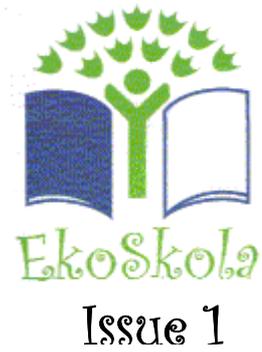


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## Launching EkoSkola

The annual Nature Trust (Malta) one-day seminar aimed at promoting EkoSkola was organised at Mount St Joseph Retreat House on 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2004. The event was attended by head teachers and teachers from 65 different primary and



*The Hon Louis Galea [Minister of Education] addressing participants. Standing on the side is Mr Vince Attard [Nature Trust (Malta) president]*

secondary schools. After the welcome address by Mr Vince Attard (NT president), Hon Louis Galea (Minister of Education) opened the event. In his address, the minister highlighted the need to promote educational experiences that effectively address the ever-changing needs of society. Children need to develop various 'survival skills' that enable them to identify and respond to societal concerns. EkoSkola is an educational programme that systematically provides students with opportunities to develop these skills.

Dr Paul Pace (EkoSkola National Co-ordinator) familiarised the participants with the objectives of the programme, provided information about how schools can participate in it and demonstrated the resources available for schools on the EkoSkola website. The participants were also addressed by Dr Joseph Mangani (Assistant Director, Department of Curriculum Development, Implementation and Review) who highlighted the main challenges and opportunities offered by the National Curriculum and how the



*Head teachers and teachers from 65 schools that attended the seminar*



philosophy of EkoSkola complements perfectly the curriculum's target goals.

### Pilot Schools thanked

As part of a tree planting activity and the launch of a fieldstudy booklet, Nature Trust (Malta) awarded a commemorative plaque to the schools that had accepted to be part of the EkoSkola pilot project during the 2003-2004 scholastic year. The ceremony was held on 24<sup>th</sup> January 2004 at NT's nature reserve at Wied Ghollieqa. Representatives from the schools collected the memento from the Hon George Pullicino (Minister for Rural Affairs and the Environment) who stressed the need for schools to acknowledge the importance of environmental education in the curriculum. He also encouraged NGOs and businesses to invest in schools and support these initiatives. The schools that participated in the pilot project were: Dun Guzepp Xerri - St Julians Primary C; Emmanuel Debono



*Mr Anthony Attard (Mayor of Xagħra) and the Hon George Pullicino (Minister for Rural Affairs and the Environment)*

Decesare - Fgura Primary B; Patri Guze Delia - Siggiewi Primary C; St Edwards College - Middle School; St Joseph Primary - Blata l-Bajda and Patri Matthew Sultana - Xagħra Primary, Gozo ... the latter could not attend the ceremony.

Xagħra Primary School's turn to receive the memento came on 26<sup>th</sup> February 2004, when the Minister for Rural Affairs and the Environment visited the school. After a meeting with the school's EkoSkola Committee, the minister addressed the whole school in school hall that was decorated with the children's work related to projects initiated in class as part of the EkoSkola programme.

Congratulating the staff and students for the efforts they have put into the programme, he strongly commended the Local Council's support for EkoSkola. In fact, Mr Anthony Attard (Mayor of Xagħra) pledged his council's support and appointed Ms Maria Assunta Attard (Deputy Mayor) as the council's representative on the EkoSkola Committee.



*Audience attending the ceremony at Xagħra Primary School*

### News from the Eco-Schools International Co-ordination

- **2004 Eco-Code Poster International Competition** – As announced during the January Seminar, local schools who are interested in participating in this competition can still do so till **May 28<sup>th</sup>, 2004**. More information about the competition is available in the attached file.
- The latest edition (as well as other past issues) of the Eco-Schools newsletter can be downloaded from: [www.eco-schools.org/new/newsletters.htm](http://www.eco-schools.org/new/newsletters.htm). In this issue:
  - \* Recent Events
    - Environmental Action Learning takes shape in Africa
    - Teacher training seminar in Turkey
  - \* A letter from Wales
  - \* News from Slovenia
    - Coordinator-teachers Meetings
    - "Exploring Europe's Environment" Quiz
  - \* Coming Events
    - International Eco-Schools Conference in Sweden
    - Scarabeo 2004 - European Youth Award for waste management

