbabwe, PiM in northern Russia and ASEED in the Netherlands.

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Green drama – act and learn about environment

Green drama is the method of environmental education that is using tools of drama. So, as the inventors explain in the easiest way: environmental education + drama = green drama. This method takes elements, exercises and approach from drama and more generally from non-formal education and modifies them to the environmental topic.

That is why, just like in drama, all participants are involved in the action, there is no audience and no concrete performance created but role-taking, improvising and using participants' experiences are important. However, in green drama all these elements and activities are concentrated on the topic of environment. Through performing in the group, improvising and playing participants should reflect about their own experience and attitude towards environment. As authors say: "the ultimate goal is to transform individual actions and

lifestyles to be more environmentally friendly".

The method was invented, practiced and described in few books by two Finnish trainers: Jaana Hiltunen and Heli Konivuori. It can be used in work with different age groups but starting from 13 years on as for many activities the reflection and previous knowledge is needed. I believe that the personal reflection is what is the most important in green drama. There are no new information given but through activities participants can put their experience into words and concepts and in this way reflect their way of acting towards environment and see what they would like to change. There are already several topics with which green drama is working, such as: the dimensions of sustainable development, shopping habits, consumption, energy saving, ect.

I had a chance to get to know this



method during the Training Course 'Green Drama: Influencing Choices and European Youth Work' in Finland. People experienced in environmental education from 15 countries were getting to know the method through learning by doing. We had a chance to get to know this method in practice, during

workshops with trainers who invented this method. We were able to take part in two sessions: Choosing choices (about lifestyles) and You and me in the material world (about consumption). Moreover, we were able to discover the method in the places where the environmental education is practiced, in Metsäkartano and Hyvärilä Youth Centres. Although I think that the method still has to be improved and activities should be more diversified, I believe that the idea is interesting, can be inspiring and I am sure that many participants of this TC already started to use it in their environmental education all over the Europe.

Malgorzata Zubowicz
YEE



The example of the activity of green drama (from the program 'Choosing choices')

The participants are divided in small groups and each group gets either the character who is leading environmental friendly lifestyle or the person who does not care about environment. They have to invent this person – they have to draw the figure and write what she/he does, likes, what are her/his uses, hopes, dreams. During the process they have to reflect what does it mean to be environmental friendly or in which way you can harm environment. Groups have to present their characters. In the second part of the activity the leader announces the dating program in TV. Groups have to invent some outfits or symbols that will make them get inside of the role. They have to act the person they invented and present what



kind of people she/he would like to meet in the program. The leader explains that because of the computer failure all persons were mixed so they go for the meeting with person that has opposite lifestyle to them. They have to discuss and explain their way of being and their habits.



Source:

Booklet about green drama

For more information and examples of exercises please write at:

gosa@yeenet.eu

Or to the trainer Jaana Hiltunen:

jaana.hiltunen@ppb.inet.fi

Training course Action 3.1

Sustainable living and consumption

Date: February 2010

Place: Ohrid, Macedonia

Contact person:

Alberto Mogio Perez -

berto@yeenet.eu

Gjoko Zoroski -

gjoko@yeenet.eu

Brief description:

Ecologists' Movement of Macedonia (DEM) - member of YEE (Youth and Environment Europe) is looking for participants for the Training course on Sustainable living and consumption.

In each decision we make, we are leaving a footprint upon our environment. Sustainable living is the act of living such that our actions do not jeopardize the ability of the Earth to meet the needs of future generations of people as well as other forms of life. Sustainable consumption is an umbrella term that brings together a number of key issues, such as meeting needs, enhancing the quality of life, improving resource efficiency, increasing the use of renewable energy sources, min-

imising waste, taking a life cycle perspective and taking into account the equity dimension.

We would like to invite young adults interested in the topic of Sustainable living and consumption. Within a training course we would like the participants to acquire knowledge about sustainable consumption and transfer it to other interested persons as well as we want to develop participant skills to live their lives more future oriented.

Through the discussion of the complex topic, the participants will be enabled to change their everyday lifestyle as well as start action on sustainable consumption in their local communities.

