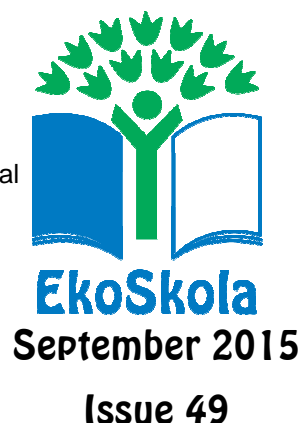


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Editorial Note

Welcome back! Hope that you had a well-deserved Summer recess. This year promises to be quite another active year as regards ESD promotion in schools. Besides the usual initiatives, we shall be offering a variety of opportunities that cater for the different needs of our schools. As always, our aim is to channel financial and human resources into schools so as to facilitate the implementation of ESD. Wishing you all an exciting new scholastic year.

ESD training in Slovakia



To consolidate its efforts to promote ESD, Nature Trust (Malta) partnered with BIOSPEKTRUM (a Slovakian NGO) in an EU's Erasmus+ KA1 project called "Catering for All" and organised a training visit to Banská Bystrica, Slovakia. The Maltese delegation was made up of Lorraine Anne Dimech Magrin (EO Home Economics), Mariangela Schembri Meli (EO Early Years), Vincent Attard (Nature Trust Malta Executive President), Prof Paul Pace (Director CEER), the six EkoSkola teachers and the teacher based at Xrobb l-Għagin Nature Park. The visit was an opportunity to share and exchange experiences in the integration of ESD in nature park management, Home Economics and across the Early Years sector.

The themes explored during the visit include: (a) outdoor education as a means of integrating various dimensions of sustainability; (b) early childhood experiences leading to sustainable choices; (c) sustainable food consumption; (d) non-formal ESD initiatives in the community and (e) outdoor learning and experiences for all. Besides visits to schools, the

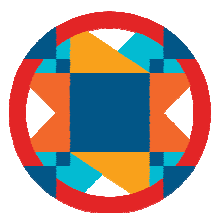
delegation also visited the Forest Research Institute at Zvolen and the Faculty of Natural Sciences of the Matej Bel University. The Maltese and Slovak partners reviewed and discussed specific methodologies and technologies that target different ages in formal and non-formal settings. Meetings also focused on finding ways how nature parks are promoted to attract more visitors and enhance learning by catering for their different learning needs and abilities.

Delegates explored opportunities to host Slovak students at the Xrobb I-Għaġin Nature Park and Sustainable Development Centre, extend study visits to other EOs and practicing teachers, develop ESD educational material and develop ESD training courses. This training experience was only made possible through European Union Programmes



Agency which funds were awarded under the Erasmus+ Key Action 1: Learning Mobility of Individuals programme. Thanks also go to the local education authorities, particularly Mr Gaetano Bugeja (Director - Curriculum Management), for authorising the participation of the Maltese educators and to Dr Judita Tomaskinova and Monika Rakaiova, the Slovak partners from BIOSPEKTRUM who organised the training.

CHOGM 2015 - EkoSkola Young People's Environmental Summit



CHOGM
Malta 2015

Thanks to the collaboration of the CHOGM Task Force of the Office of the Prime Minister and the President's Foundation for the Well-Being of Society, EkoSkola is proud and pleased to invite schools to participate in a special edition of its annual Young People's Environmental Summit. This year's theme is "Ensuring a good quality of

life for present and future generations". Schools have been invited to twin with a school from a Commonwealth country and explore one of the following themes: • Education for all; • Clean and safe water for all; • Eradicating poverty; • Promoting freedom of expression; • The role of women; • Religious diversity and • Conflict resolution.

Plans are also underway to set up a public exhibition with the work developed by the participating schools. Students from the participating schools will also take part in a Tree Planting ceremony to be held at the end of the official CHOGM meeting. During the event 53 students plant 53 trees (one for each Commonwealth country) to represent each country's commitment towards ensuring a good quality of life for all. Trees will be planted at Xrobb I-Għaġin Nature Park in a designated area that will be referred to as the **CHOGM 2015 Commitment Grove**. All the events will be covered by YRE reporters.



