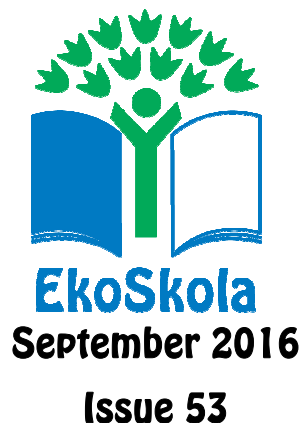


Contents:

- Editorial Note
- Green Flag and LEAF Award Ceremony
- We Eat Responsibly
- YRE Awards
- The 2016 Schools Sustainability Challenge
- *Ġnien il-Ġenerazzjonijiet*
- Meeting the Executive Chairman of Enemalta
- School-Community Link Project Grant Scheme
- European Week for Waste Reduction
- Outdoor Classroom Day
- The Children's Climate Prize
- Teaching Resources



Editorial Note

Welcome to a new scholastic year. We really hope that you had a well-deserved break and that you are now all pepped up for another exciting year of ESD initiatives through EkoSkola and its sister programmes: LEAF and YRE. Over these past few months we have been quite busy working on the feedback we received from several schools on how to improve our service to streamline the integration of ESD with the curriculum. We have also worked to attract more funding for our partner schools. In the coming months we will be communicating these opportunities and improvements a bit at a time ... not to overwhelm you.

Green Flag and LEAF Award Ceremony

On Monday 6th June 2016, students from 47 schools were awarded international awards for their commitment in ensuring a good quality of life in their respective school communities. The ceremony was presided over by Her Excellency, Marie-Louise Coleiro Preca, President of Malta, at the Palace of the President, Valletta. 36 more schools can now proudly fly



the EkoSkola Green Flag on their school buildings. These, and all the other Green Flag schools hold international certification that they are actively integrating ESD in their school community. Moreover, ten schools also received an international recognition for distinguishing themselves in the Learning about Forests programme (LEAF). Fresh from hosting this

year's international LEAF National Operators' meeting, Nature Trust Malta once again, gave due credit to the interesting LEAF projects during this special ceremony.

The following is a list of all awarded schools:

Received the Green Flag for the 6th time	
• St Joseph School, Blata l-Bajda	• St Joseph, Mater Boni Consilii School, Paola
Received the Green Flag for the 5th time	
• San Ġorġ Preca College, Paola Primary A	• St Ignatius College, Siġġiewi Primary
• St Benedict College, Kirkop Primary	
Received the Green Flag for the 4th time	
• St Benedict College, Mqabba Primary	• St Margaret College, Żejtun Primary A
• St Benedict College, Tarxien Girls' Secondary	• St Nicholas College, Baħrija Primary
• St Francis School, Birkirkara	• The Archbishop's Seminary, Rabat
• St Francis School, Sliema	
Received the Green Flag for the 3rd time	
• Maria Regina College, Mosta Girls' Secondary ... also received the 1 st LEAF Award	
• St Benedict College, Qrendi Primary	• St Joseph Junior School, Sliema
• St Benedict College, Safi Primary	• St Joseph Senior School, Sliema
• St Dorothy Senior School	• St Monica School, Gżira
• St Edward's College	• St Therese College, Birkirkara Primary
Received the Green Flag for the 2nd time	
• Dun Manwel Attard, Young Adult Educ. Resource Centre, Wardija ... also received the 2 nd LEAF Award	
• St Francis School, Victoria ... also received the 1 st LEAF Award	
• Gozo College, Sannat Primary & Special Unit	• St Benedict College, Ġħaxaq Primary
• Maria Regina College, Mellieħa Primary	• St Joan Antide School, Gudja
• St Margaret College, Żabbar Primary A	
Received the Green Flag for the 1st time	
• St Aloysius College, Secondary School	• St Elias College
• Gozo College, Secondary School, Victoria	• St Ignatius College, Żebbuġ Primary
• National Sport School	• St Nicholas College, Dingli Primary
• San Ġorġ Preca College, Valletta Primary	• St Therese College, Middle School, Birkirkara
Received the Silver Award	
• San Ġorġ Preca College, Guardian Angel Secondary Education Resource Centre	
• San Ġorġ Preca College, Ħamrun Boys' Secondary	• Thomas More College, Żejtun Secondary
• St Nicholas College, Middle School, Rabat	
Received the 4th LEAF Award	
• St Francis School, Cospicua	• St Michael School, Santa Venera
Received the 3rd LEAF Award	
• St Ignatius College, Ħandaq Middle School	
Received the 2nd LEAF Award	
• St Ignatius College, Luqa Primary	• Gozo College, Rabat Primary
Received the 1st LEAF Award	
• Bishop's Conservatory Secondary School	• Gozo College, Żebbuġ Primary

