



GREEN HOLIDAYS

PROJECT

**Let's stop climate change
with green holidays.**

The Agricultural Forum Foundation
Prague, 29/06/2021

EESC Civil Society Prize 2021 Climate Action

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Environmental education leads children to understand the relationship between man and the environment, to learn responsibility for their actions and cultivates the attitude of the individual and society towards the environment. However, children do not develop a positive relationship with the natural environment in a few hours of school, so it is important to take advantage of every opportunity to learn.

The appropriate form of education is real contact with nature (walks and trips to explore the surroundings) and education combined with activities that lead to environmental improvement. Where better to combine these different approaches than at a summer children's recreation?

The present project brings together children from different regions in one place in nature and aims to help them develop a positive relationship with their environment. However, it does not only focus on educating the children, but also allows them to participate in directly helping nature and to see the real positive impact of their own activity.

Education is a long-term process, so it is important that the project will not only run for the duration of the summer children's recreation, but will continue in a different form using modern information technology on the Internet.

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I. Introduction

Climate change challenges can be tackled not only through long-term investment projects and transformation of the entire economic sphere, but also, and above all, by changing the behaviour of society as a whole. This includes changes in people's consumption patterns, climate-neutral lifestyles as well as the protection of nature and ecosystems and the conservation of biodiversity. Children and young people are an important target group that will influence changes in both consumption and environmental behaviour patterns.

The motto of the project, aimed at children and school youth during the summer holidays, will be the well-known slogan "**think globally, act locally**", which the participants of the children's holiday camps will get to know on a practical level during the camp activities.

The aim of the project is to familiarise children - participants in the summer holiday camps - with the basic features of the Green Deal for Europe, the Paris Agreement on Climate Change and the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

The Agricultural Forum Foundation aims to strengthen the motivation of children and young people to change their lifestyles towards eco-friendly behaviour and to seek practical ecological approaches in their immediate environment. Examples of the transition to green thinking will be applied during the holidays at children's camps in cooperation with the project partners and will focus on the following areas:

- 1/ education and motivation of children and young people
- 2/ forming basic attitudes towards nature and its protection
- 3/ introducing positive patterns of ecological behaviour

II. The focus of the project

The project focuses on two main areas, namely education of children and their behaviour and life attitudes towards nature and the environment. In the project, we want to focus on engaging children and young people in education in an attractive way, which will then become part of their life attitudes. With effective education and motivation,

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we expect that today's children can grow up to be the future leaders of climate action and responsible politicians who will implement the Green Deal for Europe.

With our project we also want to make a real contribution to climate change by planting trees in cooperation with municipal governments, the Czech Forests and the Ministry of Agriculture. Part of the whole process will be involvement in waste sorting at these events and cooperation with the Ministry of the Environment of the Czech Republic.

III. Project structure

The implementation of the project will take the form of the following activities:

1/ discussion meetings at camp groups

2/ active activities at friendly meetings with firefighters, foresters, fishermen, water managers, farmers, representatives of local authorities, representatives of NGOs,

4/ waste sorting

5/ innovative creative initiatives, activities related to the research approach to learning about nature, its laws and its protection

The Foundation will work closely with the Agricultural and Food Workers Union - ASO, which owns a total of 11 recreational facilities where approximately 3,500 children participate in summer camps during the holidays.

Rekreační zařízení Míreč č. p. 9, 388 01 Blatná



Kemp Jordán, Opárno, Pod Lovošem 410 02

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Rekreační zařízení „Pod Korunou“ č. p. 149, 549 74 Božanov



Rekreační zařízení Vysoké pole, 568 02 Dětrichov u Svitav



Rekreační středisko Čichořice, 364 53 Chýše

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Ranč Na Kamenci čp. 15, 507 13 ŽELEZNICE



Soseň čp. 44, 270 33 Jesenice u Rakovníka



Dětský letní tábor Střela pod Strážišťem, 331 41 Kralovice

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Dětský letní tábor Pnětluky, Konětopy u Pnětluk, 439 67 Ročov



The children participate in the project in tours according to the capacity of each facility and the possibilities of the individual landlords.

