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Editorial Note

Another year of action is nearing its end. It has been a really busy year with most of the EkoSkola activities finding their way in the yearly educational programmes of schools as part of their efforts to integrate ESD in the curriculum. We would like to take the opportunity to thank the students for their enthusiasm and their teachers and heads of schools for believing in the programme.

Another Community Audit: St Vincent de Paul



The 6th Community Audit carried out by EkoSkola students took place on the 19th February, 2015 at St Vincent de Paul Residence for the Elderly. A total of 35 EkoSkola committee members from the following schools participated in the event: Mater Boni Consillii, St Joseph School, Paola; St Benedict College, Safi and Qrendi Primary Schools; St Clare College, San Ġwann Primary B; St Dorothy Senior School, Żebbuġ; St Ignatius College Ħandaq Secondary School and Żebbuġ Primary. They were also accompanied by 4 youths from Youth Inc. Aġenzija Żgħażaġh.

The audited areas included Madre Teresa 1, Padre Pio 2, Rużar Briffa 3, the Physiotherapy Department, the Medical Materials Management Unit, Records Offices, the garden and green areas, the parking areas and facilities. The young people also



interviewed staff and discussed issues with the elderly.

After the audit, the students went back to their committees to develop an action plan which

was presented to the administration of the Residence on the 29th April, 2015 as part of the celebrations for the European Day for Solidarity between Generations. In the presence of a number of residents from St Vincent de Paul, EkoSkola students presented the action plan to Dr Josianne Cutajar, CEO of St Vincent de Paul, and the Nursing Officers of the respective wards with a number of recommendations based on their findings. This was well received by the management and not least by the same residents who will also benefit from any structural and procedural adjustments pertaining to the said proposals.



Dr Josianne Cutajar commented that *"As management we are looking forward to implement many of the suggestions provided by the EkoSkola students"*. Dr Brian Farrugia, the Deputy Clinical Chairperson, Geriatrics Department, who was EkoSkola's main liaison at St Vincent de Paul, was also impressed by the commitment of the students.



An indigenous tree was planted to commemorate the event and to inaugurate a botanical garden for Maltese flora – Ġnien is-Solidarjetà (Solidarity Garden) – which was put together by a number of experts and students

from four LEAF (Learning about Forests) schools. Dr Brian Farrugia was the mastermind behind the garden project. Awards and educational resources about Maltese indigenous flora were distributed to participating schools.

Present for the celebrations were the Hon. Leo Brincat (Minister for Sustainable Development, the Environment and Climate Change); the Hon. Justyne Caruana (Parliamentary Secretary for Rights of Persons with Disability and Active Ageing); Dr Josianne Cutajar and Dr Brian Farrugia; Vincent Attard (NTM Executive President) and Ira Losco (Goodwill Ambassador for Sustainable Development).

Alter Aqua Success



With great pleasure we would like to announce that the Non-Conventional Water Resources Programme in the Mediterranean was ranked **second place** in the Water Showcase World Final in the 7th World Water Forum, among a very strong competition

from Asian countries. EkoSkola is actively participating in this project by providing resources and teacher training courses related to water issues. For more information contact Ms Marvic Refalo on marvic.refalo@ilearn.edu.mt.

Hawwel Siġra

Nhar il-Ħamis 12 ta' Marzu, 2015 il-klassijiet tal-ħames sena tal-Iskola Primarja tal-Mellieħa ipparteċipaw fiċ-ċerimonja ta' tħawwil ta' ammont ta' siġar taż-żebbuġ quddiem l-istess skola bħala parti mill-pjan t'azzjoni tal-kumitat tal-EkoSkola. Il-Kunsill Lokali tal-Mellieħa stieden lill-istudenti biex ikunu rappreżentanti tal-proġett LEAP.



Is-sindku tal-Mellieħa, is-Sur John Buttigieg flimkien mas-Sur Martin Chetcuti mill-MFSS spjegaw li biex il-Mellieħa tkun aħjar, jeħtieġ ikollna siġar bħal dawn li tħawwilna. L-istudenti tennew li bis-saħħa tas-siġar, l-arja tkun iżjed nadifa u l-ambjent iktar sabiħ u rilassanti. Qalu wkoll li hemm xi siġar li jagħtuna frott bnin u barra minn hekk, meta s-siġar jikbru, joffru post fejn wieħed jista jistkenn mix-xemx tant qawwija li jkollna fl-istaġun tas-Sajf.