Objectives:

- Get knowledge /spread knowledge
- Develop joint campaign internationally wide
- Publish guidelines about eco-consumption as result

Activities:

Small workshops (both theoretical and practical) over a theme, for example:

- Eco-consumption at home and working place
- Lifestyle: how /where to buy eco-clothes
- Lifestyle: eco-gardening; food: where/how to buy it
- Vegetarianism as a more sustainable way of living
- Eco-travelling
- Creation of eco-toys
- Creation of eco-presents

Practical info:

Participants will cover only 30% of their travel costs. No participation fee. The accommodation and food is covered by the organisers. Deadline for applications 25th of May.

Send us a motivation letter from the ORGANISATION and the part III scan version when applying to the training course.

Profile of participants:

2-3 participants from each organisation in the age of 18-30

YEE is a federation of youth non-governmental environmental organisations in Europe and beyond, founded in 1983. Its 53 member organisations in 28 countries are active on national, regional or local level in the fields of environmental protection, education and sustainable

development

Among YEE activities belong:

Providing exchange of information, ideas and experience among members through publications (Newsletter, Magazine, Guidelines) and training courses, youth exchanges, seminars...

Promoting cooperation on environmental topics by organizing joint actions and campaigns

DEM: The Ecologists' Movement of Macedonia - DEM is a non-governmental, non-profitable and apolitical association. It is a national association that includes 30 local environmental NGOs as full-members and 16 other organizations and institutions as associated members.

It was established in 1990 as a necessity to coordinate the work of the existing local groups. We are members of the Friends of the Earth - International (FoEI) and International Union for Conservation of Nature. Also, we have a good cooperation and communication with many neighbours' NGOs.

From December 1994 each local member group of DEM formed their own youth clubs. On 25th of November 1995 youth clubs formed a youth branch of DEM, as a DEM-Youth. Since then, lots of actions have been taken by the young ecologists.

Training course Action 3.1

Conflict management

Dates: 25th - 31st of March, 2010
Place: South Bohemia, Czech Republic

Deadline for applications: 29th of May 2009

Contact person:
 Katka Lejckova - katka@yeenet.eu

Youth and Environment Europe (YEE) is looking for participants for the Training Course Conflict Management.

We would like to invite youth NGO workers who have already experience with training young people or leading youth actions and would like to improve their training and facilitating skills.

Brief description:

The training course itself is a final part of a series of trainings focused on communicating and facilitating skills and work in teams.

Our idea is to complete the round of trainings and prepare people to work in

their NGOs more efficiently:

Training for trainers – general skills, facilitating (2008)

Teamwork and communication (2009)

Conflict resolution and management (2010)

The Training course on Conflict Management is especially suitable for young people who have already experience with training and youth work and who have a certain level of knowledge of training, facilitating, communication and teamwork.

We would like to create a comfortable environment where the participants could improve their communication and training skills and use them in their daily work in their NGOs.

The TC will take place in the Czech Republic, in a beautiful area of the South Bohemia. It will take 6 days in March, excluding the travel days.

Practical info:

Participants will cover only 30% of their travel costs. No participation fee. The accommodation and food is covered by the organisers. The working language of the TC will be English.

Profile of participants:

Max. 30 participants: NGO workers from EU and neighbouring countries, in the age of 18-30, with a previous experience with training.

About Konopa and YEE:

YEE is a federation of youth non-governmental environmental organisations in Europe and beyond, founded in 1983. Its 53 member organisations in 28 countries are active on national, regional or local level in the fields of environmental protection, education and sustainable development.

Among YEE activities belong:

Providing exchange of information, ideas and experience among members through

publications (Newsletter, Magazine, Guidelines) and training courses, youth exchanges, seminars...

Promoting cooperation on environmental topics by organizing joint actions and campaigns.

How to apply?

Please send the application (scan of Part III) and the motivation letter of your organisation till: Friday, 29th of May, 12:00 to katka@yeenet.eu

The letter should include the motivation of your organisation, preferably saying also which people you want to send and why..

We will choose the partners on the 1st June.



Annual elections in FYCA

March 14&15 the 5th Development Forum of FYCA took place, there the members of the present board and secretariat were taking part, as well selected delegates and representatives of member clubs.