The project will not only run for the duration of the summer camps, but will continue using modern information technology on the Internet and the Odbory info portal, where they will be able to use preparatory materials and knowledge information.

IV. Programme details

The form of the arrangement will be in the form of several probably at least 4 sections, where 5 will be practical preparation in planting trees and forest shrubs.

- 1) The session will cover general climate knowledge
- 2) Session will be on water and water conservation and use of water regime

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- 3) The section will cover waste segregation and the use of environmentally friendly and appropriate packaging and plastic items
- 4) The section will cover agriculture, agricultural policy, forestry and the European Common Agricultural Policy
- 5) tree planting and behaviour in woodlands and wildlife conservation

Section activities

1) *The section will cover general climate knowledge.*

Children will learn about the concept of climate and what is climate and weather. They will also learn about the key factors that determine climate (geographical location, the influence of seas and oceans, the influence of altitude and mountain ranges, forest complexes and others).

They will also learn about long-term climate change in both geological and historical perspective and its causes.

A central part will be a discussion on the effects of human activities on climate (agricultural and forestry practices, land surface changes, the impact of settlement changes, the impact of large agglomerations and heat islands of cities, changes in the water regime of the landscape, the impact of industry and energy and their emissions, transport structures and traffic on them, etc.).

Children will learn about basic ways of reducing emissions, the differences in the use of fossil fuel sources, renewable energy sources and other emission-free or low-emission sources.

Other ways and means of reducing the climate impacts of anthropogenic activities in the areas of water, forestry, agriculture and urbanisation will be discussed.

Other topics of discussion will include ways of adapting to climate change (adaptation) and examples of practical changes in agricultural, forestry and water management practices and the implementation of practical climate action in urban agglomerations.

Finally, climate protection and adaptation activities at local level will be presented:

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- energy saving, thermal insulation of houses, use of heat pumps;
- use of solar energy panels to heat water and generate electricity;
- renewable energy sources (biomass, biogas, etc.);
- restoration of forests damaged by the bark beetle calamity;
- small water features in the landscape as a microclimate factor.

2) The section will cover water and water conservation and the use of the water regime

Topics to be discussed will include the water cycle, examples of climate disasters of Lake Aral in Central Asia and Lake Chad in Central Africa, issues of water retention in the landscape and its use, modern irrigation systems in agricultural practice (e.g. drip irrigation).

Children will learn about the role of small watercourses, ponds and small reservoirs and their impact on the microclimate of landscapes, towns and cities.

On a practical level, examples of water conservation in households, reuse of "grey water" in both residential and commercial buildings and complexes will be given.

3) The session will cover waste sorting and the use of environmentally friendly and appropriate packaging and plastic items

Issues of overuse of plastics, ways to reduce their consumption, separate collection, recycling and reuse, substitution with other suitable materials with low environmental impact will be discussed.

Examples of bad practice, particularly in developing countries, and the disastrous impacts on marine and ocean life will be given.

Another topic will be micro-plastics as a product of plastic waste degradation and ways to prevent their environmental impacts.

The positive role of plastics (insulation materials) in reducing energy consumption and thus in climate protection will also be discussed.

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Children will present examples of good practice in waste collection and sorting from their homes and communities.

4) The session will cover agriculture, agricultural policy, forestry and the European Common Agricultural Policy

Agriculture

Children will learn about the role of agriculture as a source of quality, healthy and affordable food, the EU Common Agricultural Policy and the new 'fork to fork' programme.

The non-productive functions of agriculture as a farmer in the landscape, the links to environmental protection, the water regime in the landscape and the climate will be discussed. The role of protecting soil quality and soil carbon storage in relation to soil fertility, soil water retention and reducing the adverse impacts of emissions on climate will be highlighted.

