Outstanding activities and initiatives implemented in Cyprus the year 2018-2019

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1. Institutional and Governance structure for implementing ESD and the SDGs at the Governmental and policy level in Cyprus

2. Action Against Climate Change: The Climate calls “S.O.S”

3. Environmental Education Program for Parents and Children “I protect the environment through learning and creation with my child in and through this”
The adaption and systematic implementation of the National Strategy on ESD (based on UNECE ESD Strategy, at all educational levels).

The establishment, in a horizontal way, of ESD in a coherent, systematic and integrated way to the rest of the national policies (biodiversity strategy, climate change strategy, National Report on SDGs e.tc).

The foundation of the ESD Unit was considered as necessary for implementing, updating and monitoring ESD National Strategy across the spectrum of the state mechanism and more broadly in civil society.
PROCESS FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE PERMANENT UNIT OF EESD

4 Years duration

Main Principles of the process
- Open process
- Negotiation with all the interested parties
- No one live behind
- Consensus

Mandate from the Minister of Education and Culture
- the challenges,
- the international practices (good examples),
- the Mission,
- the Objectives,
- the Responsibilities,
- the institutional framework
- the operation

Submitted and presented by the Minister of Education and Culture which is the superior body of the State for political decision-making, which formally authorized the establishment of the Permanent Unit for ESD.

Presented at the Parliamentary Committee of the Environment for approval.

Public Rehearsals and involvement of all the stakeholders from the Ministry of Education, interested Ministries, the social partners, the NGOs, the private sector, Universities

Expert group on ESD issues, management and planning prepared the study for the establishment of the Unit.
Mission of the Unit of Education for Environment and Sustainable Development

• The promotion and the effective integration ESD at National Educational Policy,

• The holistic and implementation of ESD in all educational levels in a systemic, coherent and concrete manner, linking also efficaciously the formal ESD Education with non-formal and informal education.

• The establishment of synergies with all the interested parties (social partners, professionals, local communities, NGOs, universities, public and private sector e.t.c.) for integrating ESD in the Civil Society.

AIM

The creation of environmental literate and democratic citizens, who will be responsible for their choices, will inquire alternative solutions, will negotiate, will co-decisize and will participate in actions that will take care their selves, the others, the environment aiming to improve the quality of life and create a world that will be based on the principles and values of a sustainable development.
STRUCTURE OF THE UNIT OF EESD

Minister of Education and Culture

Acting Director of the MoEC

UNIT OF EESD

HEAD OF THE UNIT
Administrative Stuff
Seconded Teachers from pre-primary, primary, secondary education with special qualifications on EE/ESD
2 pre-primary
10 primary teachers
8 Secondary teachers
(prerequisite Master on EE/ESD
5 years experience on EE/ESD

Interdepartmental committee on ESD (1 representative from each Directorate)

CPI

Other Services of the MoEC

External Stakeholders

(Ministries Commissioners Public Sector etc).

Local Authorities

AD HOC Committees

Internal Stakeholders

Interdisciplinary committee on ESD in SE
Committee on ESD in PE
Inter-disciplinary Committee on ESD in VET

NGOs, Universities, Research Centres, Associations, Private Sector, national and international networks etc.
ORGANIZATION AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE UNIT FOR EESD

- National Action Plan for ESD (prerequisites the permanent Institutional Structure on ESD)
- Permanent Unit of ESD

  - PT for implementing National Curricula on ESD in pre-primary and Primary Education
  - PT for linking formal with non-formal and informal ESD education
  - PT for guiding schools for implementing programs on EE/ESD in pre-primary and primary education.
  - PT for guiding schools for implementing programs on EE/ESD in secondary education

- Connecting and Infusing ESD in other National Policies and align ESD with other parallel policies (e.g. Global Education)
- ESD Teachers Professional Development
- Inclusion of ESD in Cyprus Educational System (Curricula, Sustainable School)
- Authoring and publication of educational material and tools on ESD based on national needs, particularities and priorities
- Networking and collaboration in national, regional and international level with all the interested parties and stakeholders (Organizations, MoU, NGOs e.tc.)
- Preparation, participation and implementation of EU projects
- Conducting research
- Operation of non formal Centers for EE/ESD
- Design and implementation of EE/ESD programs in National and International Level

PT for implementing National Curricula on ESD in pre-primary and Primary Education

PT for linking formal with non-formal and informal ESD education

PT for guiding schools for implementing programs on EE/ESD in pre-primary and primary education.