After the opening the participants one by one introduced themselves and expressed their expectations.

Then the president of FYCA Atom Mkhitarian shortly presented the story of how FYCA was born, the passed history, the experience of cooperation with different structures and benefits. Atom represented as well the ways of running and

leading the organization, Board and Secretariat staff and offered from now and on to have as well a Development Consultant Body of the Organization.

Thoroughly was discussed the next question of the agenda: the activity plan of 2009, which was developed in the beginning of the year and is being renewed all the time by new projects.

The participants expressed their opinions, points of view. Everybody of them introduced their future role in FYCA activities, the desired field to coordinate.

After the «tasty break» the new staff of Board and Secretariat was selected,

their responsibilities and obligations.

The Presidential Board today consists of 8 members, who meet at least once three months, who occupy with the strategy making and developing.

The secretariat the activities of who are lead by the Secretary General, makes and realizes the activities of the organization: is the executive body. It has thirteen members. FYCA has also regional coordinators in all the regions of the Republic of Armenia.

Gayane Asatryan

Contact information:

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Genetically Modified Animals

The US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) just moved a step closer to allowing companies to create genetically engineered animals. The FDA is proposing to allow the creation of animals that will be used to produce medicine, organs for transplant, meat or genetically engineered pets; and experiment subjects.

Fast-forward to 2008 and the FDA is moving ahead with their intention to allow the creation, use and sale of genetically modified animals. The surprising, or maybe not so surprising, thing is that there has been very little media coverage or protest. Although there were a few headlines in major publications on genetically modified steak or Franken-animals, all in all there was little mainstream media cov-

erage and little outcry about the FDA's proposed legislation.

Genetically engineered food sources are not labelled in North America even though consumers continue to agitate for clear labelling. Consumer Reports National Research Center conducted a poll in October 2008 of more than 1000 people on various food labelling issues and found that 95% of consumers polled agreed that, "food products made from genetically engineered animals should be labelled as such".

If consumers so clearly want genetically engineered foods labelled, why the apathy on genetically engineered animals? PETA, infamous for being press-sluts (PETA founder, Ingrid Newkirk's words not mine), does not seem to be tackling this issue aggressively enough. They seem more preoccupied with stalking fur-wearing celebrities of late. I dug around on their website and couldn't find anything on genetically modified animals, so I contacted them and asked for an official statement on the FDA's proposal.

Here is a portion of their official statement: Genetic engineering is unethi-



cal, always disastrous for animals, and often dangerous for humans. PETA urges regulators and consumers to reject genetic engineering and to demand better and more ethical scientific practices. At least 90 percent of genetically engineered animals are simply discarded as "failures" at early stages of the process. The remaining animals are sentenced to lives burdened with painful diseases and distressing conditions..

I can't help but wonder why PETA didn't use their considerable resources and run a public campaign encouraging people to speak up about the FDA's proposal? Where were the billboards, the commercials, the naked celebrities? They do it for the carriage horses, the fur animals, the KFC chickens - why not the genetically engineered animals-to-be?

And the Humane Society of the United States? They have a report on their website - An HSUS Report: Welfare Issues with Genetic Engineering and Cloning of Farm Animals. The report is very helpful for people who want more information, but why was so much effort put into Proposition 2 and yet little effort was put into making people aware of the possibility of genetically engineered animals?

Proposition 2 is an excellent effort

towards reducing factory farm animal suffering and, like most caring people, I am grateful it passed, but what about the genetically engineered animals-to-be? Are we going to wait until they are suffering in laboratories and petri dishes before we work to get legislation to alleviate their suffering?

I tell myself that in the future, when we are working to create legislation to help these animals, I hope we will remember to look back at 2008 when we had a chance to speak up, and wonder why we chose to remain silent.

READ FULL VERSION AT:

<http://www.greenmuze.com/blogs/green-muzings/601-genetically-modified-animals.html>

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Schools of Tajikistan- part of the problem or key to its solution

Today heating schools is one of the most serious problems in Tajikistan.

It is not surprising that a lot of energy during the cold period is spent on heating.