Forestry

The discussion will focus on the non-productive functions of forests, in particular the water management function, the role of forests in species diversity, issues of carbon sequestration from the atmosphere and the positive impact on climate stabilisation.

On a global scale, the principle of the biological pump of continental forest complexes and the influence on climate formation will be explained.

Further discussion will focus on wildlife conservation, the risks of overpopulation of non-native species and the associated damage to forest stands.

5) Tree planting and behaviour in forest stands, protection of game and wildlife

During the summer holidays, **18,000 seedlings will be planted by children** at summer camps participating in the "Stop Climate Change with Green Holidays" programme. In addition, children will learn the principles of seedling care and the selection of suitable habitats.

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Issues of wildlife conservation, controlling game numbers and limiting them to long-term sustainable numbers with a view to reducing wildlife damage to forest stands will be discussed.

It should be noted that both long-term and short-term measures must necessarily be intertwined in these sections. A **knowledge quiz** will be organised at the end of the programme, with questions and answers reflecting the various topics discussed. We expect this quiz to be very creative and the children will be rewarded with small gifts and a diploma during the evaluation. At the same time, the whole project will make use of modern technology, the Internet and **the Odbory info portal**, where they will be able to use preparatory materials and knowledge information.

VII. Additional activities

The work in the sections will be complemented by a series of practical observations using research methods to learn about nature and its laws.

Biodiversity

- *Identification of trees, shrubs, grass species, flora in relation to their natural habitats;*
- *Visit to a protected bird area, identifying bird species by their song using the BirdNet app;*
- *observation of beetles, flying insects and pollinators around summer camps,*
- *visiting sites of the European NATURA network;*

Climate

- *observation of meteorological elements;*
- *measurement of temperature and humidity in open countryside and forest cover and their porosity;*
- *observation of clouds and identification of cloud types;*

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Agriculture

- *Visit to an organic farm with expert commentary.*

Water management

- *Measuring the flow of a spring or small stream and evaluating the change in flow in relation to rainfall;*

- *Visit to a fish farm with expert commentary.*

VIII. Summary

The project of the Agricultural Forum Foundation "***Let's stop climate change with green holidays***" aims to strengthen the motivation of children and young people to change their lifestyle towards eco-friendly behaviour and to look for practical ecological approaches in their immediate environment.

The aim of the project is to familiarise children - participants of the summer holiday camps - with the basic features of the Green Deal for Europe, the Paris Agreement on Climate Change and the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

The motto of the project, aimed at children and school children during the summer holidays, will be the well-known slogan "***think globally, act locally***", which the participants of the children's holiday camps will get to know in a practical way during the camp activities.

The project involves **3 500 children** from partner organisations in summer holiday camps. The children will learn and deepen their knowledge about nature conservation, climate and the environment by actively participating in discussions in 5 sections (climate, water management, agriculture and forestry, waste management, biodiversity and wildlife conservation).

The project will not only run for the duration of the summer camps, but will continue using modern information technology on the Internet and the Odbory info portal, where they will be able to use preparatory materials and knowledge information.

EESC Civil Society Prize 2021

Climate Action

Camp activities will include ***meetings with firefighters, foresters, fishermen, water managers, farmers, local government officials, NGO representatives***. In the daily camp activities, elements of the research approach to learning about the laws of nature in the form of measurements, observations and their evaluation will be applied.

The practical outcome of the project will be ***the planting of 18,000 forest trees***, in which the children will actively participate.

A knowledge quiz will be organised at the end of the programme, where the questions and answers will reflect the different topics discussed. After the evaluation of the quiz, the children will be rewarded with small gifts and a diploma. At the same time, the whole project will make use of modern technology, the Internet and the Odbory info portal, where they will be able to use preparatory materials and knowledge information.

We want the programme to be attractive, interactive and, most importantly, memorable for the children. We are convinced that this approach will have a long-term impact on thinking, processes, perception of the world and ecology.

Prague, 29/06/2021