

BOOKLET

 EASTERN INSTITUTE
OF BUSINESS EDUCATION

RECYCLING OF WASTE WITH HANDICRAFTS AND ECOLOGICAL SOLUTIONS

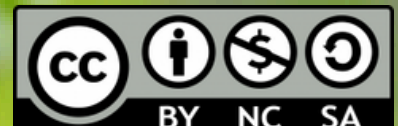
www.recyclingfornature.org



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About the project

The "Recycling is my smile at nature" project encompasses activities aimed at raising awareness among the target group regarding combating climate and environmental change and effectively using art in waste reduction and recycling.

There are two important and effective ways to achieve this goal - The first is to convince people, scientifically and psychologically, that this goal must be achieved. In this context, we organize seminars on "Environmental Protection and Waste Recycling" for the target group: students of elementary, middle, high schools, and universities, as well as teachers, employees of public, non-governmental, and professional organizations, and homemakers. The second goal is to present examples of eco-art that can be incorporated into everyone's daily lives, based on creative solutions through waste reuse. In this context, the goal is to artistically evaluate waste recycling, which is one way to combat climate and environmental change. During this stage, the target group created artistic products using the theoretical knowledge acquired during workshops and art classes, following the "Eco-Art – Eco-Creativity" approach.

In this way, recycling and waste utilization skills will be improved and contribute to solving problems such as the environment and climate change in the long term. Since solving environmental and climate change problems will be possible by ensuring high-quality development of theoretical and practical knowledge and skills of the target group, it is important to support and thoroughly implement the project within the framework of international cooperation.



Every expense incurred in this project will serve a good purpose, as the world will have a better environment, and improving people's skills will serve to transform waste into works of art. The project will help anyone who doesn't know how to contribute to the common goal of living in harmony with nature.

The main objective of the project will be achieved through innovative educational activities aimed at young people.

We have prepared examples of good practices within the project, which will be shared free of charge on our website and on social media. All of these activities were made possible thanks to project funding from the ERASMUS+ program.

Nature's capacity for self-preservation and regeneration has diminished in the face of humanity's production methods and mechanisms, and in some places, environmental degradation has become almost irreversible. However, the fact that environmental problems know no borders means they affect not only a country or region but the entire Earth.

This global nature of the environmental problems facing our planet has forced humans to assume primary responsibility for solving them. To combat the growing amount of waste and prevent resource waste, policies are being developed in the project partner countries and worldwide to reduce packaging use and promote methods such as recycling, reuse, and energy recovery from waste as alternatives to waste management. Priority is given to projects related to recycling and the protection of nature and the environment. The globalization of the world requires a global assessment of environmental problems.



Policies aimed at addressing environmental problems that transcend national borders and are global in nature must also be designed at the global level.

As the COVID-19 epidemic demonstrates, the problems of the modern world affect not just one country but all countries. Therefore, cooperation is essential to address them. Our project addresses the issue not only of our own countries but of the entire world, and therefore of all its inhabitants. Environmentally damaging practices in a given country directly impact other countries.

Therefore, environmental awareness should be a priority in all countries and should be constantly addressed. The scope and budget of this project enabled awareness-raising activities in collaboration with institutions operating in the project's partner countries.

People from countries with diverse lifestyles and cultures will be able to share common feelings and thoughts on an issue that affects the entire world and serve a common goal. Given that everyone in the world is working together to make the world more livable, at least three countries will be able to collaborate within the project to contribute to this goal.

The task of the project and its partners is to protect the natural environment and promote recycling as a good way to achieve this goal.



Introduction



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Introduction

Welcome to the booklet for the Erasmus+ project "Recycling is my smile at nature," as a result of collaboration between Turkey, Lithuania, and Poland.

This project aims to raise environmental awareness, counteract the effects of environmental pollution, and develop waste management skills. This guide describes activities for optimal use of project resources, and showcases our activities in the project's partner countries—Poland, Turkey, and Lithuania.

The "Recycling is my smile at nature" project is part of the Erasmus+ program, specifically the Small-Scale Partnership in the Youth Sector (KA210-YOU). This transnational initiative aims to promote environmental awareness and recycling.

