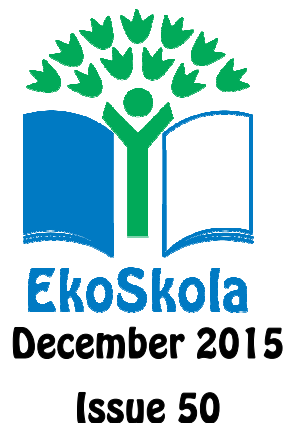


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## Editorial Note

EkoSkola marked the start of this scholastic year with a bang! EkoSkola partnered with key organisations to organise activities related to two major events: the 2015 Paris Climate Conference (COP21) and the CHOGM held in Malta. These activities, in line with EkoSkola's continued commitment towards empowering students, provided an opportunity for students' voices to be heard in policy making fora. Read more about these events below and in Newsletter 51 – a special edition about the CHOGM.

Finally, we would like to warmly congratulate Mr Francesco Debono who has been appointed as Education Officer (EO) for Education for Sustainable Development. Following the introduction of ESD as a cross-curricular theme in the National Curriculum Framework, the appointment of Mr Debono is another milestone in the history of ESD in Malta. Congrats and *buon lavoro*.

## Young People's Summit on Climate Change

As part of a series of events on "Climate Change and Climate Action" organised by the Malta-EU Steering and Action Committee (MEUSAC), the European Commission Representation in Malta and the Ministry for Sustainable Development, the Environment and Climate Change, EkoSkola organised a mini-summit on Climate Change issues with students coming from Green Flag secondary schools. The event was held on Wednesday, October 28<sup>th</sup>, 2015 at the Europe House in Valletta and was addressed by the Hon Leo Brincat (Minister for the Environment, Sustainable Development and Climate Change) and Prof Simone Borg (Ambassador for Malta on Climate Change Issues).





The mini-summit kicked off with a series of student presentations about the impacts of Climate Change on our quality of life. This was followed by numerous interventions from the floor on ways how to reduce and respond to these impacts. As is common practice in EkoSkola summits, the students' recommendations were collated into a document (*The voice of present and future generations about Climate Change*) that was later presented during another meeting held on November 3<sup>rd</sup>. The theme of the meeting

was *COP21 and its aftermath* as a preparation for the COP21 meeting aimed at achieving a new international agreement on climate, applicable to all countries, with the aim of keeping global warming below 2°C. The Hon Leo Brincat; Dr Vanni Xuereb (Head of MEUSAC); Ms Diane Spiteri (Acting Head of the European Commission Representation in Malta) and Dr Miriam Dalli (Member of the European Parliament) addressed the meeting.

The keynote speech entitled *COP21 – Challenges and Prospects* was delivered by Mme Bérengère Quincy (the goodwill Ambassador of France for the preparation of the COP21 Conference). The theme was also discussed by a panel composed of diplomats from



countries representing different world regions: HE Gina Abercrombie-Winstanley (Ambassador of the United States of America); HE Cai Jinbiao (Ambassador of the People's Republic of China); Mr Kenneth Tachie (High Commissioner of the Republic of Ghana) and HE Dr Magda Baraka (Ambassador of the Arab Republic of Egypt). Prof Simone Borg, who moderated the discussion, read parts of the document developed in the mini-summit and commented "*the meeting we had with the students left an extreme joy in our hearts. Children are the ones who*

*will have to face the effects of climate change. I was impressed by their positive attitude and their readiness to propose solutions*".

## Eco-Schools National Operators' Meeting



Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful was chosen by FEE to host this prestigious event. Northern Ireland has made it in the Eco-Schools history books by being the first country in the world to award the Green Flag (to the Downpatrick Nursery School in 1994) and for becoming the first country in the world to reach the landmark of every school being

registered and working towards environmental excellence through the Eco-Schools programme.



During the three-day conference, based in Belfast from 12<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> November, 100 international delegates from 54 countries shared good practices and discussed the on-going adaptation of the Eco-Schools programme to respond to new challenges posed by new developments in ESD. Delegates also visited local schools: Lagan College, Castlereagh; Ulidia Integrated College, Carrickfergus; Fairview Primary School, Ballyclare; and Belmont Primary School, Belfast; to see and be inspired by their good practice.



Omar T. Mattar, the Eco-School National Operator of Tanzania, who attended the NOM in Northern Ireland was in Malta for the CHOGM Public Forum. After seeing our YRE students in action, he expressed his wish to visit a local Green Flag School. He was welcomed at the St Benedict College, Mqabba Primary. He was impressed by the commitment of the students and said that he will be taking various examples of good practice that he plans to implement in his country.

### **EkoMilied – from Luqa with commitment**

St Ignatius College, Luqa Primary School launched its EkoMilied Campaign, an awareness campaign for a more sustainable Christmas on 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2015. With this campaign students wish to raise awareness about how much paper is wasted unnecessarily in these times of festivities, especially through the custom of gift wrapping.



For this campaign the school prepared a promotional video (<https://vimeo.com/147580611>) showing the huge amount of paper collected last year to show how much paper is wasted. This campaign aims to encourage children and the general public to be more aware of this waste. This will help them decide to reduce the use of paper by finding more sustainable ways of presenting gifts and recycle cards and wrapping paper that cannot be reused. The Hon Leo Brincat, Minister of Sustainable Development, the Environment and Climate Change was present for the launch that was organised by the students themselves.



## We Eat Responsibly

Fourteen local schools participating in EkoSkola are currently working on the pilot phase of the EU-funded project We Eat Responsibly, which is bringing together 9 European countries: Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Latvia, Malta, Poland, Romania, Slovenia and Slovakia. Participating schools are using the Eco-School 7-step methodology to investigate the theme of Responsible Food Consumption. Next scholastic year, the project will open for more eco-schools. Details and applications will be out in March. For more details visit the website: <http://www.ekoskola.org.mt/partners/we-eat-responsibly-nieklu-bresponsabbilta/>. Also visit and like the project Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/nieklubresponsabbilta>. For any queries kindly contact Cynthia Caruana, Project Coordinator on [cynthia.caruana.2@ilearn.edu.mt](mailto:cynthia.caruana.2@ilearn.edu.mt).



## Teaching Resources

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

### (a) Celebrate Christmas differently:

Christmas is round the corner and soon everyone will be thinking about giving and receiving presents... well not everyone. In the poorest regions of the world, a large number of children consider themselves lucky if they manage to eat something for the day or drink a glass of safe clean water. If you want you can improve their lives by giving them a Christmas present that counts. See how by visiting this site: <http://www.musthavegifts.org/>.



### (b) Learning about animals:



International Fund for Animal Welfare  
dedicated for educational resources and lesson plans related to animals. Visit it at: <http://www.ifaw.org/international/our-work/education>.

IFAW's vision is of a world where animals are respected and protected. With projects in more than 40 countries, IFAW provides hands-on assistance to animals in need, whether it's dogs and cats, wildlife and livestock, or rescuing animals in the wake of disasters. Their website has a page dedicated for educational resources and lesson plans related to animals. Visit it at: <http://www.ifaw.org/international/our-work/education>.

## The following entities support EkoSkola



If you would like to contribute to this newsletter please contact Prof Paul Pace, National EkoSkola Co-ordinator, on [paul.i.pace@um.edu.mt](mailto:paul.i.pace@um.edu.mt).

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