







# Greening the Future: Workshop Toolkit for Eco Youth Clubs

A practical guide for environmental initiatives grounded in nonformal education, implemented in schools in Gorj and developed through the Erasmus+ project.

#### **About this booklet**

This brochure was created as part of the Erasmus+ project "Greening the Future" to serve as a practical resource for youth workers, educators, and student leaders seeking to engage in environmental activities through non-formal education methods.

It comprises a compilation of workshops and interactive techniques that were trialed during the project in the schools of Godinești, Tismana, and Peștișani.















### Principles of non-formal education for environmental activities

#### **Engaged involvement**

Engaging young individuals throughout all phases, from planning to execution, while fostering a sense of responsibility.

#### Sanctuary

Fostering a trusting environment in which participants can express ideas and opinions without fear of judgment.

#### **Experiential learning**

Facilitating engaging and interactive activities that enable young individuals to explore concepts through hands-on experience.

#### **Critical analysis**

Promoting personal reflection on lived experiences and linking them to future actions.

### Icebreaker – "Eco Bingo"

#### **Objective**

To facilitate participants in becoming acquainted with one another and to encourage reflection on their individual environmental practices.

**DuRATion** 

20-30 minute

**Material** 

Printed bingo cards, pens







Method

## Workshop – "My Environmental Impact"



Co-funded by the European Union

#### **Concept presentation**

The facilitator elucidates the concept of the ecological footprint and examines how our daily choices impact the environment.

#### **Completing the questionnaire**

Participants fill out a streamlined questionnaire regarding their lifestyle, encompassing transportation, nutrition, energy consumption, and waste management.

#### Small group dialogues

Young individuals engage in discussions regarding the outcomes and pinpoint areas where they can implement feasible changes.

Duration: 45 minutes | Materials: Surveys, markers, flip chart

#### **Personal obligations**

Each participant records 2-3 specific changes that they can incorporate into their daily routine.





## Atelier – "Eco Mythbusters"

#### **Objective**

Challenging misconceptions regarding sustainability and fostering critical analysis of environmental information.

#### **Method**

The facilitator presents a compilation of myths and facts regarding the environment.

Participants position themselves based on their agreement or disagreement with each statement, followed by a discussion of the arguments. The facilitator elucidates the truth through detailed explanations.







## Workshop – "Art from Recycled Materials"

#### **Objective**

Enhancing awareness of the waste issue and advocating for the innovative repurposing of recyclable materials.

#### Method

Participants gather or collect recyclable materials (corks, cardboard, textiles). In teams, they craft artistic or functional objects. At the conclusion, a mini-exhibition is held.

#### **Material**

Clean waste (PETs, cardboard boxes, corks, old newspapers), adhesive, scissors, colors, twine

#### **DuRATion**

60–90 minutes, inclusive of arranging the mini-exhibitic





## Outdoor Activity – "Cleanup Challenge"

#### **Objective**

Engaging youth in direct environmental initiatives and fostering awareness of the waste issue within the community.

#### Method

- 1. Groups are provided with gloves and bags to clean a nearby area.
- 1. Waste is sorted for recycling whenever feasible.
- 1. Examining the various categories of waste and strategies for their prevention







## Debate – "Sustainable Solutions for Our School"



## Co-funded by the European Union

#### **Training**

Student teams investigate environmental issues specific to their schools and propose potential solutions.

#### Strategic plan

Concrete measures are being formulated to execute successful solutions.



Duration: 60 minutes plus preparation | Materials: Flip chart, sheets, markers

#### **Presentation**

Each team presents its proposal for a sustainable solution (green corners, selective collection, reduction of consumption).

#### **Debate**

Teams engage in discussions, pose inquiries, and address challenges pertaining to their proposals.

#### Vote

Participants cast their votes for the most viable and impactful solutions

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## Reflection – "Correspondence to My Future Self"



#### **Objective**

Fostering enduring personal dedication to environmental conservation.

#### Method

Participants compose a letter to themselves outlining their aspirations and objectives for a sustainable future. These letters may be retained and revisited after six months or one year.

#### **Reflection inquiries**

- What ecological modifications do you aspire to implement in your life?
- What is your vision for your community over the next five years?
- What do you intend to learn regarding environmental protection?

Duration: 30 minutes | Materials: Paper, envelopes, and pens

## Interactive game – "Planet Court"





1

#### **Role allocation**

Participants are assigned roles: judges, environmental advocates, defenders of the polluter, witnesses, and the accused (company or polluting conduct).

2

#### Formulating arguments

Each group formulates their plea, assembling evidence and constructing logical arguments to support their position.

3

#### The procedure

A mock trial is conducted, featuring witness examination, presentation of evidence, and concluding arguments.

4

#### **Decision and contemplation**

The judges render a decision, subsequently engaging in a discussion regarding the intricacies of environmental liability and viable solutions.

Duration: 90 minutes | Materials: Role sheets, props, symbolic mallet







#### **Objective**

The creative articulation of youth's vision for a sustainable future.

#### Method

Utilizing vintage magazines, illustrations, and keywords, participants construct visual panels that embody their envisioned world. These creations may be exhibited within the school or presented to the broader community.

#### **Variations**

- Individual versus collective panels
- Thematic panels (energy, biodiversity, etc.)
- "Before and after" displays for the community

## Visual Expression – "Emerald Vision Board"





## Awareness Campaign – "Messages for the Planet"





#### **Objective**

Cultivating communication and advocacy competencies for environmental initiatives. Method

- 1. Participants recognize a local environmental issue.
- 1. Investigate pertinent data and statistics.
- 1. Craft innovative and engaging communications.
- 1. Develop materials (posters, brief videos, social media content)
- 1. Execute a mini-campaign within your school or community.

