

LIFELONG LEARNING PROGRAMME  
COMENIUS MULTILATERAL NETWORK  
GREEN: Green Environment Education European Network  
AGREEMENT NUMBER: 2013-4156/001-001  
PROJECT NUMBER: 539963-LLP-1-2013-DE-COMENIUS-CNW

## Educational game “Smart Mayor” about adaptation to the climate change

In May 25, 2016, eighteen students from 10th grade of Aizputes secondary school attended a workshop, educational game “Smart Mayor” about adaptation to the climate change, it was supported by **Ventspils High Technology Park** and financed by project “**GREEN**”.



Aizputes secondary school participates in the European Union's Comenius program project “GREEN” which aim is to improve youth knowledge about the causes and consequences of climate change not only in global but also at local level.

Diversification of lesson methodology helps students perceive and remember given information better. Therefore, the game as a teaching method is both – interesting and educational way how to find out more about the climate change.

In the educational game “Smart Mayor” about adaptation to the climate change, students were split into six municipalities representing EU regions: Latvia, United Kingdom, Spain, Hungary, Germany, Italy. First, students nominated the mayor of each municipality, then by throwing the dice they moved over a large playing field (size: 3x4 metres), completed different tasks and planned their municipal budget to protect their citizens from the consequences of climate change, for example, stronger storms, rising sea level, more frequent heat waves and droughts, higher annual average temperature changes, plant life cycle changes, depletion of fish stocks, animal migration, etc.

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What youth think about the educational game:

Zane: "By playing this game, I understood that affects different countries in the world and also Latvia. This is evidenced by Latvian winters with not-so-long snow quantity and softer temperatures. On television we often hear about storms, floods and drought periods, melting world's mountain glaciers and rising world's ocean level. Climate change causes extinction of animal and plant species as well as their movement."

Miks sees positive benefits for climate change in Latvia: "The tourism season in Latvia will extend - spring will start earlier, autumn will last longer. Also, the harvesting season for farmers will be longer."

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I liked the game, because I was the mayor of my municipality. I had to plan our municipal budget very carefully together with my teammates. The second place to my municipality was the only thing I didn't like in this game."

Jana: "Game as a lesson better remains in memory, it seems modern."

Ketija: "I played game like this for the first time. The rules were easy and understandable, teamwork was essential. I learned new things about consequences caused by the climate change."

Students spent their time not only in funny and active, but also in an educational way learning about the climate change.

Vika Vasiļevska

Project "GREEN" coordinator in Latvia