Ħarġa sal-Freeport

Jien mort ħarġa sal-Freeport ma' tal-iskola. L-għalliema qaltilna li qabel iż-żjara tagħna fil-Freeport kien ser ikollna laqgħa gos-sala tal-iskola ma' żewġ impjegati li jaħdmu l-Freeport. Dawn spjegawlna dwar x'se naraw meta naslu fuq il-post. Qalulna li l-kontejners li jaslu Malta jitniżżlu minn fuq vapuri kbar u wara jerġgħu jitgħabbew fuq vapuri iżgħar biex imorru pajjiżi oħra. Dan jissejjaħ "transshipment".

Kif wasalna tlajna fuq il-coach li kienet se ddawwarna mat-terminals. Rajna ħafna kontejners ta' kull daqs. Kien hemm ukoll xi vapuri. Għaddejna minn hdejn krejn kbir li kien qed jithaddem mill-ħaddiema. Il-kontejners li rajna kienu dawk li jintużaw biex minn Malta jitolqu b'merkanzija differenti għall-pajjiżi oħra. Wara li dorna l-post kollu u l-gwida bdiet tispjegalna dwar il-makkinarju li jintuża u l-ħidma fil-Freeport, morna fir-'reception' u hemmhekk rajna t-tpiġijiet li konna piġejna fuq boroż tal-karti mal-għalliema tal-Arti. Wara, dawn il-boroż tqassmu fil-ħwienet biex jintużaw min-nies li jmorru jixtru. Permezz ta' dawn it-tpiġijiet ridna nwasslu lir-raġal fejn ngħixu, l-messaġġ li għandna nirriċiklaw l-affarijiet. Ħadt ħafna gost għax din il-ħarġa kienet interessanti.



Miktuba minn Zoe Schembri – Year 5 Kullegġ San Benedittu, Skola Primarja ta' Birżebbuġa

Xrobb I-Għaġin Nature Park and Hostel

During the 2014 - 2015 scholastic year the Xrobb I-Għaġin Nature Park hosted 3664 students. The Park offered an outdoor educational experience to children from Kindergarten, Early, Middle and Secondary schools from all over the island.



Besides the general site experience visits, various groups opted for fieldworks or the thematic events "Trees on the Increase?!" and "Marine Life". All events take the students through a three hour journey that targets attitudes and values required to achieve sustainable development, irrespective of the theme or topics targeted during the event.

These visits will be on offer again for the current scholastic year. Moreover, during this year we will be offering another thematic event focusing on our eating habits and their impact on the planet. For bookings contact Esther Sammut Carbone on 21653851 or esther.sammut.carbone@ilearn.edu.mt.



Nature Trust Malta is also glad to announce that the Hostel at Xrobb I-Għaġin Nature Park is now open for bookings. The thirty-bed hostel (4 rooms of 6 or 8 beds) caters for both students and adults and can be used for overnight stays, including fieldwork activities, training camps, exchanges, seminars, meetings, workshops, live-ins and retreats. The hostel and the park are both fully accessible for wheelchair users. The hostel

personnel offer sessions and activities focused on sustainable development that can be adapted to suit different age groups and themes.

Accommodation includes the use of bedrooms and bathrooms, a fully equipped kitchen and dining area, free use of Wifi, parking spaces, basic breakfast, and heating / cooling facilities. Guided tours and use of conference facilities are also available. Half board and full board options are available on request. For more information and bookings kindly contact us on xghhostel@gmail.com or on mobile number 79295424.



Membership renewal

This year we will continue our quality assurance exercise by reviewing our list of participating schools to ensure that all the schools in our mailing list are in fact participating in the programme. You are kindly requested to renew your membership. Getting your membership sorted out as early as possible, will also ensure an early update of your school's (and link teachers') contact details. The application is available from: <http://www.ekoskola.org.mt/applications/>.

You might find these interesting

Being the main school ESD network in Malta, EkoSkola receives a lot of requests from local and foreign organisations to circulate, among our member schools, information about initiatives that they are organising. This section of our newsletter is specifically dedicated to this information. Feel free to participate in any of these activities. **However**, kindly keep in mind that participation in these activities is not compulsory nor is it a requirement for your efforts to achieve the Green Flag. If you decide to include it under the EkoSkola programme, include it in your Action Plan as part of your strategy to address the issues identified in your Environmental Review ... **not** as a standalone.