## Partnership with Italian Schools

Ms Raffaella Riccobene, Italian Eco-Schools National Operator, informed us that some secondary schools from Umbria (central region of Italy: [http://www.bellaumbria.net/home\\_eng.htm](http://www.bellaumbria.net/home_eng.htm)) would like to activate a partnership with Maltese eco-schools.

The first step to initiate the partnership is for each eco-school teacher to send some information about the school, the eco-school work and the eco-committee and one photo. Then some students of the eco-committee can contact the other students with the help of their teacher. The language will be English.

The following is information about the Italian schools seeking to start the partnership. Feel free to contact the teachers. Most of the work done in these schools is related to waste management.

### (a) Municipality of Terni

**School name:** ISTITUTO TECNICO COMMERCIALE "F. CESI"

**Age of students:** 15-19

**Address:** Via Benedetto Croce, 6/8 05100, Terni

**Tel:** +39 (0)744 285118

**Fax:** +39 (0)744 272919

**e-mail:** [fcresi@wnet.it](mailto:fcresi@wnet.it)

**Name of the teacher responsible for the school:** Francesco De Rose

**Name of the school director:** Domenico Marinozzi

### (b) Municipality of CITTA' DI CASTELLO

**School name:** ISTITUTO SUPERIORE "UGO PATRIZI"

**Age of students:** 15-19

**Address:** Via Labriola 1 06012, Città di Castello (PG)

**Tel:** +39 (0)75 8557877; 075 8557972

**Fax:** +39 (0)75 8553754

**e-mail:** [ipsiacdc@istitutopatrizi.it](mailto:ipsiacdc@istitutopatrizi.it)

**Name of the teacher responsible for the school:** Patrizia Morvidoni

**Name of the school director:** Panicucci Eugenio

### (c) Municipality of CITTA' DI CASTELLO

**School name:** ISTITUTO SUPERIORE "UGO PATRIZI"

**Age of students:** 15-19

**Address:** V.le Diaz 89 06012, Città di Castello (PG)

**Tel:** +39 (075) 8554241

**Fax:** +39 (0)75 8557398

**e-mail:** [info@istitutopatrizi.it](mailto:info@istitutopatrizi.it)

**Name of the teacher responsible for the school:** Liliana Brigiari

**Name of the school director:** Panicucci Eugenio

## **An Urgent call for Applications in ENO Program 2004-05**

**closing date: 31<sup>st</sup> March!!**

We've just received an email from Mr Mika Vanhanen –ENO Program Coordinator:

### **Teach and learn about environment globally**

ENO (Environment Online) is a global Web school for environmental awareness. It is run by the city of Joensuu, Finland. The free programme is looking for up to 200 new member schools for the 2004-2005 school year. Applications are being accepted now!

Participating teachers find out about ICT and interactive ways of learning. They also have the opportunity to meet colleagues from all over the world. Four environmental themes, or dimensions of sustainable development, are studied within a school year: the social, natural and cultural environment, and a sustainable way of living.

The ENO programme has been running since 2000, and is now a strong and active network of schools. The programme emphasises the local environment in its global context: act locally, think globally. Information will be gathered from local communities and shared on the website.

Learning is student-centred, with online and offline activities. At the end of each theme there is a campaign week when students share their results with each other and with their local communities. They become ambassadors for the environment in their communities, regions and worldwide. There are ENO schools in developing countries, too.

Between 150 and 200 new schools will be chosen to be members for the 2004-2005 school year. The deadline for applications is **31 March 2004**. Official ENO schools will be announced in April 2004 on the ENO website: <http://eno.joensuu.fi/>

The application form is on this page: <http://cc.joensuu.fi/~vanhanen/application03.htm>.