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LOCAL GREEN ACTIVITIES – AGE RANGE 13 – 17

a. **Lituania:** Local green activity about environmental care in Marcinkonys, from June 19 to 23, 2022 with 15 teenagers. This camp had the special characteristic of developing the methodology of the environmental needs map, also with a video tutorial that was shared with the partners organizations. The camp was attended by some Teens from Ukraine, from socially disadvantaged families. One of them said that *“there is not much attention to nature, ecology where i lived in Ukraine”*, for her it was a *“new awarness”*.

Exploring the city, gave the teens the opportunity of reflecting on environmental issues starting from the positive-identifying green places and then move on to the critical ones, identifying the places where less care is taken of the environment and reflecting on what makes people not care. For example, in those places people are disadvantaged, unemployed, are homeless so they do not feel the urgency to care for the environment, they throw garbage on the street, even though there are bins etc.

The teens had than the opportunity to meet local farmers, a scientist and green entrepreneurs, an opportunity to touch upon the good example and commitment of the protagonists on the fields. It was striking that in the farmers' homes they consume, reuse everything produced, and nothing is lost because there is not even the word "waste." As a practical activity the teens were able to experience working at a farmer's by preparing hay for the livestock.

The map-making moment was lively and participatory. It was an experience of collaboration and active participation for all.

These days shown to the teens that without great ideals and environmental culture one does not feel the need to give oneself for the environment and for mankind.

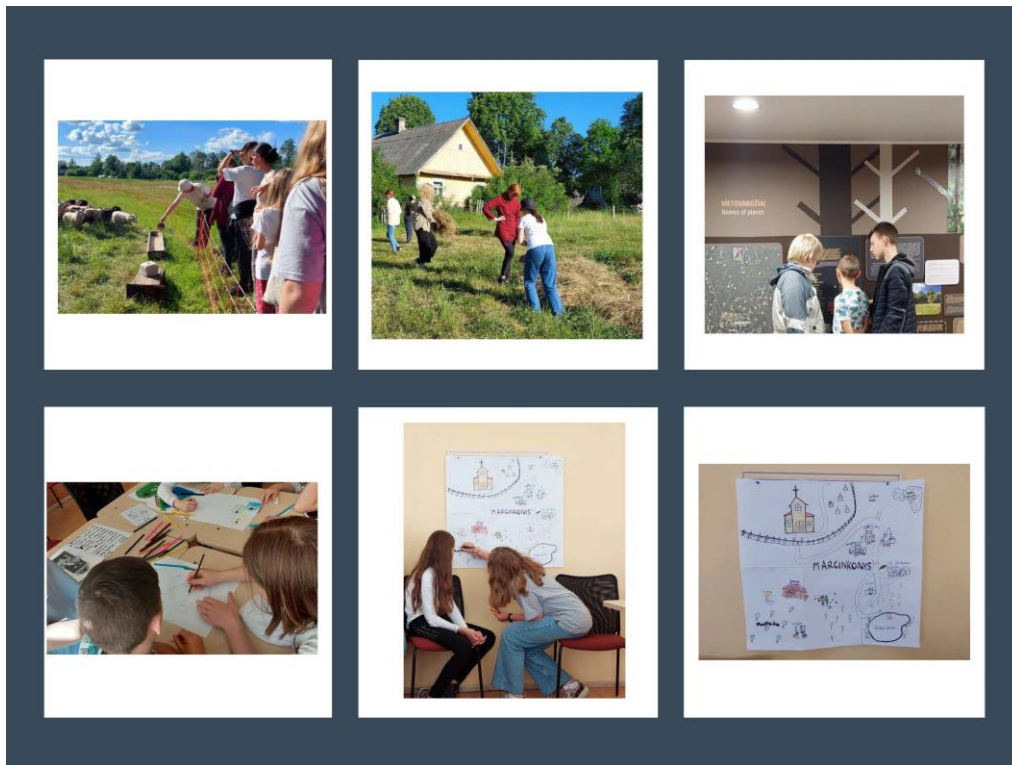
By doing the research and delving into the issues, the participants were able to ascertain that

- ecology encompasses the entire social context

- The problem of waste is not only a problem of environmental pollution but a socio-cultural problem.

So, by reflecting on the questions to ask experts and professionals in the field, the teens began to create conditions for reflection and develop their critical thinking, which in the future will surely lead them to make fundamental decisions in life, and one of them maybe

- to be or not to be a person who cares about the issues of humanity and the preservation of the common home.



b. **Italy:** Ecological Action in Maremma: 30 teens, 6 of them from vulnerable communities, living in shelters. It was held on november 22, 5 and 6. On Day 5 ecology-related activities were held in preparation for visit to the park where the teens were joined by families and other participants.

The group went to discover the Uccellina Natural Park accompanied by guides on established routes, accompanied by animals, birds and every species of plants.