Duration: Two to three sessions, each lasting 60 minutes | Materials: Art supplies, internet access for research

## Role Play – "Climate Conference"



#### **Role allocation**

Participants are assigned roles as representatives of various countries, environmental NGOs, corporations, and scientists, along with sheets containing specific information.



#### **Documentation**

Each "delegation" investigates the stance and interests of the entity it represents concerning climate change.



#### negotiations

The groups are engaged in negotiations to achieve an agreement aimed at reducing carbon emissions and addressing additional environmental concerns.



#### **Debriefing**

Discussion regarding the challenges of genuine climate negotiations, compromises, and insights gained.

Duration: 120 minutes | Materials: Role sheets, table markers, chalk/tape for area demarcation



## Workshop – "Vertical Garden"

#### **Objective**

Acquiring the principles of urban agriculture and revitalizing educational environments.

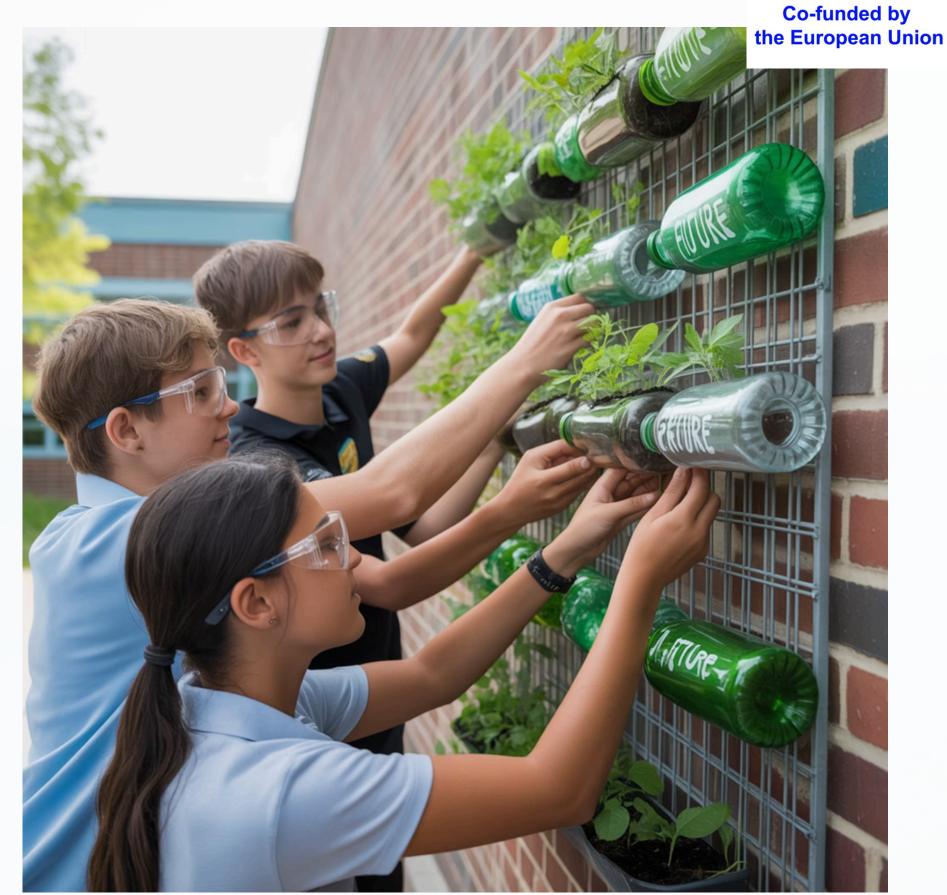
#### Method

Participants construct a vertical garden utilizing recycled materials such as PETs and pallets, while acquiring knowledge about appropriate plants and maintenance techniques. The garden can be sustained over the long term as part of an eco-club initiative. Duration: Two sessions of ninety minutes | Materials: PETs/recycled containers, compost, seeds, gardening tools









## Facilitation strategies for environmental education





#### **Compelling inquiries**

Utilize open-ended questions that encourage critical thinking: "What aspects of this activity surprised you?", "In what ways could you apply the knowledge you gained?"

#### **Collaborating in diverse teams**

Vary the composition of groups to expose participants to diverse perspectives and prevent the formation of opinion "bubbles."

#### **Space for feelings**

Facilitate the expression of emotions associated with the climate crisis, such as anxiety, anger, or hope, within a secure environment.

#### **Equilibrium between challenges and resolutions**

Present environmental challenges alongside tangible actions and success stories to mitigate feelings of helplessness.







### Sustained initiatives for environmental









#### **Community horticulture**

Establishing a school garden dedicated to vegetables and native plants, which will be consistently maintained by club members.

#### **School Energy Audit**

Monitoring and mitigating energy consumption through regular assessments and awareness initiatives.

## Rainwater harvesting system

Installing a straightforward rainwater harvesting system for irrigating the school garden.

#### Monthly exchange exhibition

Facilitating regular events for the exchange of books, clothing, and items to encourage reuse.



#### Final Recommendations for Facilitators

#### Adjust to context

Tailor workshops to accommodate the age of participants, available time, and regional characteristics.

#### **Foster initiative**

Empower young individuals to spearhead activities and develop their own project concepts.

#### **Engage the community**

Engage eco-club initiatives with local partners, such as city hall, NGOs, and local businesses, to enhance impact.











This brochure is a component of the Erasmus+ project "Greening the Future" and is provided at no cost for educational purposes.

This document does not reflect the official stance of the partner or funding institutions involved in the project; the Eco Challenge Association assumes full responsibility for the content.

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### **Contact and Resources**

