

Youth Exchange
ecoCitizen
Długopole Zdrój
03-10 of June 2011

**Organized by Europejskie Forum
Młodzieży**

**Bystrzyca Kłodzka,
2011**





DŁUGOPOLE ZDRÓJ

Długopole Zdrój is a small town in the Sudety mountains of a health-resort and recreational character, belonging territorially to the district of Bystrzyca Kłodzka, and being – alongside Międzygórze – one of the main attractions of the region. It is beautifully located on the banks of Nysa Kłodzka river, situated at the foot of the Bystrzyckie Mountains, in a sunny valley surrounded by forest-covered hills. The asset of the town is its location in direct vicinity of the national border, as well as the transport route linking Wrocław with Kłodzko, Bystrzyca Kłodzka and Prague, running nearby, but far enough not to disturb the peace and quiet of the health resort.



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'Youth in Action' Programme



THE MAIN GOALS OF YOUTH EXCHANGE WERE:

- ⊙ Raising the awareness about existing environmental problems and solutions in general for youngsters from neighbouring countries by inviting them to take part in activities that focus on gaining knowledge about ecology, pollution, recycling, natural resources and sustainable development
- ⊙ Bringing together in a project a youngsters from different countries in order to encourage them to work together on developing new ideas for more consciously behaviour related to the environment
- ⊙ Promoting the idea of organizing and taking part in environmental information campaigns in different parts of Europe





THE MAIN ACTIVITIES:

- ⊙ Ice-breaking games
- ⊙ Outdoor activities
- ⊙ Workshops and exchange of working practices
- ⊙ Creative thinking
- ⊙ Seminars and discussions
- ⊙ Intercultural learning
- ⊙ Evaluation



ICE-BREAKING AND TEAM BUILDING GAMES

In the day of arrival, the organisers prepared games to release the tensions, to help the youngsters form the group, get to know the others and gain confidence in their potential and in the potential of the team. Also this helped to overcome language barriers.

The ice-breaking and team building games were perfect opportunity to keep in mind the names of participants. After one day common time, the participants knew the names of others very well.



Thao is preparing the participants for ice-breaking and team building games. The youngsters are divided to smaller teams and they are trying to keep in mind the names of others and know better each other to build well-integrated team.





OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES

Organizing the Youth Exchange we wanted to present the attractions and charm of Kłodzka Valley. To this end EFM organized two excursions: to Międzygórze to Śnieżnicki Scenic Park and to Table Mountains National Park. In both cases participants had a chance to admire local nature and know something more about prevailing conditions of climate and nature.

The visit in the sewage plant was very interesting for some participants. Despite an unpleasant fragrance we learned how the system of cleaning the water works, how many people control the aptitude of the water and what kind of mechanic and chemic processes must be done to make the water clean.



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Photo by: Simon Csaba



A FEW PLASTIC BAGS WERE THE RESULT OF MUTUAL WORK. SOME EQUIPMENT WERE USED AGAIN. THE IDEA OF RECYCLING WORKS!



Photo by: Hamid Gasimov

Sometimes you can find an unusual and unwanted thing in the forest.

