



Innovative building of ecological awareness and culture by developing environmental skills and shaping the attitudes of citizens with mental disabilities

ECO-COMPASS Project newsletter No. 1.

The **ECO-COMPASS** consortium is pleased to announce the first edition of the **ECO-COMPASS** project newsletter!

THE AIMS OF THE PROJECT

The **ECO COMPASS** project is a **project co-funded by Erasmus+**, which aims to develop the environmental skills and competences of mentally disabled people, to shape their environmental attitudes and environmental responsibility through innovative education based on international experience. It also promotes their social inclusion and lifelong learning. The project contributes to the support and development of international cooperation between organisations providing services for people with disabilities, with a focus on people with intellectual disabilities, on the establishment and strengthening of partner networks and on professionalisation in the field of ecological education.

PARTNERS

Our consortium consists of 4 institutions from 3 countries, with expertise in adult education, transfer of environmental aware behaviour, as well as in the social and labour market integration of disabled people. The project is coordinated by the Spoluprácou pre lepšiu budúcnosť – Veľký Meder (Slovakia). The project partners are:

HUMAN PROFESS Közhasznú Nonprofit Korlátolt Felelősségű Társaság (Hungary)

Fundatia Crestina Diakonia Filiala Sfantu Gheorghe (Romania)

Združenie na pomoc ľuďom s mentálnym postihnutím v Dunajskej Strede (Slovakia)

WHAT HAPPENED SO FAR?

1. We organised the kick-off meeting of the project in Slovakia, attended by professionals of partner organisations from Slovakia, Hungary and Romania, and discussed the tasks to be implemented.



2. We visited the Environmental Training Centre of the Slovak Environmental Protection Agency, commonly known as the Bustard Farm, located halfway between Gúta and Nemesócsa in Slovakia, and as a first step, we started the exchange of good practices between the partner countries. Around three thousand people visit the nature reserve every year. About sixty percent of them are children and students and forty percent are adults. Visitors are offered a variety of projects. There are workshops, symposia and eco-days, but there are also individual, optional programmes. The centre is part of the Slovak Ministry of Environment. As such, it aims to educate the upcoming generation to be more eco-aware. But its range of activities is much broader than that. The centre is no longer just about the bustard, although there is enough of space for it too. Its last specimen has been exhibited. They established an educational trail, set up insect shelters, planted trees, flowers, keep animals and organise programmes for children and adults. They think it is important to raise awareness for climate change and for the importance of environmental awareness.



3. We organised an ECO-World Café roundtable of professionals dealing with disabled people in Hungary, Slovakia and Romania, where we defined those environmental skills and competences that we would like to develop, and we compiled a table of contents on which the curriculum is based.



4. We explored good practices on environmental education and awareness-raising for people with disabilities in partner countries, from which we will gain inspiration for the preparation of ECO-COMPASS innovative environmental education material.



5. Since the start of the ECO-COMPASS project, the Association for the Mentally Disabled in Dunaszerdahely has become more environmentally aware. Their cheerful team set off for a walk in the forest. Together they admired the beauties of the spring forest. They enjoyed the joyful songs of the various birds. It was a pleasure for them to see the colourful flowers attracting the buzzing bees. The silence and tranquillity of nature overwhelmed the participants. During the eco-conscious nature walk, they collected litter into litter bags, of which fortunately there was little.



Members of the organisation clean up together after a club activity. They take care to use environmentally friendly products for washing up and cleaning. They also make sure that hot water is not wasted unnecessarily.



- Group leaders worked with the young people on a variety of environmental awareness and environmental protection activities.

On Earth Day, plum trees and pansies were planted in the courtyard of the Iris House.



Waste recycling - young people at Iris House make a bird feeder.



To mark World Environment Day, young people built a model of a sustainable eco-city by recycling waste.



Do you have a question? You can reach us at the following e-mail addresses:

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We hope to get in touch!

GET IN TOUCH WITH US:

We continuously work to extend our network. For this purpose, we are searching for interested persons and organisations. Follow us on our Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/Eco-Compass-100435749330125/>

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