Energy losses in schools far exceed the norm. Often, this is due to the poor structure of buildings and quality of the materials used. Almost all schools have no insulation and most of the energy is used in vain. Losses of heat in schools in the country exceed standards several times. It turns out that for heating one square meter we spend 5-8 times (!) more energy than necessary. Where then the heat goes in our schools? What is the reason for this state of affairs?

In many ways, it is connected with the structure of buildings and materials used in construction. There are many typical schools built with bricks or panel blocks as far as in Soviet times. Previously, all schools in cities and major towns were connected to a central heating network. They used to heat up a lot and well, this is why often, in fact, the lack of any insulation in school buildings.

New school buildings in remote areas (which are built by government agencies, as well as with the support of donors) do

not meet even the existing rules and regulations of Construction (single glazing, too short edge of the roof, lack of a system of collection and diversion of rain and snow waters, etc.), not to mention the best practices and standards in contemporary architecture and construction. For the last several years there have been built dozens of buildings that do not meet any formal legislation, or modern international requirements.

The most likely reasons for the loss of heat in the school premises: poorly winterized windows and doors, exterior walls (especially in panel buildings), ceilings on the last or floors on the first storey. In many schools the greatest challenge are

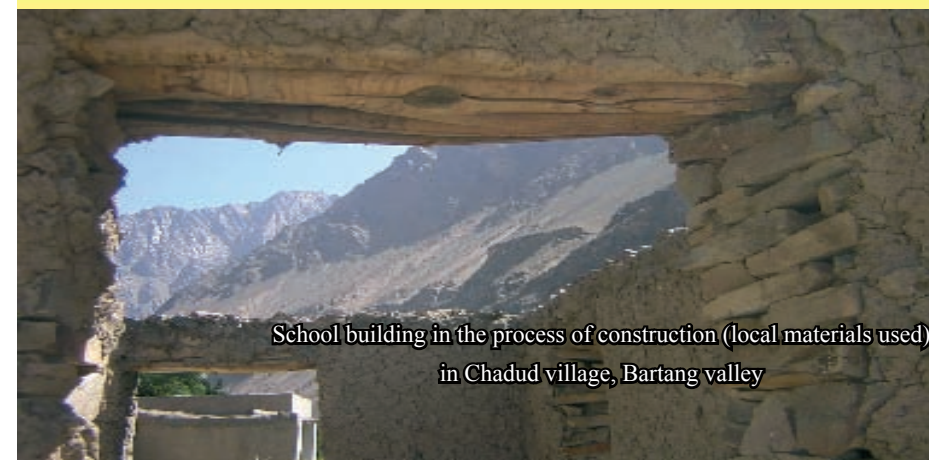


One glazed window with pipe outlet from the stoves, school in Pishanbe village, Varzob

single glass windows, cracked and broken glasses or the absence of glasses at all on the windows in certain premises. In addition, fissures in the windows or doors, as well as the joints in the construction of buildings represent another significant source of heat loss. All of this leads to the fact that we are using much more energy than we actually need.

In major cities and towns of the country the most high-quality form of energy – electricity is the main source of energy for heating. Teachers and students are also forced to use electric heaters, which solve the problem of cold only partially and yet consume large amounts of energy. In winter months, when energy consumption is increasing dramatically, there happen a lot of accidents and malfunctions in the system of electricity distribution, as well as frequent blackouts; there is low voltage in the line.

Squandering of electricity in public institutions, including schools, aggravates the already acute shortage in the cold season. The most severe situation is in schools in remote rural areas. Here, there are strict, permanent limits on the electric power. In district areas schools are heated by means of “dirty” fuel – coal or firewood (and sometimes dried dung or cotton stalks), often using ordinary iron stoves. Stoves (design leaves much to be desired) are placed directly in the classroom so people are forced to inhale toxic corrosive fumes and are exposed to serious risks of getting sick. Moreover, such ovens are very inefficient - they spend a large amount of fuel. Schools receive firewood and coal through local hukumats. Some schools pick and stock firewood themselves. Several schools in mountainous villages generally forced to temporally shut down because conducting classes in



School building in the process of construction (local materials used) in Chadud village, Bartang valley

buildings with a temperature below zero is not possible.