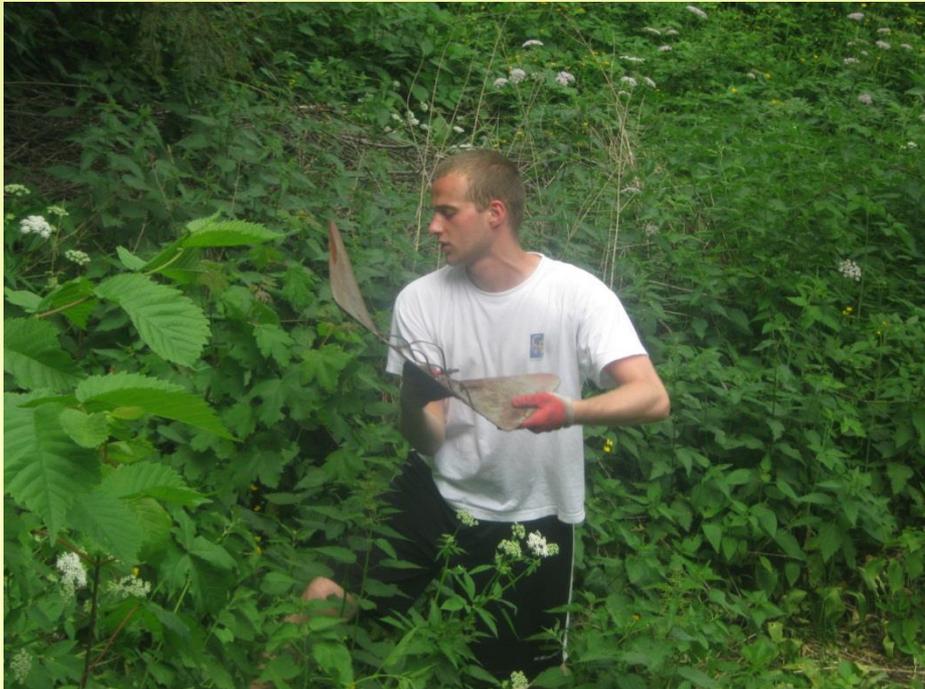


Photo by : Magdalena Szabunio





Photo by: Tamar Beria



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Photos by: Thao Phan



WORKSHOPS AND EXCHANGE OF WORKING PRACTICES

In the program of Youth Exchange about ecological topic there must have been the artistic workshops. The wooden planks with painted names and pictures were the part of souvenirs and gifts that the participants were shearing together.

Through renovation the old and unused furniture we showed that it is not necessary to throw it out to the bin. The renewal can make both: fun and the most important thing – reduction of the waste.



Photos by: Nathalie Frack





Photos by: Monika Szekel

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CREATIVE THINKING

Almost fifty participants were divided to three different teams that were working on pollution and ecological problems of three various seas: the Baltic Sea, the Caspian Sea and Black Sea.

Thanks to creativity and nonstandard thinking, we could admire performances - presentations and all of them were unique.

Open-minded and innovative thinking brought different effects even though the ecological problem were the same in each work groups.

The Baltic Sea - kneels down

The presentation prepared by team from Lithuania, Latvia and Poland.



Ecological problems of the Black Sea.

The performance about environmental risk of The Black Sea was made by group consisted of participants from Moldova and Turkey.



SEMINARS AND DISCUSSIONS

The youngsters participated in discussions and interactive presentations about ecology in general. The representatives of EFM prepared presentation about need the education about getting aware of this problem and the consequences of a non consciously way of life in this environment.

The participants realized that a not concious lifestyle about environmental issues caused a danger about everyone's health. Global warming also concerns people all over the continents and everywhere the people have to deal with the consequences of this process.

The last conclusion of presentation-discussion was: people have to find different ways to generate energy which can be realized by using natural resorces like for example wind, water, sun or also geothermal energy.

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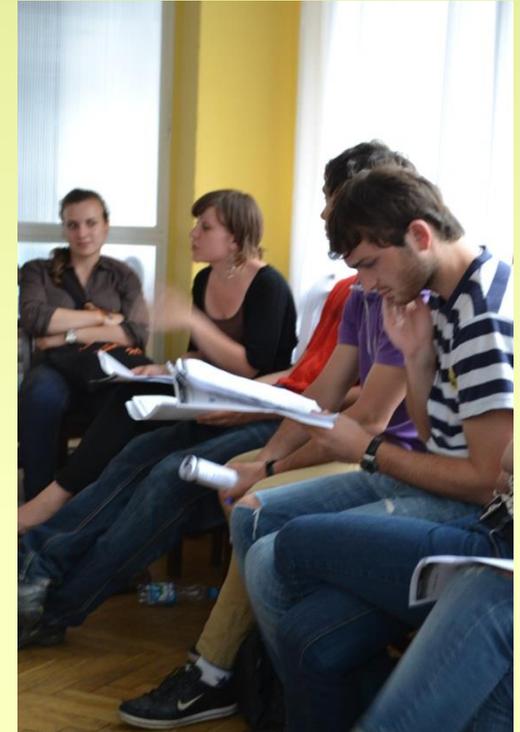
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Photos by: Simon Csaba

Photos by: Varvara Nikulina



INTERCULTURAL LEARNING

The participant learnt how to integrate with people from other countries, lose stereotypes, overcome language barriers, negotiate and accept. Apart from working in international groups, the youngsters cooperated with their fellow countrymen in preparing presentations about their own country which help them become more cultural aware of the profil of their home state and also of the other countries.

