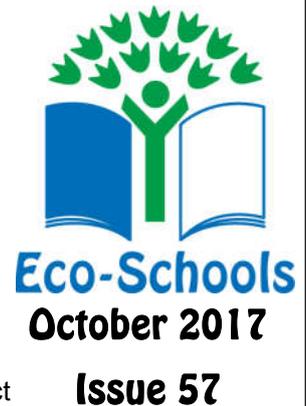


If you need to print this newsletter, please use both sides of recycled paper

Contents:

- Editorial Note
- New Heights!
- Membership renewal
- FEE Global Action Days 2017
- Eco-Schools' 8th Young People's Summit
- We Eat Responsibly
- European Week for Waste Reduction
- Action Planet
- Polar Bear competition
- Aquifer Recharge: a School-Community Outreach Project
- Teaching Resources



Editorial Note

Welcome to another edition of our newsletter – the first for this scholastic year. We hope that you had a good start and that by now you have settled in and started working on your Action Plans. Over the past few days we were rather busy finalising details about projects and initiatives that we will be proposing in the coming months. As always, our aim is to provide you (and your students) with state-of-the-art opportunities for a holistic education through ESD.

New heights!

On 6th September 2009 we managed to take the Green Flag up on the Kilimanjaro (see Issue 26 of the Newsletter). In April 2017 we managed to take the Green Flag to even greater heights! The Green Flag has reached Mount Everest ... or more precisely the Everest Base camp (at 5,380m) and later the Imja Tse (also known as Island peak) which stands at 6,189m.



This achievement was possible thanks to Antoine Busuttill who kindly agreed to take a mini Green Flag with him on his expedition. Mr Busuttill is the brother of one of our EkoSkola teachers – Ms Audrey Gauci who is also the YRE Co-ordinator.

Membership renewal

You are kindly requested to renew your membership for this scholastic year. Getting your membership sorted out as early as possible, ensures an update of your school's (and link persons') contact details. Make sure not to miss out on any of our ESD initiatives. The application is available from:

<https://www.ekoskola.org.mt/uploads/2017/10/FEE-programmes-Application-SDGs-Sep2017.pdf>

Those who have already registered have noticed that there is a new feature in this year's application. You are being asked to identify and tick the relevant SDGs that you intend to target in your Action Plans. Feel free to contact your respective EkoSkola Teacher who is specifically qualified to assist you in matters related to ESD.

The image shows two documents. On the left is the 'FEE Malta Programmes - Application Form'. It includes fields for school name, level, contact details, and checkboxes for various SDGs (1-17) that the school intends to target. On the right is a poster titled 'Linking your Action Plan with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)'. It features the 17 SDG icons and a checklist for each, asking if the school's action plan includes that goal.

FEE Global Action Days 2017

The Foundation for Environmental Education (FEE) is one of the largest international networks dealing with ESD and EE. Its outstanding activities are helping to change the world by educating and improving knowledge and behaviour about environmental and sustainability issues. FEE is therefore inviting everyone around the world to participate in promoting their work through our Global Action Days: a week-long showcasing of the amazing work carried out by FEE members which will culminate in Global Action Days which will take place during the week of **6th-12th November 2017**.



On **10th November 2017**, FEE Head Office personnel will spend the whole day working on our social media platforms sharing and promoting all of the positive actions you have organised, promoted and participated in **throughout this last year**. In this way we will achieve the recognition on the international stage that these actions are so worthy of.

This is an opportunity for our network to share examples of good practice and learn from each other. The success of this event will depend on you sharing stories, posts and images. So please be active and share your best!

Anyone is welcome to participate: students, parents, communities and NGOs, both inside and outside the FEE network, are all invited to join in this event. To participate simply register online, plan your action, document it by taking pictures, making a video, or writing an article, join FEE's Facebook Global Action Days group, share your action ... and inspire the rest of the world! For more information and to register please visit www.fee.global/global-action-days or contact Amalia Speleta on amalia@fee.global or your respective EkoSkola teacher.



Eco-Schools' 8th Young People's Summit



Braving a raging thunderstorm and 26km/h winds, 86 students from 19 different schools (including one from Gozo!) came together on the 4th October 2017 at Fort St Angelo, Vittoriosa for the 8th Edition of the Eco-Schools' Young People's Summit with the theme: Caring for our Seas.