Such situation in schools occurs from year to year with mixed results. Officials and administration of schools often complain about the lack of heat or its sources. But few of them speak about the problem of preserving the heat. Discussing the question of “where to take” all the time, we do not pay attention to the question of “how to use?”

After all, the situation with heating in schools reaches absurdity. Even having heat, the school does not aim to save it at all. A huge amount of heat just simply goes nowhere. Working heater or stove, and nearby several cracked windows or slits with the size of your index finger does not surprise anyone. Why storing fuel is

more profitable, for example, than invest in replacement of windows or improving building insulation?

There are significant internal energy reserves in schools. According to specialists, modernization and improvement of heating systems can reduce energy consumption to 40-60%. The introduction of, for example, energy-saving stoves, will help reduce fuel use to 2-6 times. Competent planning, the use of double insulation and double-glazed windows, energy-saving lighting in school buildings can significantly improve their energy efficiency. This is confirmed by a number of small-scale projects on the insulation of schools, which conducts the environmental organization “Little Earth” with the support of the Norwegian Society for the Conserva-



tion of Nature, as well as projects of other organizations working in this field.

Moreover, all this might solve a part of the social and environmental problems at the local level, related to atmospheric pollution, cutting trees, energy shortages, diseases, and comfortable conditions for training and other. But precisely these so necessary measures that could significantly reduce schools' dependency from energy and could free up additional available reserves, do not receive any support either from the state or from school administrations.

At every school there are no incentives and encouragement to reduce energy consumption, no plans on the improvement of energy saving, no financial incentives and subsidies for the use of ecologically clean forms of energy. Of course, this is not a simple problem and it requires an integrated approach and broad involvement of all stakeholders (government, donors, civil organizations, local NGOs and community, school administration) in solving it within schools, both inside and outside its borders.

Nevertheless, a school has enormous potential. If the administration or its individual school teachers are unswervingly convinced of the need for such measures, perseverant and active in achieving the set goals, much can be changed. It is important not to forget that a school always

finds allies in the face of its students. Environmental protection is always a powerful incentive for children to act.

Development and implementation of innovative and practical training programs on energy conservation in schools, actively involving youngsters in the discussion and solution of energy issues must become an integral part of the educational process. And, perhaps, only when the lessons and exercises within the framework of these programs are memorable and interesting, and the school turns into one large laboratory – the education ceases to be a part of the problem and becomes the key to its solution.

Timur Idrisov
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International Conference on Sustainability Evaluation

Brussels, Belgium

15-16 June 2009

The conference would like to add to the understanding of sustainability evaluation by especially addressing the following questions:

- What is sustainability evaluation's contribution to policy development and implementation?
- How should sustainability evaluations be designed to affect political decision-making?
- How can one strengthen sustainability goals and impacts in policy evaluation and assessment?
- How can the quality of sustainability evaluations be improved?

More information:

<http://www.ecologic.eu/soef/epos/conference.html>

Green week

23 - 26 June 2009

Green Week 2009 will look at what the world must do to bring climate change under control. Almost 40 Green Week conference sessions will address the climate challenge from different angles.

More information:

<http://ec.europa.eu/environment/greenweek/home.html>



YEE - Konopa Youth Exchange: Learning from each other

Hrubá Skála, Czech Republic

03/07/2009 – 09/07/2009

The Youth Exchange 'Learning from each other' will take place for 6 days in July 2009 in Hrubá Skála in the Czech region called Český Raj. It will involve 6 organizations from different European countries who are working in the field of youth and environmental work. The youth exchange is projected for 30 participants (4 young people and one project leader from each country: Sweden, Portugal, Belgium, Poland, Greece and Czech Republic). We would like to exchange ideas, experience and best practices through workshops prepared by each of the organisations taking part in the YE. Every day one participating organisation will make a presentation and practical workshops using the method 'learning by doing'. During these activities each organisation will present its best practises, the most effective methods they use in their work with youth (for example: bird-watching, environmental and educative games, various outdoor activities). The aim is to transmit the most successful and inventive practises to other organisations and to improve and to vary the everyday work of the youth NGOs.

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The calendar for next months of 2009 you will find on the next issue of "Knowing your neighbours"



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