



REPORT

for implementing the field training „GREEN SCHOOL“
in Madzharovo area

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The field training for young people from “Rodopi” eco-club in Kardzhali was organized in the beginning of the month of June for 5 days in Madzharovo area.

15 pupils from two schools in Kardzhali participated in the initiative.

Some background:

The Rodopi eco-club was established by joint initiative of the Cultural house of Kardzhali and the high school “Otec Paisii”. Together they wrote the project “Future for the Herons” with many activities included:

- making of a presentation for the Heron's colony in Kardzhali
- field studyings
- cleaning of the Heron's colony
- forestation of the nesting place of the Herons
- participation in a school olympiad for projects – presentation of the Heron's colony - 5th place
- participation in a “Round table” concerning the protection of the environment
- making of a permanent biodiversity exhibition in the House of culture in Kardzhali
- making a movie for the Herons
- participation in the Days devoted to Arda river – with the presentation of the Heron's colony
- visits of other high schools in Kardzhali to present the Heron's colony and to proactively persuade their coevals to preserve the nature – after these visits there are some new participants from two other schools

Other initiatives as a continuation of the activities of the project “Future for the Herons” (in cooperation with BSPB, BBF and UNDP Rodopi project):

- participation in many volunteers initiatives
- common birds and tortoise monitoring
- participation in the annual brigade “Kartali” (Vultures)
- participation in social and cultural actions
- participation in ornithological olympiad
- anti-poaching tortoise actions

The area of Madzharovo has been chosen because of:

- it's a pilote area for the NTG project
- a cooperation with the local tourist association has been established

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- this is one of the most suitable areas for combination of cleaning activities and a field education
- it's not well known among the young people from the area

Purpose of the training:

- To continue developing the “green” initiatives started by previous projects
- To stimulate the “team thinking” in the minds of the teenagers
- To sow and develop the “ecological culture” among the young people in the Eastern Rhodopi
- To give a motivation among the young people to respect and preserve the nature
- To motivate the most active and inspired young people to be trained for field guides (nature specialists)
- To present the richness of the nature in the Eastern Rhodopi in an interesting, funny and amusing way (birdwatching, animals breeding, organic products, geology, fossils, botany, etc)
- To support local authorities in the struggle against unadjusted dung-hills and unconscientious local people

Actions made:

1. The organization was made together with the Vulture's center, the Thracian house in Borislavtsi, Arda beach pub on Arda river and the Wild farm in Gorno pole.
2. Small motivation presents were chosen – flashlights, rain-coats, maps, repellents
3. For the most active of the participants – horse-riding, canoe-riding and bike-riding were provided as awards
4. Inviting volunteers to support the activities – representatives from the Wild farm in Gorno pole and the Vulture's center
5. Support from the Wilderness component of the NTG for the transporting of the collected garbage
6. Media were invited to popularize the event – two local news-papers, three information web-sites
7. Popularization – 1 article in a local news-paper, 2 web-site releases, 1 presentation in a social media and 1 article in the web-site of the school published (one of the articles in the attached file)

Results:

1. A cooperation between the NTG project and the Biological School in Kardzhali has been established
2. Training of the young people on:
 - the need to preserve the nature and keep it clean in order to live in a healthy way
 - the possibility for combination of the rural way of life and developing alternative tourist services
 - the natural resources in the Eastern Rhodopi
3. A good PR for the project and “green” activities
4. All the participants have many ideas to organize future green initiatives and to attract more followers from their coevals
5. Very good spread of the information for the „green school“ in Kardzhali – many people told me they've heard a lot of enthusiastic stories from their acquaintances about it and even asked to participate into the future similar initiatives
6. The main roads and eco-trails in Madzharovo area were cleaned

Vision for future actions:

- future cleaning actions in the Eastern Rhodopi
- organizing a meeting (round table) in the middle of the month of September with young people as participants to discuss what are the attractive ways to draw their coevals' attention on the nature, how to educate, stimulate and provoke the others to keep the nature clean and to promote the importance of the pure nature for all the local inhabitants

- One of the participants showed personal skills to become a successful PR for nature projects and initiatives (Radoslav) – to be included in future initiatives or to be professionally trained
- One of the participants is keen on IT technologies – he could be hired to help for the NTG web-site making (Ventsislav)
- One of the participants is willing to become a professional biodiversity guide (Mihail)- participation in a guide training and working as a professional tourist guide someday

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Kardzhali