This year's Summit preceded two important conferences about the sea: Our Ocean (5th-6th October) and the European Marine Science Educators Association (EMSEA) Conference (7th-10th October). Preparation for the Summit

started early with EkoSkola Committees from various schools conducting discussions before and after the summer holidays. Some students even conducted investigations about issues related to the sea suggested by our team of EkoSkola teachers.



During the Summit, students shared their views and made recommendations about the following aspects: Climate change; Protection of marine life; Marine litter; and Promoting wellbeing of communities – particularly those whose life is intimately related to the sea. As in previous years these recommendations and concerns were collated into the following declaration that was approved by the Summit's attendees:

Caring for our Seas

Eco-Schools' 8th Young People's Summit Declaration

We, the students of Eco-Schools, as responsible citizens of Malta, Europe and the world...

- are aware that the quality of life on our planet depends on our oceans;
- feel that our seas need to be protected and managed with care;
- are worried that there is a lot of talk about the protection of our seas, but very little effective action;
- are worried that certain decisions taken by adults are not protecting our seas effectively;
- would like to have a say in the decisions taken about our future and the future of our seas; and
- would like to present our ideas about how we can safeguard our seas.

We feel that Climate Change can be controlled by:

- reducing land-based CO₂ production by:
 - encouraging practices such as carpooling and the frequent use of public transport;
 - increasing the use of bicycles and electric cars;
 - encouraging the consumption of local produce to avoid food miles;
 - encouraging the consumption of local fresh fruit/vegetables to avoid unnecessary food processing, and
 - planting more trees.
- provide incentives that encourage the use of electric boats and environmentally friendly vehicles to reduce emissions;
- use the sea water turned at high speed by sea vehicles to create electricity;
- reduce the use of plastic bottles by installing water fountains in schools and public places; and
- develop and enforce a national strategy aimed at reducing emissions that cause climate change.

We feel that Marine Life and the communities depending on it can be protected by:

- developing and supporting a Commission made up of stakeholders and experts who will monitor and protect the health of our oceans. This Commission should also be funded to carry out research and innovation in this area;
- supporting small local fishing communities by:
 - encouraging the consumption of more varieties of fish (and sea food) to reduce the importation of fish;
 - controlling prices of fish (especially imported stock) to promote the consumption of locally caught fish;
- enforcing fishing quota, especially on industrial fishing, to protect endangered marine species;
- effectively stop the use of fishing methods that produce a lot of bycatch;
- encouraging fisherfolk to use long line fishing by introducing incentives, training programmes and providing grants to buy the related equipment;
- preventing oil spills by introducing safer procedures for fuel transportation when marine fuel stations and bowsers supply fuel to tankers;
- effectively stopping the killing of turtles, seals, sharks, whales and dolphins;
- developing schemes that train and encourage young fisherfolk to take up sustainable fishing as a full time job; and
- ensuring that nets have their owner's mark. If the nets are lost or cut, owners would have to report their location so that divers can go and collect the nets. Enforcing this practice through inspections and heavy fines for offenders would help reduce ghost fishing.

We feel that Marine Litter can be controlled by:

- obliging cigarette companies to use biodegradable cigarette filters and to include a note about the responsible disposal of cigarette filters on the packet;
- truly banishing the plastic bag and other plastic items (e.g. straws and cutlery) that can easily be replaced by biodegradable materials
- banning the release of helium balloons and paper lanterns because of the threat they pose to marine (and land) life once they fall back from the sky;

- heavily fining or sentencing to community services or suspending the boat license of persons caught discharging waste, sewage and other waste water directly into the sea or in areas close to the sea;
- closely monitoring fish farms re waste they produce that has a negative impact on sea life and swimmers. Repeat offenders should have their operating license suspended;
- siting of fish farms away from bathing zones;
- organizing regular clean ups of the sea;
- involving the cleansing department and local councils to identify strategic points around the coast where to:
 - install more waste bins. These bins should be covered to prevent waste from being blown into the sea;
 - install collection points for the disposal of oil when doing boat maintenance. Also develop a log book to check that oils are dumped appropriately and in a controlled manner; and
 - set up designated barbeque zones.
- having a task force of people that go around beaches and talk to bathers about proper waste disposal;
- monitoring groups who use the coast for parties and barbeques to ensure proper waste disposal; and
- developing an eco-label for cruise liners that promotes sustainable practices of sea travel and waste management (particularly of food waste).