PT for guiding schools for implementing programs on EE/ESD in secondary education
ACTION AGAINST CLIMATE CHANGE: THE CLIMATE CALLS “S.O.S”

DEVELOPMENT

Action Against Climate Change" was developed taking into account:

• The cross-curricular approach to the issues of Sustainable Development in our country's educational system,

• The fact that climate action is one of the 17 sustainable development goals that constitute the global agenda for creating a world based on the principles of sustainability and ensuring society-environment-economy.
ACTION AGAINST CLIMATE CHANGE: THE CLIMATE CALLS “S.O.S”

PURPOSE OF THE ACTION

Emphasizing the issue of Climate Change, through creative and exploratory-type actions and raising citizens awareness regarding our role for tackling the problem.

The ultimate aim is, through alternative type of learning processes, that can develop research, environmental critical literacy, as well as pupils' creativity, to produce tools that can motivate and aware civil society on this issue.
**LEARNING OBJECTIVES**

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<tr>
<th>Updating Climate Change and understanding the complexity of the issue.</th>
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<tr>
<td>Awareness of the systemic nature and the chain effects of Climate Change at the environmental, social, economic and political level.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Information on actions promoted in the fight against climate change at the scientific and technological level.</td>
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<td>Getting familiar with policies that promoted in EU against climate change.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Awareness of the role and responsibility that each of us has in the deterioration, but also in addressing the issue of Climate Change.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Awareness of the fact that Climate Change is a global problem and therefore requires a common approach by all and collective action.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Acquaintance with actions and campaigns to enlighten and inform the public on the issue of Climate Change at local and global level.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Introduction to information and awareness techniques, such as TV spots, cartoons, caricatures, informative posters.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Introduction to procedures for collecting data, investigating, analyzing and critically illustrating informative and enlightening actions.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Awareness of the role and power that everyone has as a catalyst for change in the issue of Climate Change.</td>
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**ACTION AGAINST CLIMATE CHANGE: THE CLIMATE CALLS “S.O.S”**
ACTION AGAINST CLIMATE CHANGE: THE CLIMATE CALLS “S.O.S”

a) Collaboration of schools with bodies and organizations with experience in Climate Change.

b) Involvement of students with different aspects of Climate Change through creative actions that can contribute to exploratory - creative learning of students on the issue of Climate Change.

c) Dissemination of schools actions and their use in enlightening other students in the issue of Climate Change.
ACTION AGAINST CLIMATE CHANGE: THE CLIMATE CALLS “S.O.S”

This program includes two actions:

a. creating Cartoons/Caricatures for Primary Education.

b. creating Animation Spots for Secondary General Education.

In this program are participating more than 1,000 students, aged 10-14 years old, from 113 Primary and Secondary schools across Cyprus.
ACTION AGAINST CLIMATE CHANGE: THE CLIMATE CALLS “S.O.S”

Support and Guidance

A series of seminars on "Climate change through cartooning“ and on "Climate Change through Animation", in collaboration with the Environment Commissioner, the Cyprus Institute, the European Committee, the Animafest Cyprus – Views of the World and the Association of Cypriot Cartoonists.

Workshops on "Climate Change and Cartoon" by the Association of Cypriot Cartoonists, addressed to pupils and teachers of elementary education.

A series of organized workshops on “Climate Change through cartoons” by the Animafest Cyprus – Views of the World, addressed to pupils and teachers of secondary education.

Technical Support and Guidance on Creating Cartoon Videos by Instructors of the Animafest Cyprus.

AWARD: Visit to the European Parliament to be inform on how EU policies and legislations, on environmental issues, are decided.
Topics for Cartoons and Animation Spots

1. Emphasize the problem of Climate Change, locally, nationally, regionally, internationally.

2. Investigation and projection of the related, with climate changes, issues (desertification, population movements, biodiversity loss, extreme weather phenomena, impacts on the economy, destruction of professional groups, etc.).

