

Positive example for regional cooperation between civil association OXO and Danube Environmental Forum Serbia (DEF) from the Republic of Serbia is the project Eco-school Network.

The pollution of the environment is a huge problem which concerns all countries. Pollution is spreading very fast and does not know about borders and limits. Therefore, we must act very quickly. In order to increase the effect of reducing the pollution this problem should be resolved at a global level. Therefore, this is one of the reasons why the Regional Environmental Center (REC) <http://www.rec.org/> is supporting this project, which results with a cooperation between Civil association OXO from Republic of Macedonia and DEF from Republic of Serbia <http://www.defyu.org.yu>.

OXO with the program We Don't Have a Spare Planet in 2004 started a cooperation with Ministry of Education and Ministry of Protection of the Environment in the Republic of Serbia as a line ministries for ecological and environmental education. Regional cooperation is of a big importance for the region, especially when we talk about ecology. What happens in our neighbor countries concerns us, as well. There is no other way, as there is no spare planet!

Thanks to the REC office in Budapest, in 2007, the project eco-school network in cooperation between OXO and DEF started its realization.

**Title of the project: Eco-school network**

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## **Main objectives of the eco-school network project**

- Expanding the eco-school network with new schools from Republic of Serbia and Republic of Macedonia.
- Involving the schools from the region (Kosovo, Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina) in Balkan eco-school network to work together on ecological topics.
- Involving the Balkan eco-school network in the international eco-school network in order to contribute in the world's efforts of protecting the planet.

## **Activities of the project**

This project lasted 12 months, starting from 1 June 2007 until 31 May 2008. During this period, these activities were realized:

- Ecological and educational materials were designed and published, such as: eco manuals for teachers and students and manuals about saving electricity.
- There was a selection of schools and projects were introduced to the selected schools.
- Training about action planning of the projects was conducted.
- Project support in schools (establishment of eco committee, campaigns for saving electricity, making an eco code etc.)
- Organized an eco summit for exchange of experience.
- Production of brochures who are intended for teachers and students with ecological topics.

## **Expected results from the project**

- Expanding the eco school network with 10 schools from the Republic of Macedonia and Republic of Serbia.
- Designing, publishing and distribution of eco school manuals and manuals about energy efficiency for teachers and students.
- Organizing trainings for teachers about seven steps methodology and how to apply them within this program.

- Implementing school campaigns for saving electricity, saving water and litter treatment with the purpose to increase awareness.
- Raising awareness for ecology and straitening the relationship between the teachers and students.

### **Results from the project**

- 300 energy efficiency manuals were distributed in 5 schools in Republic of Macedonia and 120 manuals in Republic of Serbia.
- 5 teachers from Republic of Macedonia and 5 teachers from the Republic of Serbia were trained on how to make an eco section in schools, how to apply for the project and how their school can become an eco school.
- 10 schools involved in this project had a big opportunity to become a part of the international eco-school network.
- Approximately 300 students from Republic of Macedonia and 300 students from the Republic of Serbia became more aware about the connection between the healthy environment and the quality of life and also about the importance of energy efficiency in school, home and the wider community.
- Over 300 students from the Republic of Macedonia and 300 students from the Republic of Serbia learned that they should have an active role and responsibility in implementing of the ecological actions in their schools and homes.

Here you can read more about these successful projects of the eco-schools from the Republic of Macedonia and the Republic of Serbia.

#### **1. Primary school Rade Kratovce**

Address: Karl Marks 43, 2000 Kocani, Republic of Macedonia

Number/fax: 033/274-037

[www.radekratovce.edu.mk](http://www.radekratovce.edu.mk)

[radekratovce@freemail.com.mk](mailto:radekratovce@freemail.com.mk)

Number of students: 731

Number of employees: 64

Director of the school: Violeta Apostolova

Coordinator of the eco-school project: Dragan Trajcev

This school is the oldest in the municipality of Kocani. As a part of the eco school network this school is very active. The goals of the project Save Electric Energy in this school were addressed towards changing the complete electric and thermal insulation in the room where eco committee is working. Teachers, students and other employees from the school were involved in the realization of the project, as well as representatives from the local community, business sector and media. The results from the project were promoted on the local TV stations in Kocani in the TV shows: Aktuelnosti, Info Kocani and Komarec.

On 28 of June 2008 in this school, with the presence of the director of the school and guests from the local authorities and other schools from the town, the Eco-Club was released.

## **2. Primary school Bajram Sabani**

Address: Karl Marks, 52, 1300, Kumanovo, Republic of Macedonia

Number/fax: 031/427-210

[www.eko-ucilishte-kumanovo.piczo.com](http://www.eko-ucilishte-kumanovo.piczo.com)

Number of students: 1472

Number of employees: 98

Director of the school: Ilber Limani

Coordinator of the eco-school project: Fatrije Arifi

In this school the project 'With Saving the Electric Energy We Can Improve the Education in School' was realized. The purpose of the project was to replace the old windows and doors in school with new ones. With this replacement, the school accomplished to reduce the electricity costs and improve the working conditions in the school. Thermal insulation was applied to the windows, in order to have better insulation. Project was successful realized and the success was celebrated with a performance show.

### **3. Primary school Straso Pindzur**

Address: Dimka Gaberot 3, 1430, Kavadarci, Republic of Macedonia

Number/fax: 043/410-938

Number of students: 567

Number of employees: 47

Director of the school: Panco Kimov

Coordinator of the eco-school project: Todorka Karovska

Primary school Straso Pindzur has been a part of the eco-school network since 24 of February 2006 year. The students, teachers and technical staff from the school, in cooperation with parents, local community and the business sector successfully realized two projects relating with energy savings and energy efficiency. “Cooperation with OXO helped us to exchange experience and to cooperate with our colleagues from the Republic of Serbia and by working together, to make our contribution to world’s efforts for protecting the planet” says the coordinator of the project from this school.