We feel that to implement all these ideas we need to have:

- country leaders who show goodwill that goes beyond the boundaries of their country;
- educational campaigns for all the citizens about the care of the seas and its impact on our quality of life;
- the inclusion of marine education in school curricula; and
- the promotion and funding of research on finding truly sustainable technologies and practices.

As is customary, the declaration was compiled as part of Nature Trust – FEE Malta’s policy of promoting the voice of young people in decision making fora. A copy of the declaration was forwarded to Madame Federica Mogherini, High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs & Security Policy and Vice-President of the European Commission, by the journalist Ms Vanya Walker-Leigh during the Our Ocean Conference. The declaration also ended up in the conference’s website: <https://ourocean2017.org/other-press-releases>.

On the 4th October, students from St Nicholas College, Rabat Primary School read the declaration during a public meeting entitled: *Laudato Si` : Interfaith and Secular Perspectives on Care for Creation* organised by the Interdiocesan Environment Commission and Nature Trust – FEE Malta as part of the activities marking the Season of Creation 2017.



The declaration was furthermore presented by students from St Augustine’s College on the 10th October during the EMSEA Conference. The students also answered several questions about the Summit and the actions they take as part of the EkoSkola programme. At the end of the session, the students got a standing ovation by the delegates, mostly involved in Marine Education, who were intrigued by the initiative and the students’ commitment.

These events were also reported in the media:

https://www.um.edu.mt/newspoint/news/features/2017/10/5themseaoceanliteracyconferenceheldatthevallettacampus?utm_source=update&utm_campaign=update&utm_medium=email&utm_content=other

<https://www.timesofmalta.com/articles/view/20171015/education/Eco-Schools-students-voice-concerns-about-marine-related-issues.660493>

Schools participating in the Young People’s Summit:



Bishop’s Conservatory Secondary School, Gozo
 Maria Regina College, St Paul’s Bay Primary School
 St Augustine College, Pietà
 St Benedict College, Żurrieq Primary School
 St Clare College, San Ġwann Primary School
 St Elias College, Santa Venera
 St Ġorġ Preca College, Floriana Primary School
 St Ġorġ Preca College, Ħamrun - Ġużè Pace Primary School
 St Ġorġ Preca College, Ħamrun Secondary School
 St Ġorġ Preca College, Marsa Primary School

St Ġorġ Preca College, Paola Primary School A
 St Ignatius College, Luqa Primary School
 St Joseph, Mater Boni Consilii School, Paola
 St Margaret College, Cospicua Primary School
 St Nicholas College, Rabat Middle School
 St Nicholas College, Rabat Primary School
 St Patrick’s School, Sliema
 St Theresa College, Lija-Balzan-Iklin Primary School
 St Thomas More College, Santa Lucija Secondary School



We Eat Responsibly

To celebrate World Food Day, a train-the-trainer session was organised on the 16th October, 2017 at Il-Majjistral Nature and History Park. 27 educators were engaged in a series of workshops to stimulate discussions and exchange good practices. Participants also had the opportunity to understand better the targets of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals and how their respective projects will be tangible opportunities to work towards these targets. The highlight of the training session was definitely the visit to a local organic farm where, besides tasting local produce, the participants learned more about the various challenges involved in running such a farm.



For more information contact cynthia.caruana.2@ilearn.edu.mt or visit our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/nieklubresponsabbilta>.

European Week for Waste Reduction



For the 8th consecutive year, Malta is participating in the European Week for Waste Reduction (EWWR) between the 18th and 26th of November. This year's theme is: **All it needs is a fresh new look!** You are invited to come up with waste reduction ideas, i.e. giving a second life to products destined to enter the waste stream. You may also analyse what initiatives your school is taking to promote waste management. A high participation of EkoSkola schools has always been a regular feature of this initiative.

To register, access the free online registration form at www.ewwr.eu/en/register. Your application should include clear details of what you are going to organize or how you are going to promote your efforts during the scheduled week. The more innovative the action is and the wider the audience reached the better chance to win €1000!

By now, your school has received notification of this initiative. However, if you need further information, have queries about the initiative or want to discuss ideas and tips you can either phone on 80072200, send an email to ewwr.ws@wasteservmalta.com or access the official website at www.ewwr.eu.

