28.02.2011

Project report: Establishment of an Environmental Youth Network
Reference number: 55/NSE/2010
Realization period: September 2010 – January 2011

Content:

1. General project description
2. Key elements and results achieved
3. Project sustainability

1. General project description

The main goal of the project is to establish an environmental youth network in Macedonia that should serve as a learning platform for like-minded young people to connect, learn and work together on projects in the area of ecology and sustainable development. The network will provide a set of learning opportunities for young people in order to enable them to become personally aware and responsible individuals who will take action and exercise leadership in creating a more environmentally sustainable community.
The main elements of the network to successfully operate are represented in the Go-Green-Clubs, the Magazine ESD, the Virtual Platform and the Seminars. The learning platform is designed in a way to encourage pro-activity and team work, to take leadership positions and to create connections with other young people from different schools/cities.
The project addresses the following needs:

- Lack of education on environmental sustainability.
- Lack of opportunities for young people to drive positive change in coordinated school clubs
- Current non-existent national youth network.

The project is part of the Go Green Strategic Area 2013 – YOUTH, which aims to develop non-formal education and actively involve young people in shaping a sustainable society.

2. Key elements and results achieved

The results of the project are related to the key 4 elements of the network.

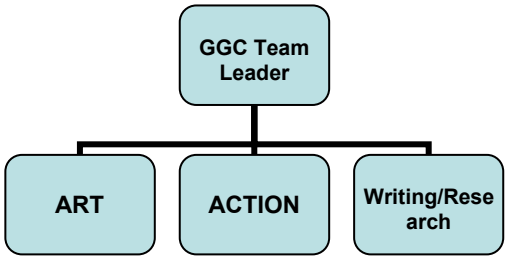
- Magazine Ecology and Sustainable Development

The Magazine represents the main tool for education and engagement of the pupils in the Go-Green-Clubs (GGCs) The content of the Magazine is generated by the pupils themselves that work on research and writing articles for the magazine (and the website). Even though the official agreement from the Ministry of Education and Science arrived on 29th November (expected: October), that

didn't stop us of issuing the Magazine in electronic version. We performed the road show in the schools each month, presenting the Magazine and the Go-Green-Clubs on info-meetings and giving trainings-workshops for the members.
You can see the on-line versions of the magazine on the following link: http://www.bidizelen.org/mk/multimedija/spisanie.html
Furthermore, there are 64 young people that belong to the writing and research team of the Go-Green-Clubs.

- Go-Green-Clubs (GGCs)

The clubs are formed in the schools and being a member is on voluntary basis. The purpose of the clubs is to structure a process of non-formal learning where its members will become young agents of positive change and develop the following characteristics: self-awareness, integrity, entrepreneurial spirit and social responsibility. The structure of the GGCs is the following:



There are officially 14 GGCs and 4 initiative groups. The total membership counts 238 members, out of which 48 members have a responsible-leadership position. There are 8 GGCs in Skopje, 2 in Tetovo, 2 in Kumanovo, 1 in Veles and 1 in Shtip. The initiative groups are 2 in Skopje, 1 in Veles and 1 in Kumanovo.

- December Seminar → Anti-pollution Marsh

The road show (promotion and recruitment) culminated with an initiative called "United 4 Tomorrow – Take Action Now", which consisted from a one-day seminar and an anti-pollution marsh! The initiative was organized together with AIESEC (www.aiesec.org.mk) and the Scouts Union of RM.
The members of the GGCs had an opportunity to attend a seminar on the 4th December at the Economic Faculty of Skopje. The purpose of the seminar was to raise awareness and to connect and empower young people to take an active role in shaping a sustainable society.
The opening ceremony was in a form of a panel discussion on the topic: "The role of youth in creating a more sustainable environment". The EU Ambassador, Mr. Erwan Fouere, was the key-note speaker and also a panelist. The other panelists were Mrs. Liljana Popovska (Member of Parliament), Mr. Metodija Sazdov (President at the Macedonian Green Center) and Mr. Petar Lazarov (Entrepreneur and Co-founder of Macedonia Export). The whole agenda of the day looked like this:



You can see the full photo report from the seminar of the following link: http://www.bidizelen.org/en/multimedia/photography/events/99-the-seminar-untd4tmrw-take-action-now.html

The Anti-Pollution Marsh took place on the 18th December in Skopje. The goal of the marsh was to empower the members that they can play an important role in the society by taking action and drawing attention to media, citizens, policy makers etc. You can see full photo report from the marsh on the following link: http://www.bidizelen.org/en/multimedia/photography/events/103-anti-pollution-marsh-untd4tmrw-take-action-now.html

The attendance in total was 183 young people (88 on the seminar and 95 on the marsh). Both events received full media coverage, including press releases, interviews, TV, and internet news-portals articles.

- Virtual platform

This platform should serve as a virtual space for the members to interact, collaborate and learn from each other. The idea is to develop a community where members can share information, documents, brainstorm idea's etc. However, well developed community requires a more serious investment, and because of lack of funding, at the moment the virtual platform consists of Google-groups communication, Google documents and Facebook. We are in continuous search of donors for supporting the creation of the platform.

3. Project sustainability

The youth environmental network represents a strategic importance for the organization and its establishment and expansion is an on-going work. At the moment, the teams are formed and they are preparing for the activities of the "Sustainable Energy Europe Week" – 11-15th April.
This week is an important milestone because it represents the European week for sustainable energy and Go Green became an official partner of EU for the Programme in Macedonia until 2013. You can read more at the official EU page: http://www.sustenergy.org/index.php?option=com_see_projectview&view=see_projectdetail&Itemid=2&index=2&tagId=-1&countryID=130&catId=-1&pageNum=0&projectid=5001 and also the news article at our web page: http://www.bidizelen.org/mk/novosti/104-partnership-with-sustainable-energy-europe.html
During the week, the Go-Green-Clubs in each city will organize activities in three area's: dialogue, art exhibition and action in order to raise awareness and express the importance of renewable energy sources, sustainable transport and energy efficiency. This initiative and responsibility ensures the sustainability of the youth environmental network because it engages the young members into planning, organizing and realizing the activities as a team. The scheduled agenda for the next months looks like this:
February: Training-workshop for personal development in each city (http://www.bidizelen.org/en/news/108-go-green-clubs-workshop.html)
March: Preparatory-Educational-Seminar
April: 11-15th Sustainable Energy Europe Week
May: 22nd – UN Biodiversity day
June: Evaluation and key learning points

These activities represent important elements from the Go-Green-Experience that the members go through. The GG-XP is a learning process that enables young people to adopt positive values and explore their leadership potential in creating a positive impact for themselves and the environment around them.