

# **Green Environment Education European Network**

"Climate change education is about helping learners understand and address the impacts of global warming today, while at the same time encouraging the change in attitudes and behaviour needed to put our world on a more sustainable path in the future". (UNESCO and Climate Exchange Education, Mr. Koïchiro Matsuura, Director-General, 2009).

Climate change represents one of the greatest environmental, social and economic threats facing the planet. Needless to mention that it has been on the world policy's agenda for decades and that numerous countries have developed their strategies and approaches to raise awareness for the issue and to initiate actions for mitigating and adapting to the effects. Today's teenagers are likely to experience the effects of climate change much more than we do today – and they will be forced to address the issue and need to learn to live sustainably in order to counteract climate change and subsequent environmental problems.

Schools can play a central role in providing young people with information and knowledge to help them understand climate change as early as possible. This will help them deal not only with the immediate challenges, but also with the longer term ones. Schools can assist their students with making more conscious consumer choices in terms of developing new attitudes towards what is appropriate and what is not. Moreover, schools have a key role in supporting young people to make career choices, for some businesses will grow considerably while others will decline.

GREEEN is a 3-year project funded by the Lifelong Learning Programme COMENIUS that seeks to promote the effective integration of climate change education into educational programmes and school curricula (climate literacy), on the one hand, and to promote creativity in science education, making science education more tangible, innovative and attractive to the youngest generation through a centrally important issue.

GREEEN builds on the methodology successfully experienced in the previous EU-funded projects JEM! (Joint Environmental Management) that implemented a comprehensive environmental management system according to EMAS, Eco-Management and Audit Scheme, and CLIMES (Climate-friendly Management in European Schools) that implemented a climate-friendly management system in European schools based on a blended learning concept.



## **Major objectives of GREEEN**

- Integrate climate change related topics sustainably into (science) education in schools;
- Promote teacher training on climate change education: basic concepts, trends and issues, educational implications of teaching about climate change etc.;
- Foster the European exchange and transfer of experiences and good practices on climate change education among education institutes, teacher trainers, teachers, practitioners, NGOs and young people;
- Identify learning materials, good practices and teaching and learning strategies on climate change education and enhance their dissemination through the GREEEN platform and other means;
- Increase the production of and access to information and innovative solutions for science education on climate change and sustainable development;
- Promote closer linkages between science education and science working market emergent trends and opportunities.



## **Main GREEEN Activities**

- Creating an overview of the current situation in climate change education in the participating member states and beyond;
- Exchanging good practice models as basis for generating new approaches (GREEENHOUSE);
- Implementing the European GREEEN Award and a number of other events such as webinars, training days, expert talks, national and European conferences etc.;
- Developing a sound modular concept to tackle the issue of climate change and climate change adaptation both on the curricular and on the extracurricular level;
- Extending the European network and involving relevant stakeholders (interdisciplinary and transnational organisations of students, teachers and other educational stakeholders);
- Giving guidance for mainstreaming climate change education into school curricula;
- Promoting strategic valorisation via inclusion of major regional, national and European networks and stakeholders.

## **GREEEN Kick-off meeting in Göttingen**

The GREEEN network partners met for the first time in January 2014. The kick-off meeting aimed at getting to know to each other and at creating a common work basis. The network receives funding for three years. The ultimate aim is to establish a solid basis for a sustainable network that is open for new partners at European level.

For this purpose, GREEEN intends to organise a number of events, among others training days, webinars, the GREEEN award, in order to



make GREEN visible at a European level, and to provide interesting products and services that attract new partners. One of the products will be a collection of good practices and teaching and learning strategies on climate change education.

As a starting point, partners in the kick-off meeting identified challenges they are confronted with in science education as well as possible improvements in order to create a basis, on which to start gathering existing practices and generating new approaches in CCE. The results of this discussion are visualised in the tag cloud:



There was common agreement that it is sometimes hard to motivate students in science education. An improvement was seen in making science education more practical and applicable to real life situations. Practical inputs and real life topics that are of interest for the students seem a solution. Also an exchange with other schools, businesses and other fields was mentioned as a possible improvement. Learning outside the school as well as promoting self-directed learning were two methods that were considered as interesting ways to motivate students. GREEEN's major task will be to explore methods and ways to make science education more attractive.



## **GREEEN Events**

GREEEN offers various events aimed to both GREEEN partners and other stakeholders interested in Climate Change Education (CCE).

We invite you to take part, among others, in:

#### Face-to-face events:

- National networking events to promote the GREEEN network and involve new partners interested in CCE:
- Training days to focus on specific topics within CCE;

#### On-line events:

- Webinars to inform interested participants about the state of the art of CCE:
- 1-day Forum, a web-based discussion, about a given topic of



On-line conference to reflect and discuss on a given topic related to CCE.



### **GREEEN Award**

✓ In spring 2015 and 2015 the GREEEN network will launch a European award that will invite schools to present their ways of dealing with climate change in (science) education.

All events will be announced on our GREEEN website.

## **GREEEN Website**

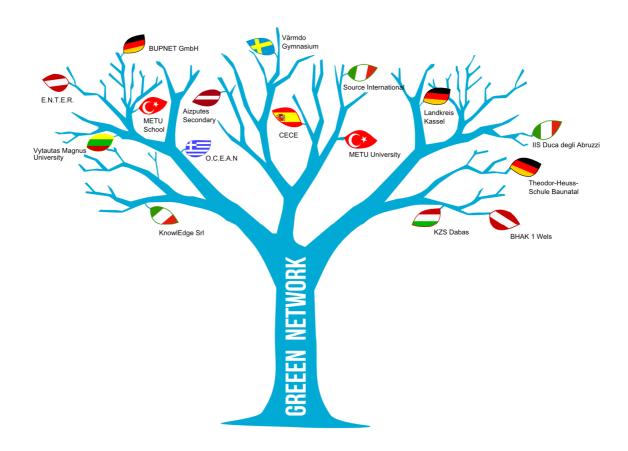
The project website has been implemented in February and offers information on the project. It will be updated regularly to allow an interested public to get a closer insight in the project work.

As GREEN puts a special focus on a European exchange, which will be promoted among the involved pupils and teachers from the partner schools, adequate communication tools will be implemented on the project website at a later project stage. Interested local stakeholders have the opportunity to present their project related work in a specific section on the website. For further information, please contact either the coordinator or one of the partner organisations.

www.greeen-eu.net



# **Project Consortium**



Coordinator



BUPNET GmbH, Göttingen, Germany Sabine Wiemann www.bupnet.de



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