### **4. Primary school J.H.Dzinot**

Address: Ivo Lola Ribar, 2, 1400, Veles, Republic of Macedonia

Number/fax: 043/233-461

[oudzinot@yahoo.com](mailto:oudzinot@yahoo.com)

Number of students: 480

Number of employees: 34

Director of the school: Todor Najdov

Coordinator of the eco-school project: Ljubinka Caneva

This school as a part of the eco-school network implemented the project for saving electricity. The old doors and windows from the school were changed with new ones. With this change the electricity consumption was reduced and the better condition for work was

supplied. The goal of the project was accomplished. Students, teachers, parents, representatives from the community and business sector took part in the realization of the project.

### **5. Primary school Nikola Karev**

Address: Sula Mina, 6a, 7500, Krusevo, Republic of Macedonia

Number/fax: 048/476-558

Number of students: 470

Number of employees: 30

Director of the school: Taki Taskoski

Coordinator of the eco-school project: Agapi Cunkoska

This school is the only primary school in Krusevo and it is very active in his ecological education. The purpose of the project which was realized in this school was to replace the old doors and windows and to ensure better working conditions and saving electricity in school. Students, teachers, parents, representatives from the community and business sector took part in this project. Effects from the realized project are obvious. "Thanks to the trainings which were organized by OXO, we managed to create ecologically educated generation and that is the basic criteria to save the planet for the next generations"- says the coordinator of the project from this school.

### **6. Primary school Dimitrie Tucovic**

Address: Dositejeva 5, 36000 Kraljevo, Republic of Serbia

<http://www.osdtucovickv.edu.yu/>

Number of students: 958

Number of employees: 50

Director of the school: Dragana Gurovic

Coordinator of the eco-school project: Biljana Veselinovic

After the training delivered by OXO, this school started working on the saving energy topic. The start of the project activities was announced with debate in which students and teachers took part. The main subject in this school was improving the energy efficiency in the school. On the international day for saving electricity, 5 of March students from this school made posters with messages for saving energy in school and home. Several workshops were realized on ecological topics, mostly about recycling paper and the protection of the ozone layer. Also, several successful ecological actions were made: placement of garbage bins, driving bicycle and introducing how to consume a healthy food.

#### **7. Primary school Dobrosav Radosavlevic Narod**

Address: Macvanski kej, 29, 22202, Macvanska Mitrovica, Republic of Serbia

Number of students: 954

Number of employees: 86

Director of the school: Slatan Papic

Coordinator of the eco-school project: Slatan Papic

The purpose of the project was to reduce electricity consumption in school. The goal of the project was accomplished, and the school was supplied with new doors and the bulbs were changed with energy saving bulbs. A lot of ecological activities were organized in the school, and posters in school and wider community were designed and placed, and several articles about this project were written in the newspapers.

#### **8. Primary school Jovan Popovic**

Address: Petar Preradovic, 51, Sremska Mitrovica, Republic of Serbia

Number of students: 920

Number of employees: 72

Director of the school: Rade Milic

Coordinator of the eco-school project: Sonja Stracenski

The start of this project was announced with school debate “Yes or No for the Recycling”. It was successful debate. Several lectures about saving electricity were organized. The purpose of the project was to adapt eco-club for proper operating. Students made different things from recycling materials which were used as decorations in the school. Also, they collected plastic bottles and later they were sold in the local recycling company. Money from this action was used to buy trees for the school yard. New garbage bins and paper bins were also placed in the school yard.

### **9. Primary school Jovan Jovanovic Zmaj**

Address: Ratarska, 5, 22000 Sremska Mitrovica, Republic of Serbia

Number of students: 983

Number of employees: 67

Director of the school: Zoran Dzuric

Coordinator of the eco-school project: Aleksandra Golic

In this school, a lot of actions related to the protection of the environment were taken. One of the most successful actions is the litter treatment. In cooperation with the public sector containers for plastic were donated. In the school yard as end of the successful project, trees were planted. Also, classroom where the students study was made in the school yard.

### **10. Primary school Stojan Novakovic**

Address: Vuk Karadzic, Blace, Republic of Serbia

Number of students: 990

Number of employees: 85

Director of the school: Zoran Milutinovic

Coordinator of the eco-school project: Olivera Timotijevic

In this school the project for energy efficiency was realized. Literature competition was organized and students had the chance to express their thoughts through songs and stories. The broken glass from the windows was replaced with the new one. The purpose of the project was accomplished. Now students have comfortable place to study and a school gained big savings on energy. This project was promoted in the local media.

### **Comments about the project**

Project Eco school network is a good example for regional cooperation between Republic of Macedonia and Republic of Serbia respectively between OXO and DEF. The both sides feel the common benefit of their work in the process of the development of the eco school network. This project is a good way of showing how interactive learning can be used as a tool in accomplishing and sharing a message to the students, accomplishing a long term positive behavior towards the environment and how it can be implemented in daily life through games, establishing an eco clubs, implementing projects, production of manuals and guides on how to become an eco-school and other activities. Eco school project is a good example which promotes positive behavior and changing the approach related to the protection of the environment. The cooperation between DEF from the Republic of Serbia and OXO from the Republic of Macedonia with the chosen 10 schools demonstrates long term results. This project managed to keep the ethnical balance and to transcend the ethnic differences between two countries.