Following, an educational activity with Luca Fiorani, a sustainability teacher who answered the teens's questions and provided many insights for thought and new ideas. With gloves and sacks all the presents got busy cleaning up trash from the long hill beach. This practical activity was chosen as the beach was identified as a "grey spot" that contrasted with the green of the park.



Workcamp in Tuscany: In the hills above Incisa Valdarno, in the province of Florence, the new year began under the banner of green, or rather Greenclusive.

About 40 young people concluded together with a 2-day event the project that began a year ago, which saw Tuscany raise awareness of many young people on the issues of green and social inclusion

Since Saturday afternoon, Jan. 4, a group of 14- to 18-year-olds have been meeting to prepare for the final day on Jan. 5, open to all 9- to 99-year-olds.

Sharing time, ideas, snacks, dinner and games, the afternoon, and evening were fruitful, so that on the 5th they were able to welcome in the best possible way, all the young people who came the next day: about forty young people, mainly from Florence and Arezzo, but representing many countries of the world with a migration background (Africa, Asia, Latin America and Europe). They confronted each other, through games, sharing in groups, training with experts, and also physical work, with rakes hoes and various tools, on the themes of the environment and solidarity in a mutual exchange in deep respect for the environment and all living beings, including human beings. After an acquaintance game, we took up the guidelines of the European Greenclusive project. The next hours were dedicated to clean up a path completely overgrown with leaves branches, marking it with logs placed on the sides, to make it recognizable where it was hidden. A camellia plant was planted at the beginning of the trail with this sign: "Plant donated by the green teens of the Greenclusive project"!

In the afternoon, a young natural science expert highlighted the work done in the morning, helping to understand the difference between clearcutting and cleanup of the trail, a fundamental activity for access to the forest and its beauty, preserving biodiversity. A game followed where in each step, the team received colored tiles that in the end, allowed to color, as in a large mosaic, the path that represented the gray area of the map where the group left their mark in the morning. A final questionnaire that allowed to focus once again on the importance of what were done during the day, living and contributing to the harmony of the environment and its creatures.



Other activities were carried out on the inspiration of the Greenclusive project, such as the Run4Unity 2023 in Pisa on May 7, 2023 with programming that had as its objectives : to raise awareness of respect for the environment; to publicize the organic agricultural production method and the value of sustainable development; and to acquaint and proportion children with the knowledge and direct contact with animals.



Mapping activity in Tuscany

Based on the methodology 6x1 (a proposal conceived by the Teens for Unity Movement, starting from the Solidarity Service Learning methodology, to help young people plan peace actions in an effective and participatory way), the community of the Focolare movement (children, teens, young and adults) in Pisa planned 2 days action: the first one to explore the city and build the green mapping and the second one to realize a concrete action, fruit of what was observed to be needed in the city and possibly done with the different age categories.



c. **Slovakia:** Activity took place at Presov, from 2 to 5 August 2022 with 65 young people from different age groups – 13 to 20. During the camp some activities were done together and in others divided by age groups. A moment was dedicated to deepening the issues developed during the online trainings, more precisely about Responsible Consumption and Recycle, Reduce, Reuse. Attended the camp 3 young people from Rom community and 15 from families of Ukrainian refugees. In addition to ecological activities, there were various art workshops and sports moments that allowed the youth to have a strong relational experience. After the mapping experience the Prešov municipal office was contacted to show the result of it and together it was agreed where to do the ecological activity. The municipality provided the necessary materials to realize it: plastic bags, gloves and other tools.



d. **Hungary:** Summer camping from August 13 through August 18, 2024, in Sopron with 40 young people from age 13 to 18.

The camp had moments of sport, group activities, moments in nature and forums with specialists, for example what allows us to be happy and how can we change in consequence.

There was also the forum given by a young graduate student in clinical dietetics, Dr. Szabó Adrienn with the title: "Man for the earth, or earth for man?". Starting from and exploring Pope Francis' "Laudato si," he spoke about the fact that to be in harmony with ourselves, and others, it is necessary to live in harmony with nature. Food correlated with sustainability and environmental awareness. He underlined the importance of buying, preparing and eating in a sustainable way.

It is worthwhile to buy, prepare and eat our food sustainably.

A participant resumed the feeling of the group:

His storytelling style, not of prohibitions and constraints, but rather of possibility, alternative, conveyed to so many of those present the dedication and care for what to eat, the attention to how we prepare our food. "Health and sustainability are one".



Socio-environmental mapping - Ozd – Hungary: From 18 to 21 June 2023, in Ozd, at the school *Pope John Paul II*, 10 girls and 4 boys, from 8 to 15 years old, with the special participation of 4 girls from Switzerland! Program: excursion, visits to families, workshops (according to different themes), cultural and get-to-know program, processing of Greenclusive mapping.