Environmental Awareness - The project aims to raise awareness of environmental issues related to climate change, marine pollution, and natural resource management. Through educational materials and practical activities, our initiative seeks to engage society and stimulate social groups, especially young people, to become more active.

International Cooperation - Exchange of good practices in environmental protection and recycling. Effectiveness of activities cannot be achieved without joint international involvement and exchange of experiences. The project supports cooperation between partners from Turkey, Lithuania, and Poland, the aim of which is to develop joint solutions for the protection of the environment and natural resources, including by raising awareness among young people. International cooperation is crucial to this process, enabling the integration of best practices and effective solutions to local and national environmental challenges. Promoting recycling is an effective way to protect Environmental literacy.



Promoting skills - one of the project's key tools is education and raising public awareness, particularly familiarizing young people with the topic. The project is committed to providing educational activities that enable the acquisition of new environmental skills and knowledge about recycling. Educators will also have the opportunity to transfer these skills to their local communities, strengthening the project's impact and contributing to the creation of a shared environmental culture. The project contributes to promoting recycling and the responsible use of natural resources. The environmental challenges we face require us to be more proactive and pro-environmental, including educating young people about protecting the natural environment by promoting rational recycling.

The project's title, **"Recycling is my smile at nature,"** demonstrates its focus on youth, its belief in ecological initiatives, and its optimism!

Project partners:

- FUNDACJA EASTERN INSTITUTE OF BUSINESS EDUCATION – Poland
- KARABEKIR ILKOKULU – Turkey
- EMITURAS - Lithuania

Please visit the project website at:

<https://recyclingfornature.org/>



Examples of educational activities in Türkiye





KARABEKIR ILKOKULU - Karabekir Primary School organized its third international meeting. They organized a seedling planting event called "ME AND MY TREE," in which all project partners participated. 500 seedlings were planted as part of the event. The event was covered on social media and in the local and national press.

Almost all studies conducted emphasize the idea that to prevent environmental pollution, the problem must first be made public. For this reason, each partner organized events that attracted attention and attracted various age and social groups, as well as seminars whose programs and content were interesting to the local community, particularly the project's target group in their region.

The main event's title was: Plant Seedlings for a Green Future One of the most important causes of climate change, one of the biggest global problems of our time, is devastation of forests. Therefore, it is essential to raise public awareness about tree planting and forest protection.

This campaign was planned to leave our children a greener, healthier, and more livable world and contribute to solving the problem of climate change. As part of the event, the following was held: A seedling planting campaign titled "ME AND MY TREE" was organized under the leadership of Karabekir Primary School.

In cooperation with the Directorate of National Education and District Forestry, an empty area was designated as a commemorative forest for the project.



Within this designated area, coordinated by Karabekir Primary School, a seedling planting event titled "ME AND MY TREE" took place.

Six participants from the project's partner countries, Lithuania and Poland, as project partners participated in the event.

The principals of Karabekir Primary School, teachers, parents and students, representatives of the municipality, non-governmental organizations, and the local community also participated.

As part of the event, 500 seedlings will be planted. This will foster participants' love for trees and nature, and increase public interest. The event will be widely promoted within the local community. This event will allow students and young people, in particular, to learn about soil and the process of planting trees and bushes, to appreciate and care for the trees they planted in the future, thus developing environmental awareness.

This is a perfect example of an environmental education activity. A keychain and pen printed with the project's name and logo were presented to participants as a souvenir of the event. To prevent environmental pollution and avoid using plastic bags, participants received canvas bags with the project's name and logo printed on them.

They were also informed and explained that from now on, they should avoid using plastic and nylon bags, as they are very harmful to the environment.

Photos show the enthusiasm of the young participants during this special event.













Educational outcomes of this event in our project:

- Students were made aware of the need to ensure a clean environment for future generations.
- A commemorative forest area was created as part of the Erasmus project.
- In collaboration with teachers, parents, and students, 500 seedlings were planted.
- Students learned about the process of planting plants and trees and became sensitive to nature.
- Participants, especially students, experienced the joy of contributing to solving a global problem, such as environmental pollution and climate change, by planting new trees.
- A new habitat for animals and insects was created. The area was previously completely empty.
- The entire local community learned about the event, so information about environmental protection activities spread widely among people.



