



FEE MALTA

2012-2013



Empowering Citizens through Education for Sustainable Development

Nature Trust (Malta) - NTM



Nature Trust (Malta)-(NTM) is a non-profit, non-governmental, environmental organization.

Founded on 12th December 1962 under the name of Natural History Society of Malta, Nature Trust (Malta) was formed through a merger with three other NGOs. Nature Trust (Malta) can safely claim that it is one of the oldest and largest environmental NGOs in Malta.

Nature Trust (Malta) focuses on four main areas : Ecological site management and conservation, Environmental Education in Sustainable Development, Wildlife Rescue, Rehabilitation and awareness raising in the community.

As stated by its Mission Statement, Nature Trust (Malta) is *“committed to the conservation of Maltese nature by promoting environmental awareness, managing areas of natural and scientific interest, and lobbying for effective environmental legislation.”*

In recent years Nature Trust (Malta) has invested heavily in the promotion of education for sustainable development.



Foundation for Environmental Education (FEE)

FEE is a non-government, non-profit organisation promoting sustainable development worldwide, through five environmental education programmes:

- Blue Flag
- Green Key
- EkoSkola
- Young Reporters for the Environment (YRE)
- Learning about Forests (LEAF)

Nature Trust (Malta) joined FEE in 2002 by launching the Eco-Schools programme, locally known as EkoSkola.

Following the success of the EkoSkola programme, Nature Trust (Malta) launched Blue Flag in 2006, Young Reporters for the Environment (YRE) in 2007, Learning about Forests (LEAF) in 2011 and Green Key in 2012.

Nature Trust (Malta) commitment to education for sustainable development has been supported by the following sponsors and partners in:

2012



Ministry of Education
and Employment



Ministry for Resources
and Rural Affairs



2013



Ministry of Education
and Employment



Ministry for Sustainable Development,
the Environment and Climate Change



Blue Flag



The Blue Flag (BF) award targets the promotion of sustainable development at beaches and marinas through strict quality criteria dealing with water monitoring and quality testing, environmental education initiatives, availability of information boards, beach environmental management, safety and other services that ensure a pleasant and sustainable environment for people visiting the beach and/or marina.

The Blue Flag programme was launched in Malta in 2006 with one pilot beach at St. George's Bay in St. Julians. Over the years the importance of this eco-label has been acknowledged and several beaches have applied for it.

Beaches achieve BF status by attaining all the BF criteria. The Beach of Quality (BOQ) award requires beaches and marinas to achieve over 70% of the same criteria. Each award is reviewed each year.



Green Key



The Green Key programme is an international eco-label targeting hotels, motels and resorts. It aims to mobilise staff, guests and suppliers to increase sustainability in their day to day function. This change in both technology and mentality has to fulfil the Green Key criteria, which if attained and tallies with the amount required, the international award is given.

Green Key is spread over two thousand establishments in thirty-eight countries around the world. Malta launched this programme in 2012. To date, Le Meridien Hotel in St. Julians is the sole establishment in Malta that holds this award. Le Meridien Hotel received the prestigious award after directing its efforts to re-establish and maintain sustainability in energy efficiency in hotel rooms, restaurants and also in the garages.



The Eco-Schools programme was launched in 1994 and now includes over 40,000 participating schools distributed in fifty-three different countries. In 2002, Nature Trust (Malta), introduced the programme in Malta under the name of EkoSkola.

The EkoSkola programme aims at mobilizing the whole school to empower students to adopt an active role in environmental decision-making and action in their school and in their community. Schools that have successfully achieved this goal are awarded a Green Flag - a prestigious international eco-label testifying the school's commitment to fostering sustainable lifestyles.

A total of a hundred schools (catering for 71% of all the student population) participate in the programme, thirty-seven of which achieved Green Flag status.

The 2012/2013 scholastic year marked the 10th year anniversary of the EkoSkola programme. The following is a brief report of the initiatives that characterised this year.

National Operators' Meeting



The annual Eco-Schools National Operators' Meeting was held in Malta on 7th to 10th November 2012. Sixty-five international delegates from forty-six different countries attended the meeting. The delegates had the opportunity to visit a number of local EkoSkola schools, attend a turtle release and visit several historical places. During the meeting, paper use was kept to a minimum by using online media; disposables were avoided, carpooling was practised and included tree planting and beach cleaning.

Green Flag Award Ceremony



Twenty-four schools were invited for the ceremony held on the 8th November at the San Anton Presidential Palace.