We Eat Responsibly

Eat REAL food ... not too much ... mostly plant food! This scholastic year is the second year for the EU Project 'We Eat Responsibly' which Nature Trust Malta, through the EkoSkola programme, has embarked upon. The project focuses on Responsible Food Consumption and is an action-oriented global learning programme for 2015 and beyond. Through the actions in their schools and their communities, 38 schools/institutions from Malta and Gozo will be participating in this year's edition. Sub-themes that will be covered include overconsumption, food waste, local food and seasonality, processed food and palm oil, reducing meat consumption and food diversity. If you are interested in the project and would like to know more about the impact of your food choices, visit the website at <http://www.ekoskola.org.mt/partners/we-eat-responsibly-nieklu-bresponsabbilta/> or follow us on facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/nieklubresponsabbilta>. For more information please contact the Project Coordinator on cynthia.caruana.2@ilearn.edu.mt. This project is funded by the European Union.



YRE Awards

The YRE awards ceremony was held on the 3rd June 2016 at Maria Regina College, Mosta Secondary. A total of 127 projects, conducted by 184 students, were awarded certificates and prizes presented by the local sponsors. The two international winners were also announced on the day – 2nd place for 2 photos. Present for the occasion were representatives from WasteServ, HSBC Water Programme, We Eat Responsibly and the Parliamentary Secretary for Rights of Persons with Disability and Active Aging. Of particular highlight was the online presence of Dr Roberta Metsola, MEP, who will be sponsoring students and teachers to visit the EU Parliament and interview MEPs. EDIC Gozo held their own award ceremony, including YRE awards, on the 5th May 2016 at the Gozo Sports Complex, Victoria.



The 2016 Schools Sustainability Challenge

St Benedict College, Qrendi Primary School was shortlisted for the International Environmental TSL 2016 Schools Sustainability Challenge. It has been shortlisted as one



of the 10 finalists in recognition of its efforts through HSBC's, 'Catch the Drop' initiatives, in which the school narrates how rainwater is collected from the school's rooftops and used in the school's garden irrigation, as part of its environmental duties and obligations. The Schools Sustainability Challenge recognises and rewards the sustainability action and leadership of schools around the world. The winning school is awarded the Schools Sustainability Challenge Trophy,

together with a cash prize of £500. A summary of the project can be seen on: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GvS9eMfluek#t=12>.

Ġnien il-Ġenerazzjonijiet at St Vincent de Paul Residence

As part of the European Day of Intergenerational Solidarity celebrations, on 29th April 2016, Hon Dr Justyne Caruana (Parliamentary Secretary for Rights of Persons with Disability and Active Aging) inaugurated a botanical garden at the St Vincent de Paul Residence. Hon Caruana pointed out that this project is a living example how the environment can be improved through the collective and collaborative effort of the active citizenry of young and the elderly. Intergenerational solidarity is at the heart of a better quality of life. She also thanked the students, the Residence's staff, the artists, EkoSkola and Dinja Waħda for their part in the project.



As part of the inauguration ceremony, the Residence's administration reported on the actions taken to improve the sustainability at the St Vincent de Paul based on the feedback given by EkoSkola students during the audit they did of the premises on 19th February 2015. The innovations included: renovation of the wards based on water and energy saving practices; providing open spaces for relaxation; adopting a paperless policy; waste separation practices; and the use of cleaner fuels.



Meeting the Executive Chairman of Enemalta

As part of its preparation for the EkoSkola 6th Young People's Summit on Climate Change, the EkoSkola Committee of Maria Regina College, Mellieħa Primary School invited Eng. Fredrick Azzopardi (Executive Chairman, Enemalta plc.) to share his experience with them. He explained the reasons why climate change has increased drastically in these past decades and focused on the environmental impact of electricity generation. He also discussed measures which help control climate change such as generating electricity through cleaner sources and encouraging more families and businesses to adopt renewable energy systems such as solar panels. He also stressed the importance of not wasting electricity by turning off lights, computers and other electrical devices when they are not being used. Students were well prepared with challenging questions which Mr Azzopardi was glad to answer. The students then viewed videos about climate change and how it can be prevented.



You might find these interesting

Being the main ESD school network in Malta, EkoSkola receives a lot of requests from local and foreign organisations to circulate, among our member schools, information about initiatives that they are organising. This section of our newsletter is specifically dedicated to this information. Feel free to participate in any of these activities. **However**, kindly keep in mind that participation in these activities is not compulsory nor is it a requirement for your efforts to achieve the Green Flag. If you decide to include it under the EkoSkola programme, include it in your Action Plan as part of your strategy to address the issues identified in your Environmental Review ... **not** as a standalone.