Examples of educational activities in Poland





Seminar, Workshops and discussions - Recycling starts at the source, the source is people.

The goal of this activity is to improve society's future and ensure living conditions in a more beautiful environment by raising awareness of the role and importance of ecology and recycling. The project's goal was to familiarize people with environmentally harmful pollutants and instill the idea of completely avoiding these pollutants, if possible, and, when not possible, reducing waste at source, recycling, and minimizing the problem through ecological solutions. The event will be held in Poland, with participants from each partner institution participating.

Almost all of the research conducted highlights the idea that to prevent environmental pollution, people must first become aware of the problem. Therefore, raising awareness of environmental and waste issues among human resources and social groups is one of the goals of our project. As a result of this event, participants organized four local meetings in their institutions to share the benefits and experiences gained from working on the project.

Two of these meetings were aimed at young people, students in formal education, and non-governmental organizations. Volunteers of various ages from various types of schools and institutions participated. Two further training sessions were aimed at a target group consisting of administrators and teachers from project partner institutions, representatives of non-governmental organizations and local governments, educators, students, homemakers, and social cooperatives.



During these meetings, participants shared information on nature conservation, presenting good practices in the project partner countries regarding environmental pollution, global climate change, and waste recycling. Among the good practices were those we personally learned about as project partners. We believe that this activity will develop long-term positive attitudes towards nature, especially among participants of our events, but also among local school students, teachers, and educators.

Our mission is to share our knowledge and experience in ecology and recycling with young people and the local community.

We also organized an ecological sculpture competition using recycled materials to enrich and diversify our message without making it too formulaic or formulaic. This type of activity has generated increased interest in our project, and therefore in the topic of recycling itself.

Human and financial resources. When allocating duties and responsibilities among the project partners, their institutional capacity, staffing competencies, organizational goals, missions, and knowledge and experience in the project's subject matter were taken into account.

The EASTERN BUSINESS EDUCATION INSTITUTE FOUNDATION in Poland has significant educational potential. Therefore, it has organized educational meetings that, in an innovative and original way, will also have a long-term impact on raising environmental awareness among young people through specific and engaging activities.

The topics of the seminars were as follows:

- Environmental Knowledge: Environmental problems and solutions sought.
- Pro-Environmental Behavior: Mechanisms for shaping positive behaviors aimed at protecting the environment.
- Environmental pollution caused by boxes and packaging of consumer goods used in our daily lives and ways to counteract this process.
- Training sessions also included knowledge about waste recycling and interesting examples of ecological art. All training sessions had adequate time allocated for informal discussion.

Below are the results of our competition for an ecological sculpture made from recycled waste, along with photos from meetings with young people and teachers at schools, among other events.















There is even more interesting project information on the project website <https://recyclingfornature.org/>



Examples of educational activities in Lithuania





The project assignment is titled "Using Waste in an Artistic Context." *Eco-art classes will be taught in painting, visual arts, and technological design courses at formal and informal educational institutions.

Waste will become artistic and aesthetic works in the imagination and skillful hands of students and teachers. Through these classes, waste will be reused in accordance with the principles of eco-art, and awareness of environmental pollution will be raised. Art has an effective impact on environmental sensitivity.

The international meeting entitled "Eco-Art in Everyday Life" took place in Lithuania with the participation of participants from each project partner institution.

A workshop entitled "Waste Recycling through Handicrafts" was held prior to the meeting, led by the project partner institution and attended by staff, students, or interns. Each partner will present the three best works created during these workshops to the project meeting participants.

Products obtained from waste recycling will be presented at the meeting, along with handicrafts and works from the project partner countries. The presentation and exhibition included descriptive information such as the name of the work, the waste materials used, the construction stages, and the name of the artist.

On the first day of the project event, an introductory meeting was held, along with a discussion of the work completed after the first meeting, a timeline of activities, and an assessment of the project's progress. An exhibition entitled "Eco-Art and Eco-Creativity" will be organized.



Our Lithuanian partner organized workshops and artistic events under the theme "Eco-Art in Everyday Life" with the participation of students, youth, adults, and professionals in the arts and culture sector. As part of these projects, souvenirs and toys were made from recycled materials.

