



Nature – our teacher, friend and home!

Activity Report of the board of Nature School Foundation for 2010

- 1. Activities implemented**
- 2. Plan for 2011**

1. Activities implemented

In 2010 the main activities that were implemented can be grouped in the following categories:

- 1.1. Volunteer weekends
- 1.2. Long-term volunteering - EVSД
- 1.3. Projects work
- 1.4. Others

1.1. Volunteer weekends:

There were 6-7 volunteer weekends organized, mainly occupied with work on the building of the Nature school.

- two weekends for installing drinking water pipe system in the building.
- two weekends for preparation of the garden and planting the first spring vegetables - peas and spinach
- weekend for gathering stones for the oven in the school yard
- Weekend for home made lyutenitza – that is traditional Bulgarian meal, made from peppers, tomatoes and eggplants.
- weekend for weaving fence around the school yard.

In all the weekends participate the members of the Board as well as volunteers, that are invited through the CVS mailing list.

1.2. Long-term volunteering

In the beginning of 2010 Nature School together with CVS-Bulgaria applied for hosting EVS volunteer – Matthieu Pedegnana from France. Matthieu knows the project, because he was participating in a workcamp in Vlahi in 2005 and he is very much motivated to work in long-term for the project. In June Matthieu arrived in Bulgaria by bike from France after two-months journey. Matthieu is an architect, specialized in sustainable building. One of his main tasks is to design and build summer kitchen with oven in the yard of the School.



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In July 2010 there was a two-weeks volunteer work-camp, which started the work on the summer kitchen. Unfortunately there were only six volunteers and not a lot of work was done.

1.3 Work on projects:

In June 2010 the first phase of “Schools for Intelligent Energy Use” was finished. The SIEU project is coordinated by Nature School in Bulgaria. In the first phase we work in cooperation with 4 schools from Southwest Bulgaria and 3 clients with problems in energy efficiency, who were consulted by 52 students. More info about the project can be find on www.sieu.info.

In the autumn of the school year 2010/2011 started the second phase of the SIEU project. There are 5 participating schools from Sofia, Kyustendil and Pirdop with about 75 students.

In October 2010 there was the final meeting of the network of alternative centres “Alive Places” (<http://aliveplaces.org/>), which Nature school is member of. On the meeting an evaluation of the work was done and ideas for future development were discussed.

1.4 Others:

Nature School participated in the competition of Environmental Partnership foundation “Tree with root” (<http://www.bepf-bg.org>), we nominated three very important trees for Vlahi village – the plane-tree in the center of the village and the two more than hundred years old Macedonian pines, that are in the village grave-yard. Unfortunately our trees were not among the finalists of the competition.

In November we work with group of corporative volunteers from GB Service. We did great work together – many bushes were planted – raspberries, blackberries, black currant as well as the garden was prepared for the winter – covered with tar-boards and straw. This way of preparation is a perma-culture method.

Thanks to Mathieu we got in contact with Dalkia, a company, part of Veolia group. We will submit to them a project-proposal focusing on energy efficiency. .

Rada Nedyalkova prepared a calendar for 2011, which was spread among partners and donors. The calendar contains photos from Vlahi and Pirin mountains and the activities, that are going to happen in the school each month are indicated.

2. Plan for 2011

2.1. The EVS project with Matthieu Pedergnana from France is continuing .

2.2. Preparation of project-proposal to Veolia foundation.



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2.3. Partnership with companies for encouraging the corporate volunteering. In April we expect to work with a group form 25-30 people from a service company.

2.4. The SIEU project is continuing

2.5. Finalizing works on the Nature School building and work in the garden through volunteer weekends.