- 1 – MAPPING OF THE AREA
- 2 – SELECTION OF TOPICS TO STUDY
- 3 – RESEARCH ON PROJECT TOPICS
- 4 – PREPARATION OF THE MAP

Mapping An Area

We are in Hungary, in Ozd, in a northern city. Within the city, we move in a peripheral area, in a rather poor neighborhood. We are guests at the school of Pope John Paul II where a great number of children coming from Rom families are studying. We have been launching several types of initiatives at the school for years, mobilizing the children of Ozd and schools and families from other cities across the country.

What we find/see/experience around the school is listed in terms of positive and negative areas:

- houses (there are also very poor houses where water and electricity are not everywhere)
- + parks, there are a lot of green areas around it
- parks are not clean and tidy
- playgrounds, most not organized
- a lot of rubbish, clutter on the streets
- + shops
- + market (close enough)

- there are few valued job opportunities, so not every family can get basic things
- + several vocational schools and 3 kindergartens
- children and adolescents do not always go to school or kindergarten
- + reading room, community centre, several museums
- poor families do not have access to cultural places (due to low salaries)

+/- public works are possible, but wages are low

+/- bus station

+ community space (Love Dice has been on display in one of the squares since 2019)

+ churches (Roman and Greek Catholic and Lutheran)

+ hospital and pharmacy

- health conditions are uncertain, Roma families do not have access to doctors

Choosing Topics To Study

There are a lot of positive initiatives in the city, there are many squares, community places, cultural opportunities in this part of the city, but at the same time we also find deep poverty. We chose 3 themes that we felt close to. An important aspect during the selection was not only to learn something theoretically, but also to do something concretely and connect to an already existing activity.

1. Exchange of cultural experience

2. Visiting families and then making donations to more poor families

3. separate collection (both theoretical and practical) and cleaning of streets close to the school

Research On Topics

1. Cultural friendship and knowledge are always fundamental things in one's life. Most Roma children, including those of Ozd, do not have the opportunity to know other places, some of them didn't even exist outside of Ozd. During these days of coexistence, it was the opportunity to get to know each other's cultures better, historically as well. There was also a culinary workshop.

2. The areas marked on the map are inhabited by many poor families, the children of these families attend the school of Pope John Paul II. It is important for the teens to get to know the needs and the sufferings of these families.

3. A lot of streets are littered with rubbish, left there from a long time. In Ozd, selective waste facilities do not really exist yet but it is something that is beginning to come to light. That is why it was chosen to do a theoretical and practical activity about it with Roma children in after school moments. a workshop to create an environmental mentality, ecological awareness, holding as its source the love for each other and for creation that drives one to care for it.



e. Austria:

Workcamp: Building a green space with 30 participants from age 15 to 17 with several sessions from March to June

Introduction: This workcamp was developed with the main group with whom the workshops on responsible consumption, green start-ups and recycling were developed. This group, already committed to different activities, identified as the objective of the workcamp the need to have a green space within the school, just so that the students could have a meeting place and that this, in turn, would motivate reflection and commitment to sustainability. This is how the idea of building a green space on an unoccupied terrace in the school structure was born.

This space was arranged so that the students would find a suitable space for reflection and exchange of experiences, especially on sustainability and ecology issues.

1 phase: Mapping

From this mapping emerged ideas on how to address the need for a space inspired by nature that would allow young people to carry out ecological activities (caring for and sowing plants, getting to know nature, etc.) and also to have a space made by and for young people, which would allow for a more enjoyable meeting between them.

For the development of this phase, 2 different types of maps were made:

The first focused on the spaces that the terrace and its surroundings should have. This involved two reconnaissance visits to the space, followed by brainstorming, which resulted in the creation of maps of what the young people would like to find in the space. Each one searched the internet for inspiration for the design of the terrace and create a sketch with their individual ideas. The only conditions were that the planned ideas should be as durable as possible and look attractive.

The second map describes the general context of the school, which, together with the reflections during the workshops, helped to identify the different elements, positive and negative, that the young people identify with. This was done on the school campus and included illustrations of green spaces, meeting areas, the common garden, etc.

Phase 2: Space reconnaissance and manual work sessions

Although this phase was carried out in several sessions, it focused initially on the recognition of the space and the development of a work plan (measuring, cleaning, designing, etc.). Subsequently, sessions were held on furniture construction and garden design, always led by the young people. These sessions were divided into moments of discussion and brainstorming and moments of implementation of the manual work. To conclude this process, a gardening expert led a workshop on plant care and the installation of irrigation systems, as well as an explanation on the correct choice of plants and flowers on the site.

It should be noted that participation in the workshops on recycling, responsible consumption and green start-ups also inspired the young people in the design of this space. They saw opportunities to implement some of the ideas that emerged in these spaces. One of the main examples was Upcycling as a method to build the furniture of this space, as well as reusing elements for the creation of others.