The presentations of the countries turned out to be the one of the most interesting point of the Youth Exchange. The countries were represented by participants of the Youth Exchange. During this week, every evening we had a chance to learn national dances, taste traditional cuisine and get to know more about our close and distant neighbors.



Photo by: Ugnė Dagilytė



Photo by: Mihis George Mihai

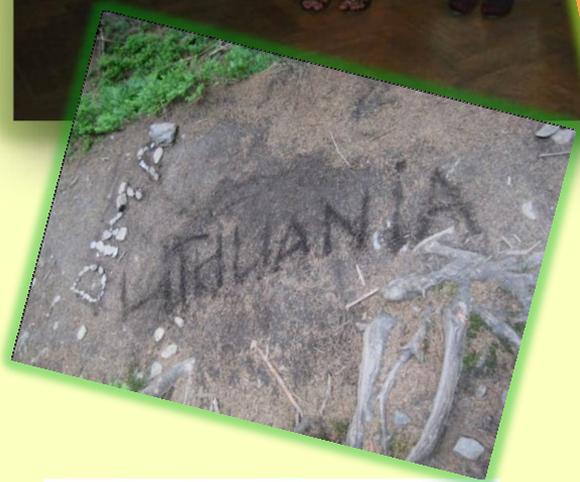




Photo by: Daniela Veipane





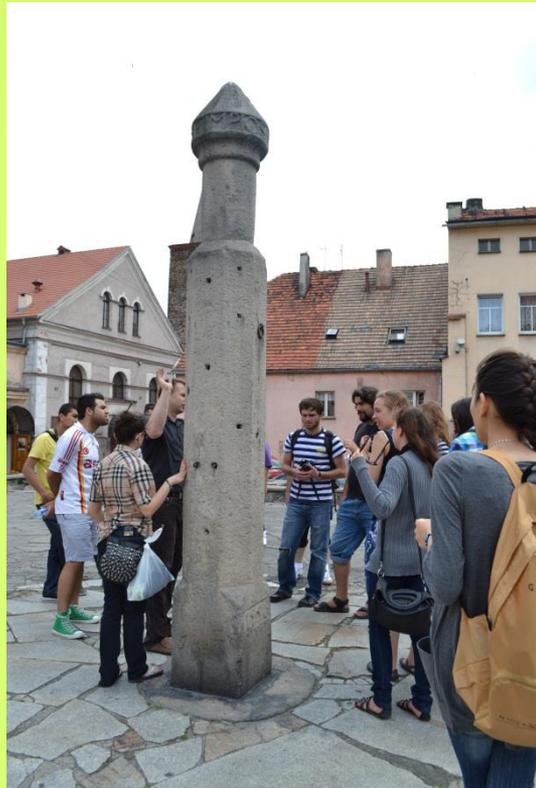
FREE TIME

Ecology means not only to take care of the environment and protect it. It is also healthy lifestyle. We did not have a problem to encourage youth to sport activities - they took over the initiative and organized volleyball tournaments.

Participants visited Bystrzyca Kłodzka together with the coordinator of the project and members of EFM's office.

All the time the participants were trying to get to know each other better and learn the foreign cultures. Thus, they spent a lot of time together, played the integration games and help each other in the preparation of the materials needed for everyday activities.

Visiting Bystrzyca Kłodzka – beautiful, medieval, old town



Photos by: Magdalena Szabunio

Sport activities





EVALUATION

The last day – day of evaluation was a time of summaries and giving the Youthpass to participants. Before that, the youngsters met together to get the knowledge about this certificate and develop it with project coordinator.

The participants working in small groups summed up the results of the project and at the end shared their opinions and thoughts aloud.

They collected both, good and bad points of the Youth Exchange to get an overall view of the project.

By means of special measuring instruments EFM measured the level of satisfaction of the participants of the Youth Exchange.

Again EFM gained knowledge and experience about ability to organize similar events. The youth gave significant directions, suggestions and feedback that will be useful in the future.



Photos by: Marzena Pitus



Photo by: Varvara Nikulina



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