(a) Fundraising for an Eco-Schools Community Radio in Uganda



This October will mark the 10th anniversary of the introduction of the Eco-School programme in Uganda. Eco-Schools in Uganda has grown dramatically over these last 10 years and is now involving 280,000 students. Radio is still an invaluable educational resource providing public information all over this vast country – particularly the rural areas. The Uganda Eco-School Programme has, for these last 10 years provided child-centred educational radio

programmes. However, paying radio stations for airtime has become a very expensive and unsustainable practice. Therefore, as part of their 10th anniversary celebrations our partners in Uganda are appealing to the large Eco-Schools family to help them out in raising funds for an Eco-Schools Community Radio costing 45,000 USD. If you wish to help visit <http://cecodug.org/pledge.php>.

(b) The GOALS.org

FEE international are partners with this free global education and learning portal on sustainable development solutions. The platform seeks to build understanding and generate concrete actions about the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals



(SDGs) which will mobilise efforts to find practical solutions to world problems such as poverty, hunger, sickness, illiteracy, climate change, and species loss.

The GOALS.org is a unique and free open crowd-learning experience for mobile devices that connects youth from all the corners of the world inviting them to showcase stories of local challenges and successes in pursuing sustainable development.

Youths can now make good use of their mobile phones to promote sustainability. More information, including a three-minute video that describes how the platform functions, is available at <http://www.thegoals.org/>.

(c) The Earth Charter



THE EARTH CHARTER
VISION. ACTION. ETHICS.

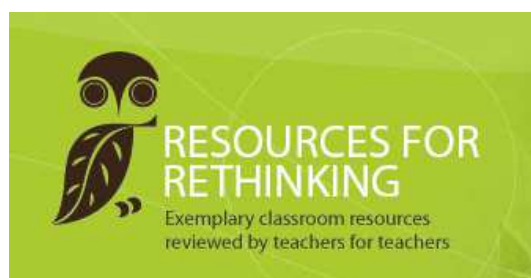
The Earth Charter was finalised and launched as a people's charter on 29 June, 2000. It is really a code of ethics that aimed to guide our actions towards a more sustainable lifestyle. This valuable document is structured around four pillars: I. Respect and Care for the Community of Life; II. Ecological Integrity; III. Social and Economic Justice; and IV. Democracy, Non Violence and Peace. These four pillars are further divided into 16 Principles.

FEE officially endorsed the Earth Charter in July 2015 because it is one of the best articulated visions of sustainability. The Earth Charter declaration is considered to represent an emerging global consensus on sustainability ethics and values. FEE recommends that you consult it as part of your development of your Eco-Code. More information, as well as teaching and learning resources, can be obtained from <http://www.earthcharterinaction.org/content/>.

Teaching Resources

Continuing with our list of useful websites ideal for lesson planning and project work related to ESD.

(a) Resources for Rethinking



This is a project developed by Learning for a Sustainable Future (<http://www.lsf-ist.ca/>). It provides access to lesson plans, curriculum units and other teaching resources that integrate environmental, social and economic spheres through learning that is interdisciplinary and action oriented, i.e. ESD. Each R4R resource has been reviewed by an experienced classroom teacher. Although the resources are tailored for

the Canadian curriculum, this site (available at: <http://resources4rethinking.ca/en/home>) is an invaluable source of ESD activities that can be adapted to our context.

(b) CoDeS



CoDeS is a Comenius multilateral Network funded by the Lifelong Learning Program from EU that focuses on school community collaboration addressing sustainability. The

activities of the network aim at providing a European perspective on the processes of learning, models, values and tools for successful collaboration in ESD. The network provides a range of ESD downloadable resources from <http://comenius-codes.eu/>.

If you would like to contribute to this newsletter please contact Prof Paul Pace, National EkoSkola Co-ordinator, on paul.j.pace@um.edu.mt.

Visit our website on <http://ekoskola.org.mt/> or facebook on www.facebook.com/ekoskola.