



Environment and Volunteering

A seven-day Training Course on the importance of our daily habits as a basis for a better environment in the context of the Youth in Action Programme.

Youth in Action Program enables young people to go abroad, to meet peers from different countries with different social and cultural backgrounds and to learn from each other through an active participation in joint activities of common interest. Youth in Action Program allows young people to experience Europe and so to feel more European citizens.

Our planet today is at risk! A variety of environmental problems now affect our entire world. As globalization continues and the earth's natural processes transform local problems into international issues, few societies are being left untouched by major environmental problems. Atmospheric pollution, the "Green House" effect, reduction of flora and fauna, increase of litter, are some of the issues that affect the environment; hence our lives.

Project Summary

NGO AENAO implemented in Thessaloniki from 20 to 26 April 2012 the project "Environment and volunteering" in the frame of the Youth in Action (sub-action 3.1.2) program. It was addressed to 39 youths from Croatia, Hungary, Turkey, Estonia, Latvia, Bulgaria, France, Greece, Armenia and Belarus, from different economical, social and cultural backgrounds.

The project aimed to raise awareness on environmental topics and the protection of our planet. In addition, it inspired the sense of volunteerism, a true value that is required in order to change our way of living and make it better.



Methodology

The TC was based on non- formal education and particular emphasis was given on the learning by participation methodology and experiential learning, through innovative methods such as team work, role- playing, brainstorming etc. The implemented activities included topics such as 3R, climate change, sustainability, water management. Furthermore, activities in nature assisted to increase the awareness on volunteering to protect the environment. The project was expected to assist individuals to develop their skills by experiencing activities in a safe and friendly atmosphere. The specific project emphasized on the individualized needs of the participants and encouraged them to share their experiences, in an attempt to familiarize them with concepts such as volunteerism, acceptance of cultural diversity and equal opportunities for personal development.

The learning objectives

At the end of the seminar the participants managed to:

- Increase knowledge on the environmental topics
- Raise awareness on volunteering
- Build on personal skills and modify attitudes on volunteerism and environmental protection
- Suggest and adopt techniques to protect environment
- Exchange experience and know – how
- Co –formulate innovative strategies and utilize them in the local communities
- Encourage partnership among the participating countries

The overall outcome was achieved from the participants because they managed to transfer on their own turn the new skills in their daily life and act as multipliers in the broad community.