The ceremony was presided by His Excellency Dr George Abela, President of the Republic of Malta and Patron of the EkoSkola Programme.

Ms Lesley Jones, FEE Political responsible for Eco-Schools international, and the international Eco-Schools delegates attending the National Operators' Meeting also attended the event.

Annual FEE Seminars



The Gozo Seminar was hosted at the Gozo College Nadur Primary on 20th November 2012 and was attended by twenty-five teachers and thirty-five students from eleven schools. The Minister for Gozo, Hon. Giovanna Debono distributed EkoSkola awards, Ms Anita Sciberras Gozo College Principal also attended the seminar.

The Malta seminar was hosted at St. Edwards College, on the 22nd November 2012. Seventy-eight teachers and ninety-five students from forty-seven different schools attended. Nature Trust, in partnership with Global Water Partnership and Eco-Gozo, hosted interactive sessions with practical ideas on how to integrate ESD in the curriculum. The seminar was divided into two streams: one for teachers and another for students: both revolving around the Alter Aqua project, all attendees were given educational material.

WasteServ Waste Minimisation Awards



On 22nd February 2013, WasteServ Malta and the Cleaner Technology Centre organized the second edition of the Waste Minimisation Award ceremony.

The aim of this award is to reward inspiring and best waste reduction practices. Entries are judged on the measures taken to reduce waste, any cost savings or benefits arising from reducing waste as well as initiatives to educate employees or the general public about waste reduction.

EkoSkola won Category B for NGOs and other Non-Commercial Entities. Moreover, St Francis Primary School, Cospicua (a Green Flag School) won Category C for Educational Bodies. It is worth mentioning that ALL the entries in this category were EkoSkola schools.

Young People's Environmental Summit



This year's summit was held on the 25th February 2013 at the Xrobb I-Għagin Nature Park and Sustainable Development Centre. Students from twenty-four schools were given the opportunity to meet and discuss their environmental concerns and their future.

The discussions were organised into six workshops: three for primary and three for secondary schools. The themes discussed included: Land use and Misuse; Water Management; Alternative Energy Sources; Waste Management; Alternative Energy Sources; Junk Mail; Fair Trade; Transport and Traffic Pollution; and Marine Life Conservation. Conclusions from each workshop were then collated to form a declaration that was approved by the attendees and presented to representatives from the political parties contesting the General Elections.

Audit at Le Meridien



EkoSkola schools from Sliema and St Julians took part in an environmental audit of the Le Meridien Hotel, St Julians on the 18th April 2013. Le Meridien Hotel was the first hotel in Malta to be awarded the Green Key Award. Students, assisted by hotel personnel, reviewed areas of the hotel including the pantry, restaurant kitchen, indoor pool, gym, conference area, staff quarters, garbage and laundry rooms, together with a hotel room. From the audit results, the EkoSkola Committees of the respective schools formulated an action plan and subsequently presented it to the hotel management.

Alter Aqua Project



Initiated in 2011 by the Global Water Partnership Mediterranean in cooperation with the Ministry for Gozo and Eco-Gozo, the project aimed to promote the use of non-conventional water resources as a sustainable solution for water availability in view of the increasing water scarcity and escalating demand in Malta.

The project included the installation of innovative rainwater harvesting systems in public buildings and areas; and training of technicians on new techniques and materials. The EkoSkola team was entrusted with the educational component of the project. An educational pack (STENCIL Award 2013), resources and hands on activities were especially produced for the local context. Also specialised teacher training courses and professional development sessions were held. All schools in Gozo together with five pilot schools in Malta benefitted from this educational material.

EkoSkola Parliament



The 9th edition of the EkoSkola Parliament session was held on 19th June and was attended by sixty-two students from thirty-one different schools accompanied by twenty-three Members of Parliament (MPs). This annual event is organised to provide students participating in the EkoSkola programme with an opportunity to discuss issues related to sustainable development with policy makers.

The students' declaration, prepared during the Young People's Environmental Summit, was presented to the MPs together with other interventions highlighting different aspects of waste management and initiatives aimed at developing a better quality of life at school. A copy of the students' interventions was sent to all MPs.

Plaque to HE the President of Malta



Last year, a number of schools participating in the EkoSkola programme, paid a visit to HE the President of Malta, Dr George Abela to perform an environmental audit of San Anton Palace and the Kitchen Garden. Following this event, the EkoSkola committee members presented an Action Plan with a list of observations and recommendations for the consideration of the President.

