

## Environmental Minimum

### Innovation course for primary school teachers

**The four-day course** “Environmental Minimum”, is designed for teachers of 10 to 15-year-old students. It is aimed at those who would like to make their environmental education more effective, modern and attractive for their pupils and to enhance their competences on education for sustainability.

It is also intended for teachers that want to be involved in environmental education and who are looking for appropriate innovative study materials, ideas, inspiration and proven methodologies that will establish more links between school and the community.

#### The course focuses on the following:

- **Content of environmental education** – Participants will be introduced to the basic theoretical knowledge and practical skills for the implementation of environmental education (Environmental minimum).
- **Implementation of environmental education** – Modern and active pedagogical approaches will be applied during the course program, including examples of outdoor education, project-based learning, inquiry-based learning, mobile learning and location-based learning.
- **Modernisation of environmental education** – In addition attention is focused on the use of freely available ICT in education.
- **Application of environmental education** – Indicator activities are used and provide first hand experiences indoors and outdoors, developing students scientific skills. Each topic has two indicator activities for teachers to choose from, supporting them to facilitate an increased environmental awareness in their students.

Using these indicators, pupils and their teachers can work together in monitoring the quality of the immediate environment close to their school or residence.

#### Course participant will receive:

- A comprehensive environmental education pack. Educational materials cover seven key topics: Air Pollution, Water Pollution, Waste, Energy, Biodiversity, Natural and Cultural Heritage and Human Environment;
  - New environmental education ideas and activities;
  - An overview of innovative active and research-based pedagogical approaches;
  - Opportunities for their own first hand experiences of the indicator activities. They will have time to familiarise themselves with a new environment and discuss the needs of their own school contexts. Supporting them to map the synergies and differences and make new connections to improve their teaching;
  - Access to an ICT database that can help teachers to modernize and streamline EE in schools;
  - Support from experts and project partners during the implementation of EE into the curriculum;
  - International Certificate or Europass Mobility Certificate.
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**The course program** is divided into four days and introduces the teachers not only to environmental education, but also to seven key topics representing our Environmental Minimum:

**Day 1:**

- **Environmental Education** – its aims, priorities, content, position in the education system and its implementation under current school conditions; introduction to Environmental Minimum topics, training materials and proposed indicators for individual topics;
- **Water** – presentation of the topic content. Activities through which the topic can be taught at schools. Indicators for determining the retention characteristics of various surfaces and saving water at home or at school.

**Day 2:**

- **Biodiversity** – presentation of the topic content. Activities through which the topic can be taught at schools. Indicators focused on mapping ecosystem services and invasive plant species close to school or home focusing on its value and possibility to preserve it for future generations;
- **Cultural and Natural Heritage** – presentation of the topic, activities and indicators through which pupils evaluate the quality of life and the environment in their city.

**Day 3:**

- **Air** – presentation of the topic and methods for measuring rain acidity and the level of student greenhouse gas production, allowing schools, communities and authorities to interact, enabling active citizenship in climate change;
- **Energy** – presentation of the topic, activities and indicators focused on saving energy and reducing each child's environmental footprint.

**Day 4:**

- **Waste** – presentation of the topic and activities; presentation of methods to enable children to minimize waste in the classroom or at home and ideas for influencing local communities;
- **Human Environment** – presentation of the final overarching topic. Demonstration of activities aimed at measuring the noise of the environment in which pupils live every day, and methods to determine the availability of greenery in urban settlements.

The program also includes teambuilding activities, teamwork, activities aimed at exploring the natural and cultural values of the surrounding landscape, discussions of how to implement the acquired knowledge and ideas involving the teaching process in schools and many other planned and unplanned events.

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