**LET'S REDUCE...**

The title of our project is : **„ Let's Reduce...“**

It deals with the topics of reducing the ecological footprint, promoting sustainable development, preserving the biological diversities and active citizenship.

Our main goal was to **raise the consciousness of being responsible for the** **future of our Planet.**

Students aged **12 to 14** participated in the project in our school.

**From October** onwards, we had lots of actions:

* we formed the students / teachers **project team**
* we created the **promoting corner**, presented ESFALP's project and created the list of topics to be worked on in the project
* we put **a placard** with the creative presentaton of the ecological footprint in the school lobby. **The footprint was to be SMALLER**

**and SMALLER as we proceeded with our work**

* we **produced leaflets** about the ecological footprint and distributed them to the teachers and students.

The results of students' work :

* The class 6a with their classmistress Vesna Piton Buždon wanted to help **The Asssociation for disabled persons** in **paper re-cycling**. All the pupils brought the paper they didn't need, old brochures, newspapers...

**In the period of six months they collected 41 boxes, which is 1.320 kilos of paper**.

They helped in preserving the forests, and the members of The Association for disabled persons gained some money by re-cycling the paper. **They would be glad if the collecting of paper becomes an activity incorporated in the school life.**

* The class 7b with their classmistress Marija Benčić Vukičević organised a **Free Hug** activity in the centre of the town. They wanted to motivate their co-citizens **to think about the importance of giving a hug to each other instead of expensive gifts.**

They also participated in the Christmas **Flea Market** and the

**Fashion show** ( collaboration with the association **Green Istria** ),

where they donated or sold for symbolical prices used clothes and

toys. They distributed leaflets with 5 practical pieces of advice at

their stand : **Rethink, Reduce, Reuse, Repair** and **Recycle**.

* A lecture and workshop about the **Biological diversities** was organised in collaboration with the public institution **Natura Histrica** – the lecturer was Mr. Slavko Brana.
* After the lecture we organised the workshop **WORLD CAFE’,** where lots of ideas and suggestions about solving the problems related to the preservation of protected areas came up, the emphasis given on the importance of sustainable use of natural resources, as well as on raising the awareness of positive behaviour in the protected areas.
* we organized a workshop of **producing soaps from the olive oil.** It was interesting to create a simple and traditional natural soap in an amusing way. We also realized that dangerous chemical ingredients should be less used.
* The pupils of 2b with their teacher Jasminka Turčinov produced **smelling salts enriched with herbs** – lavender and rosemary. They also made **ceramic pots**, painted them and put smelling salts inside, creating a **souvenir,** suitable for any tourist that comes to our town, based on the old fishermen and farmers’ recipe for tired feet.
* During March and April 2013 **all the students from 5th to 8th grades** with their classmasters / classmistresses, all the teachers and parents, worked on various topics regarding the ecological footprint – our project **Let’s Reduce**.. The work was coordinated by project leaders Nada Hukić and Marija Benčić Vukičević.

On **Earth Day, 22nd April**, 2013, they had their **project** **presentations** – the students did it in an interesting, and, as the headmistress Suzana Mohorović pointed out : “ ... in an engaged, ingenious, original, modern way they found the practical solutions for acting and preserving the health of our planet.... and that they raised the awareness about the participation of each individual and his/her contribution to the resources maintenance in our surroundings.”

The **topics they presented were** - the **reducing of :** **the water** **consumption, electricity consumption, dangerous chemicals in households, paper use, synthetic clothing, reducing the usable** **waste disposal, illegal dumping, unsustainable tourism, reducing of bad quality free time and all forms of negative communicating, as well as indifferent lifestyle.**

Class 6b talked about **litter disposal** in our surrounding and its danger for the environment

They formed small **eco – patrols** with the task to visit the areas where they live and to take photos of the illegal dumping.

They **interviewed our co-citizens** what they think about the illegal dumping, and they recorded their opinions.

They also sent **a letter** about their findings to the local as well to the town authorities, and asked them for cooperation.

Class 6c produced **a short film** about a conflict situation and the possibility of its solution. They distributed the copies of their **anthem** as well. They also gave the sweets f happiness to other students and teachers.

The students of class 5a worked on reducing the **electricity consumption.**They created **labels** and put them all around school and in the classrooms.

Students from 5b created **the application** which can be downloaded at : <http://files.appsgeyser.com/World%20of%20Giving.opk>

Students also prepared the **exhibition of art work and eco – ethnic clothing** made from recycled waste.

They read **The Green Pledge**.

The **lower grades choir** ( 2a and 2b ) with the teacher Aida Dražić, performed the song “ I love this world “.

We celebrated the **Earth Day with singing and dancing**, ( the **dance group** performed an interesting dance ), which was a nice round off of the several months’ work on the project.

**The message of the project** is, in short :

**“Step by step towards great achievements**”, and the achievement is **the biodiversity conservation** which will **contribute to a sustainable** **future** for all and the **REDUCTION** of the **ecological footprint** – the **preservation of natural resources** and their uniform distribution.

**The goal is to preserve this unique place for living – the EARTH !!**