Since the presentation, President Abela implemented most of these recommendations and announced that eleven measures were taken with the direct commitment of the Palace staff to improve the quality of the environment at the Palace and the Kitchen Garden. On July 18th, 2013 on behalf of the committee members and their schools, EkoSkola staff presented a plaque to His Excellency as a sign of appreciation for his commitment towards sustainability. The plaque was put up in a prominent place at the Kitchen Garden.



YRE –Young Reporters for the Environment



The programme, aimed at secondary and post-secondary students, provides youths with opportunities to become environmental problem solvers. Participating youths develop journalistic skills, carry out investigations about local environmental issues, propose solutions and disseminate their findings.

This year, YRE (Malta) ran two initiatives: the piloting of the **Press Kids** category for Maltese primary school students and the **Wrigley Litter Less Campaign** (an international project involving ten different countries) for secondary and post-secondary students.

A total of hundred-thirty local projects characterised this year's entries – a marked overall increase in participation over last year possibly due to the incentives offered by the Wrigley Litter Less Campaign. Twenty-seven secondary schools participated in the YRE categories, while five primary schools participated in the Press Kids category. The most popular category, particularly for the 11-14 age group, remains the photo section. There was only one entry in the 19+ video section category.

The YRE-Wrigley Litter Less Campaign award ceremony was held on the 5th June, World Environment Day, at Xrobb l-Għagin Nature Park and Sustainability Centre. Four participants also won international awards. Local winners received awards consisting of tablets, cameras, iPods, camping kits and cash vouchers. These prizes were funded by Wrigley International and locally by WasteServ Malta Ltd and Nectar Ltd. All local winners will be participating in an international mission which will take place in January 2014. The other YRE awards will be distributed at the beginning of next scholastic year.



LEAF – Learning about Forests

LEAF was officially introduced in Malta during the 2011-12 scholastic year. The programme works in parallel with the already established school-based Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) programmes: EkoSkola and YRE.

The LEAF programme is an opportunity for all schools to understand the key role forests play for sustainable life on our planet and whether that role is being compromised by the way of life we lead. It is intended to be a journey that sensitizes the community to appreciate the environmental, the economic and the socio-cultural benefits of trees.

Twenty-five schools have participated in this year's LEAF programme and many have embarked on various interesting projects that deal with one or more of the official LEAF themes: *forests and climate change; products, benefits and services from the forest and forest biodiversity* amongst others.

With a total forest land cover of less than 1% it comes as no surprise that some projects also tend to reflect and address this reality. Most LEAF school forest teams have made it their aim to instil the love for trees irrespective of the places they occur and to convince major stakeholders about the importance of making responsible choices. Tree planting events organised by some schools are not only essential in satisfying the need for compensation, but an added opportunity to provide a context for outdoor learning.

Schools which successfully satisfy the set criteria are awarded the LEAF award that endorses the work carried out and symbolizes the school's commitment for the coming years. San Anton School forest team was awarded this award during the 2012 FEE Award ceremony for an interesting project they carried out about the old forest remnants at Mġiebaħ Valley, limits of Mellieħa.



Expenses Report

Items	EkoSkola €	YRE €	LEAF €	Blue Flag €	Green Key €	FEE Int €
National Coordination costs	8,000	4,500	4,500	4,500	3,000	
Overheads	3,000	1,500	4,500	1,500	1,500	
Web site updates and improvements	1,500	1,000	800	1,200	0	
Programme material and material for schools as tools	4,500	2,500	1,000	1,000	500	
National Seminar and other group meetings (Malta and Gozo)	2,000	1,500	1,500	0	0	
Media coverage and features for records including recording of Eco Parliament	2,000	700	700	500	200	
FEE International Operators meetings (Mandatory for each programme by FEE)	2,000	800	800	800	800	
Awards and Exchange visits	1,000	500	500	1,000	200	
Programme Levy	2,000	1500	1,500	1,500	1,500	
National Levy	5,000					5,000
Support staff	84,000	21,000	21,000	6,000	2,000	
Total Programmes Cost	115,000	35,500	32,300	18,000	9,700	5,000
Expenses covered by partner support	106,000	34,000	31,000	5,400	600	5,000
Total programmes cost	€201,500					

For the Year 2012 FEE Malta had support for **€ 182,000** through its partners. The shortfall of **€ 19,500** was covered by NTM budgets.





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