Dawn is-siġar taż-żebbuġ, barra li żgur isebbħu l-ambjent ta' quddiem l-iskola, huma wkoll simbolu tal-paċi: paċi fid-dinja, paċi fil-pajjiż, imma b'mod speċjali paċi fil-qalb tagħna. It-tfal qraw xi poeżiji biex juru l-importanza li jkollna siġar li tassew jagħmlulna ħajjitna isbaħ u aħjar.

Din kienet okkażjoni fejn studenti ta' bejn disgħa u għaxar snin, ħadmu flimkien mal-anzjani mid-dar tal-anzjani ġewwa l-Mellieħa biex tħawwlu s-siġar. L-anzjani taw il-pariri tagħhom kif ukoll spjegaw lit-tfal kif kienet il-Mellieħa għexieren ta' snin ilu. It-tfal, kollha kurzitaa, staqsew diversi mistoqsijiet lil dawn l-anzjani.

Preżenti għal din l-okkażjoni, kien hemm ukoll rappreżentanza mill-amministrazzjoni tal-iskola, żewġ għalliema tal-ħames sena, Ms Elizabeth Agius minn EkoSkola, tfal mill-iskola tal-Mellieħa, kif ukoll xi anzjani mid-dar tal-anzjani tal-Mellieħa.



Eco-Schools 20th Anniversary celebrations



As part of the 20th Anniversary celebrations of Eco-Schools and World Days of Action all Eco-Schools around the world were invited to produce a music video for the song "Generation next ... Sustainable is Possible" with the aim to send out the message how Eco-Schools are the way towards sustainable living. Schools were provided with the lyrics and music for the song, but left free to decide how to send the message across.

Eleven EkoSkola schools participated in this competition, making it a point to involve as many students from the school as possible, integrating the production of this video into various lessons and producing props from reused materials. Some schools even recorded their own version of the song.

Each country was requested to present just one video for the



international competition which took place through online voting at the end April. The music video produced by Gozo College, Sannat Primary and Special Unit was chosen to represent Malta in the international competition. The choice was not an easy one since each participating school gave their very best. Here are the links to each music video developed:

- Gozo College, Sannat Primary and Special Unit: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TTFqPyAbTE8&feature=youtu.be>
- Gozo College, Għarb Primary: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8LdkwXtnbjU&feature=youtu.be>
- Gozo College, Rabat Primary: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wALYAMYjME0>
- Maria Regina College, Mellieħa Primary: <https://youtu.be/0tyrc3VTnz8>
- St Benedict College, Helen Keller Resource Centre, Qrendi: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IB29Co4oy_E
- St Benedict College, Żurrieq Primary: <https://youtu.be/Z1mYiyuXf1E>
- St Clare College, San Ġwann Primary B: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uM4AtfV7VBQ&feature=youtu.be>
- St Francis School, Cospicua: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OivbZ3DzxS8&feature=youtu.be>
- St Francis School, Victoria: Short version: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wnMgiqxC-gc&feature=youtu.be>. Long Version: <http://youtu.be/TbqeBrFhM2c>
- St Patrick's Salesian School, Sliema: <http://youtu.be/9DmPEXk4eEE>
- Maria Regina College, Dun Manwel Attard, Young Adult Education Resource Centre, Wardija: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cQcHB-giKQE&feature=youtu.be>

The international choice of videos assigned the 1st place to C.E.I.P. Santa Marina, Spain.

Teaching Resources

Continuing with our list of useful websites ideal for lesson planning and project work related to ESD. This time we would like to share with you two video clips:

(a) Learning to protect biodiversity: provides basic information for schools wishing to explore this theme. Visit: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kHhspf5IfdE>

(b) Kids Speak Out for Dolphins: the clip highlights the main reasons against keeping dolphins captive. View it at: <https://vimeo.com/36356768>

If you would like to contribute to this newsletter please contact Prof Paul Pace, National EkoSkola Co-ordinator, on paul.j.pace@um.edu.mt.

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