(a) School-Community Link Project Grant Scheme: Promoting a zero-waste society



Your school will soon receive an application and information about a School-Community Link Project Grant Scheme jointly offered by Nature Trust Malta and WasteServ Malta Limited. The

scheme, called Promoting a zero-waste society, is intended to financially support schools wishing to initiate community-based projects aimed at reducing waste ... especially organic waste. Interested schools should fill in and send the application by not later than the **4th November 2016**. All applications will be evaluated by a jury. Ten proposals will be selected – each receiving a grant of €500 maximum. Preference will be given to projects focusing on reducing organic waste. More information is available on the memo that your school will be receiving shortly.

(b) European Week for Waste Reduction

For the 7th consecutive year, Malta is participating in the **European Week for Waste Reduction** - the 19th and 27th November. The theme for 2016 is **Packaging Waste**.

To participate develop waste reduction actions that address as wide an audience as possible. When planning your actions please ensure that what you are doing is not



inadvertently generating more waste! Try to go beyond simply organising one-off clean-ups and invest in generating awareness and responsibility.

To register you need to complete a free online registration form accessible on www.ewwr.eu/en/register. You will need to include clear details of what you are going to organize or how you are

going to promote your efforts **during the scheduled week**. Registrations open in **September 2016**. These are the prizes:

- **Best action related to reduce and reuse concepts in schools:** Grant of **€1000** for investment in school resources of benefit to the environment
- **Best recycling action amongst all participating entities:** Cash prize of **€1000**
- **Best clean-up action amongst all participating entities:** Cash prize of **€1000**

The same action may be competing with other European actions during the **European Waste Reduction Awards!**

For more information, ideas and support can be found on Wastserve's website www.wasteservmalta.com/ewwr as well as the official website www.ewwr.eu. You may also contact them on freephone 80072200 or through email on ewwr.ws@wasteservmalta.com.

(c) Outdoor Classroom Day

Anyone who has seen the effect of taking children outdoors to learn and play knows how powerful such experiences can be. Play is essential for children's healthy development, which means it is an essential part of every day. Learning outdoors, or 'learning by doing', creates lasting memories, helps build a greater awareness of the environment, provides more opportunities to think independently, and gets children feeling challenged and excited by learning.



The aim of the Outdoor Classroom Day is to get as many children as possible outside on **Thursday 6th October** for at least one lesson in the school day. All the material needed is readily available. All you need to do is (i) Sign up for the event here: www.outdoorclassroomday.com/#get-involved; and (ii) Use any of the free lesson ideas to plan your Outdoor Classroom Day on 6th October: <https://outdoorclassroomday.com/resources/lesson-ideas/>. For more information and support contact Ms Melanie Vella on melanie@projectdirt.com.

(d) The Children's Climate Prize

The Nobel Prize is a very prestigious award that is annually awarded to grown-ups who have achieved important contributions or advances in the areas of physics, chemistry, physiology or medicine, literature and peace. The Children's Climate Prize is an award given to a child or group of children, aged 10-16, for exceptional work in the field of climate or environment. The winner will receive a medal, a diploma and 50,000 SEK (circa €5,400). The award ceremony takes place on 24th November 2016 – the anniversary of the 2015 Children's Climate Conference held in Södertälje, Sweden. During the conference, children from all over the world joined forces to put pressure on the world leaders ahead of the climate summit in Paris, COP21.



Feel free to nominate students that you feel deserve this award. The nomination process has already started and will close on 22nd October 2016. More information can be obtained from Jonna Holmgren on jonna@luxpr.se or by visiting the website: <http://childrensclimateprize.org/>.

Teaching Resources

Continuing with our list of useful websites ideal for lesson planning and project work related to ESD.

(a) Rats to the rescue: Rats? Yukk!! This is a common reaction when one hears about rats. But not anymore. Did you know that rats are trained to detect land mines in war stricken areas? Not only that ... but they are used to diagnose tuberculosis. See how these incredible animals are trained and the positive results of this innovative project by visiting <https://www.apopo.org/en/>. □



(b) Nourish: This website is a treasure trove of educational resources about food. The site provides videos and advice on how to integrate food in the curriculum. Nourish is an educational initiative designed to open a meaningful conversation about food and sustainability, particularly in schools and communities. Nourish is a program of WorldLink, a nonprofit organization with twenty-two years experience in designing education and outreach programs. Access the website on <http://www.nourishlife.org/>.

The following entities support EkoSkola



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.