These products were presented at the exhibition entitled "Eco-Art and Eco-Creativity," organized by our Lithuanian partner NGO - Emituras. Project participants, local representatives, members of the press, NGOs, teachers, students, school principals, municipal representatives, students, and community centers are invited to the exhibition. At this exhibition, the partners will promote waste recycling products and handicrafts made in their own countries. There will also be a seminar and discussion on eco-art and the use of eco-solutions in everyday life.

Photos from Vilnius show how interesting and popular this event was.











As a result of our event, when participants travel to their institutions and communities, they will meet with teachers of crafts, painting, visual arts, and technological design working in formal and non-formal education to share their experiences and achievements from working on eco-art projects.

They will share examples of good practices with teachers. Encouraging teachers to increase the use of waste in crafts and art education classes will contribute to the development of students' creativity and help prevent environmental pollution. It is important for children and young people to be sensitive, aware, and knowledgeable about the environment and environmental issues in order to create a more sustainable future.

Our goal is environmental education and to raise awareness of the importance of recycling. The exhibition, titled "Eco-Art and Eco-Creativity," was organized by the leading Lithuanian partner in this project.

The exhibition showcased wonderful works and souvenirs made from waste materials, which our Lithuanian partner prepared in a unique way in a beautiful location. Students, young people, adults, and anyone interested in the topic participated in the "Eco-Art in Everyday Life" workshop. The exhibition video shows the beautiful works and the impressive appearance of the exhibition itself.



Conclusion



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Summary - Things Worth Knowing and Keeping in Mind

1) How to Teach Young People About Recycling

The most effective methods for educating young people:

- Education through practice – workshops during which young people independently sort waste and create items from recycling (upcycling).
- School projects and field games – class competitions, eco-challenges, ecological escape rooms.
- Social media – short films, challenges, infographics; language and format tailored to young people.
- Visits to waste processing facilities – real-life contact with the process makes the greatest impression.
- The method of positive examples and good bird's-eye views – showcasing success stories: for example, a new product is created from beverage bottles, new cans from aluminum.
- Cross-curricular education – combining recycling with biology (environmental protection), geography (waste management), and even art (upcycling).

2) What are the greatest recycling achievements?

The most important global successes of recycling process:

- Aluminum recycling – one of the most efficient closed circles; 75% of the aluminum ever produced is still in use.



- PET bottles → synthetic fibers – recycled PET is used to make clothes, blankets, and sports shoes; this reduces the production of virgin plastic.
- Full-circle glass recycling – glass can be recycled an infinite number of times without loss of quality.
- Eco-friendly technologies in electronics recycling – recovery of gold, silver, palladium, and lithium, which reduces the need for raw material extraction.
- Closed-loop recycling in the paper industry – today, over 70% of paper can be recovered in the EU.
- Circular economy in Scandinavian countries – for example, the deposit-refund system, where over 90% of bottles and cans are returned to circulation.

3) Recycling as a Method of Environmental Protection

Why recycling protects the environment:

- It reduces the amount of waste in landfills, limiting methane emissions and soil and water pollution.
- It saves natural resources – less deforestation, less metal, oil, and gas extraction.
- It reduces CO₂ emissions – production from recycled materials is much less energy-intensive.
- It reduces environmental degradation – less mining, less destruction of ecosystems.
- It supports the circular economy, which is one of the pillars of EU climate policy.
- It builds public environmental awareness – environmental education is key to changing consumer behavior.



4) The Best Recycling Initiatives in Europe

Examples of Effective Programs and Initiatives:

Scandinavia

- Norway and Denmark – deposit-refund systems with a 90–97% return rate.
- Sweden – municipal waste recycling at approximately 50% and a well-developed bio-waste processing system.

Germany

- One of the highest waste separation rates in Europe (approximately 67% municipal waste recycling).
- A very extensive container system: paper, glass (separate colors), bio-waste, plastic, and metal.

The Netherlands

- A European pioneer in the circular economy.
- Mandatory bio-waste separation and extensive recycling collection points.

Austria

- One of the highest glass recycling rates (over 80%).
- Very effective bio-waste separation and a local education system.

Poland – Positive Examples

- Increasingly widespread and mandatory waste separation.
- Large cities are investing in composting plants and incinerators with energy recovery.

Recycling is my smile at nature !



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