



News from Lithuania

Congratulations to all the community of Žemyna gymnasium and all the participants of the conference 'Evolution of Environment'. This event has already become a traditional sign of upcoming spring. On the 25 th of March, Saturday, we have celebrated the day of Storks. This day is important to Lithuanians as it marks the beginning of the warm season. Returning storks bring the spring, but while waiting for them we need to inspect, repair and strengthen their nests. In my opinion, this is a beautiful metaphor for today's event. We meet here today to present the work already accomplished, to share new ideas, plans, to find associates and get ready for new campaigns of environment preservation. To my mind, the importance of this conference lies not only in its content and aim, but also in its form, which enables and invites students to find problems and search for their solutions.

Obviously, the loss of biodiversity, environmental pollution and climate change are becoming more acute. With a view to long-term changes, we have to raise interest and educate ourselves and the public of nature conservation. This conference is a great tool for building knowledge that our natural living environment is also a part of our cultural and ethnic consciousness. I am sure that these ideas are not new to the community of this gymnasium, which is participating in the world largest network of UNESCO Associated Schools and to other schools of this network. For years, these ideas have been reaching you through this membership and participation in the Baltic Sea project that is called the first UNESCO project of education for sustainable development. These innovative ideas are implemented and disseminated inside the school community and outside.

Once again, congratulations on the nice event. I wish your gymnasium to become 'educational innovation laboratory' and spread these ideas as far as the eye can see.

UNESCO Education and Science Programme Coordinator
Liliana Bugailiškytė-Lideikienė



Photos





Sicilian Pupils Engage with a Charter of Responsibility to Take Care of the Planet

About 500 pupils from 10 Sicilian middle and high schools undertook this year an environmental education program promoted by Enel Green Power, the Association Viração & Jangada and the CNR of Bologna, which led to the drafting of their Charter of Responsibilities.

To reactivate the solar panels of the school, to collect used cell phones and batteries, to promote energy saving campaigns in the school, to improve waste separate collection... These are just some of the concrete actions 500 pupils from 10 Sicilian middle and high schools are committed to within the framework of the European project **Let's Take Care of the Planet**.

"Promoted by Viração & Jangada with the support of the Cooperative **Il Borghetto di Tutti** of Catania and the CNR in Bologna, Monde Pluriel and financed by Enel Green Power, the project consists of several steps from the classroom lesson to the European Conference to be held in Lisbon in 2018 " as the journalist Paulo Lima, Coordinator of the project in Italy, explains. This is an active citizenship path, where environmental education is put into practice through the analysis of the ecological impacts of their schools. This path sees the boys on the front line supported by teachers and parents."

From March 20th to 23rd, the pupils organized meetings in their schools to present and share what they have learned during the training by means of edu-communicative posters, and to discuss about possible concrete actions to be put in place in order to reduce their ecological impacts, and those of their schools, on the local territory. Then, on March 24th, at Borghetto Europa, thirty representatives of Sicilian school gathered together to share their previous experience and draw up the so-called Charter of Responsibility, a policy document that will be delivered to the mayors of the municipalities involved in the project as well as to environmental councilors and headmasters.

The Charter brings together responsibilities and actions of middle and high schools of various addresses: "We are all aware of the environmental challenges our planet is facing - the pupils write in the document - We know the potential our region, which is also our home, offers to us: sun, wind, rivers and biomass, all of them only partially used." The pupils will then commit themselves to "enhance our natural resources, take care of our Home, already partially damaged over time, and value it. Picked up our responsibility and personally take action are the first steps of a long journey that aims to take care of our planet and our future."

On the next 22nd April, on the occasion of World Earth Day, the pupils will promote various activities to raise awareness on environmental issues in their territory.

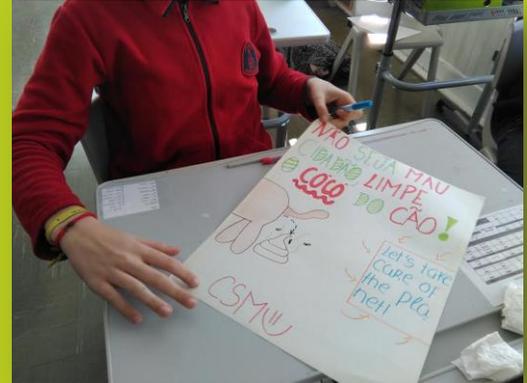
The international project "Let's Take Care of the Planet" was launched in 2008 at the initiative of the Brazilian Ministry of Education, which organized in June 2010 the 1st International Youth Conference on the Environment after a national phase lasting five years. It was attended by 350 young people aged between 12 and 15 years, delegates from 47 different countries. In Italy the initiative has been developed since 2009.



News from Portugal

In Portugal, 3 groups from the school - Colegio Santa Maria - are working hard to finish the project for the School Conference, on 5th June 2017.

The students are working on 3 projects:



- Pedibus Project: the aim of this project is to create “pedestrian walks” to the school from different parts of the city, starting near the students’ homes, in order to reduce the GHG emissions and enhance walking instead of using private cars.

- Reducing Dogs’ Poops campaign: the students and teachers are organizing a campaign to raise awareness of the neighbors to the poops of the dogs in the neighborhood, a major problem in the city streets.



-Improving the environment of the school campaign: the students will paint the electricity boxes that surround the schools with messages, paints and slogans to call the neighbors’ attention to the school environment.



May

Nature's code 5 May 2017 Vilnius Žemyna Gymnasium

Each class makes a team of 6 pupils to compete with other teams by completing different tasks and assignments (not only for prizes). During the event, the teams will present their emblem, name, and original creative presentation on the topic "What are the ways for Žemynos gymnasium community to become more environmentally friendly" (3-5 min). Along with that, the teams can also prepare in advance for the task of rhetoric on the topic "Saving resources and reducing pollution in daily life" (1 min).

International Day for Biological Diversity, Vilnius Žemyna Gymnasium 22 May 2017

The goal of event is to promote interest in biological DIVERSITY and preservation of the environment for future generations.

OBJECTIVES:

1. To develop a conscious and environmentally friendly younger generation;
2. To expand and deepen the knowledge of biodiversity;
3. To strengthen students' motivation to learn science subjects;
4. To raise the level of knowledge in natural science and to reveal students' creative skills;
5. To promote interest in biodiversity and its value to the environment.



22 MAY 2017

INTERNATIONAL DAY
FOR BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY
Biodiversity and Sustainable Tourism



This newsletter was written by a team of Vilnius Žemyna gymnasium from Lithuania!

The coordinators of the LTCP projects are Rūta Krasauskienė, Rasa Kazlauskienė, Romualda Čižienė and Asta Navickaitė.

A team of the students has been concluded from the II gymnasium grade Gerda Petkevičiūtė, Dovilė Jadzevičiūtė.