Action Planet

Nature Trust - FEE Malta is proud to collaborate on Action Planet – a student led initiative that encourages and empowers children and young adults to take an active role in safeguarding the environment for present and future generations. Students will work alongside NGOs and organisations that are proactively engaged in finding solutions to make Malta and the planet more sustainable. Through experiential, hands-on learning they will be inspired to make informed decisions about subjects such as waste management and sustainability.

Schools are invited to join in as many or as few initiatives as they would like from clean ups, field trips (featured on the Action Planet website which will be constantly updated), in-class activities, YRE - Young Reporters for the Environment research projects and a visit to our exhibition and accompanying workshops. The initiative will culminate during a month long exhibition at St James Cavalier from 16th February - 18th March 2018, forming part of the Spazju Kreattiv season programme. The exhibition is endorsed by

Valletta 2018 - European City of Culture. Action Planet's collaborators include: the Ministry for Education and Employment; Spazju Kreattiv; MCAST; University of Malta; Nature Trust - FEE Malta along with its programmes – Eco-Schools (EkoSkola), YRE (Young Reporters for the Environment), LEAF (Learning about Forests), We Eat Responsibly, Litter Less, Blue Flag, and Green Key; Wasteserv; BirdLife Malta; Friends of the Earth; Kopin; Koperattiva Kummerç Ġust; the US Embassy and many more.



If your school would like to get involved, download the school brochure from: <https://actionplanet.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/Action-Planet-Schools-brochure.pdf> and check out the regularly updated website for workshops and classroom activities: www.actionplanet.org.

Polar Bear competition

Project Polar Bear is an international competition among student groups who are taking action to fight climate change. With the guidance of an advisor, groups compete by creating a plan for a project that will help reduce reliance on fossil fuels and engage their communities. This can be a plan for a new project, or a proposal to continue an existing project. Students and advisors will track their progress throughout the competition through photos, research, and on social media. The culmination of the project is a formal proposal to the judging team. The top three high-scoring teams will receive a grant of \$1,000, \$750, and \$300 respectively. For more information, details about the rules and registration visit: <https://polarbearsinternational.org/get-involved/polar-bear-contest/>. Registration is open till 25th November.



Aquifer Recharge: a School - Community Outreach Project



This project, funded by HSBC Catch the Drop Campaign, will help in the recharge of the water table by collecting the rainwater falling on the school's roof, filtering it and subsequently dispersing it in the ground. With this project, Mater Boni Consilii, St Joseph School, Paola, has not just reached the local community by reducing flooding, but is also helping to preserve a national resource. The whole project was made

possible with the active participation of the EkoSkola and LEAF committees as well as with the help of members of staff and maintenance. Engineer Marco Cremona from Sustech Consulting co-ordinated the project.



The school community has always been concerned about water in the Maltese Islands, in fact this is also the 3rd and final year of the EDAAV project, also funded by HSBC Catch the Drop Campaign, that engaged local and foreign artists, teachers, and students in a creative process while raising awareness of the importance of water in the Maltese Islands.

The inauguration ceremony (held on the 19th October) started off with the first EDAAV session for this scholastic year, where Mr Sebastien Cailleux and Mr Luca Cauchi helped the students use the water-colour technique to express their feelings and views about issues concerning water. Ms Marine de Bazelaire (Head of Sustainability for HSBC Continental Europe), Mr Glenn Bugeja (HSBC Corporate Manager for Sustainability Malta) and Ms Astrid Micallef Saliba joined in the painting session.



In the inauguration speech, Dr Kenneth Vella (the school's Head Teacher) thanked HSBC Bank for their continuous support and detailed the various sustainability projects undertaken by the school in recent years. Ms de Bazelaire unveiled a commemorative plaque that was blessed by Fr Dominic Mangani, the school's spiritual director. □ □

Teaching Resources

More useful websites ideas for ESD related lesson planning and project work.

(a) GRID-Arendal: Collaborating with UNEP, GRID-Arendal's mission is to create environmental knowledge that encourages positive change. They transform environmental data into credible, science-based information products, delivered through innovative communication tools and capacity building services. Visit them on <http://www.grida.no/>.

(b) Poodwaddle World Clock: This website provides global statistical data about various aspects related to population, health, the Earth, Civilization and World Regions. Get the information you need from: <http://www.poodwaddle.com/worldclock/>



Key Partner
UNESCO Global Action Programme on
Education for Sustainable Development

MINISTRY FOR EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT



MINISTRY FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT,
THE ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE



MINISTRY FOR GOZO



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.