3. Emphasizing our responsibility against Climate Change.

4. Recommendations and suggestions that citizens can adopt in their everyday life for addressing the problem of climate change.

ACTION AGAINST CLIMATE CHANGE: THE CLIMATE CALLS “S.O.S”
ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION PROGRAM FOR PARENTS AND CHILDREN “I PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT THROUGH LEARNING AND CREATION WITH MY CHILD IN AND THROUGH THIS”

An innovative program for parents with their Children

Launching of the program: March 2019
Estimated that more than 10,000 parents with their children will participate to the program the year 2019-2020

Offered for parents and children in preprimary and primary education
Stakeholders: Ministry of Education and Culture (Department of Primary Education), Cyprus Pedagogical Institute (EESD Unit), School of Parents, School Directors, Association of Parents and Guardians, Department of Forestry
ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION PROGRAM FOR PARENTS AND CHILDREN “I PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT THROUGH LEARNING AND CREATION WITH MY CHILD IN AND THROUGH THIS”

Generation of the program

Parents request for having alternative and creative opportunities in the environment with their children

Purpose

Providing parents/guardians alternative creative activities in various environmental fields as areas of experiential learning, creative interaction, and parent/guardian entertainment with their children

Objectives

• Quality time of parents with their children outdoors.

• Creative learning of children with their parents in the field.

• Acquaintance, appreciation and respect of our land.

• Opportunities for parents to "re-discover" their children and vice versa.

• Acquiring new experiences and stimuli of learning, emotional and social character.
Innovative Elements of the Program

• Extended networking of Stakeholders for program implementation.

• Enhancement of the intergenerational communication.

• Programs are offered on the weekends, holidays and summer time for free (not at the school time).

• Employment of unemployed young professionals and Scientists on the field of EE/ESD.
Benefits for Parents and Children

• Better understanding of children's developmental needs: emotional, social, spiritual.

• Strengthening interaction, discussion and better communication between parents and children outside typical school environment.

• Strengthening confidence in children's skills in issues related to interpersonal relationships, communication, decision-making, initiative-taking.

• Improving parents children relationships.

• Growing emotional ties between parents and children.

• Provide alternative options for parenting.

• Understanding parenting in the wider education and entertainment of their children.

• Understanding parenting in environmental awareness of both their children and other family members.

• The parent is not just a guardian but also a trainer and apprentice.
ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION PROGRAM FOR PARENTS AND CHILDREN "I PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT THROUGH LEARNING AND CREATION WITH MY CHILD IN AND THROUGH THIS"

Areas of implementation
ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION PROGRAM FOR PARENTS AND CHILDREN “I PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT THROUGH LEARNING AND CREATION WITH MY CHILD IN AND THROUGH THIS”

Indicative thematic programs that will be applied outdoors

- Forest
- Lake/wetlands
- Culture and Environment
- Coast
- Biodiversity
- Bird watching

A variety of programs will be implemented in each EEC.
ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION PROGRAM FOR PARENTS AND CHILDREN “I PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT THROUGH LEARNING AND CREATION WITH MY CHILD IN AND THROUGH THIS”

Examples of Interactive Activities

Involvement of parents, teachers and children on issues related to the environment

Participation in field activities - Picnic in nature.

Interactive activities of enjoyable character

The parent as an equal and active member of the group

- Enjoyment of nature
- Relaxing away from the noise of the city
- Connecting with place and land
- Cultivation of interpersonal and social relations
Examples of Interactive Activities

Involvement of parents, teachers and children on issues related to the environment

Participation in field activities – Compiling flamingo nests using natural materials

Interactive activities of creative character

The parent as an equal and active member of the group, as a promoter
ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION PROGRAM FOR PARENTS AND CHILDREN “I PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT THROUGH LEARNING AND CREATION WITH MY CHILD IN AND THROUGH THIS”

Examples of Interactive Activities

Involvement of parents, teachers and children on issues related to the environment

Participation in field activities – Consciousness - STEM Activities, Observation, Investigation

Interactive activities of exploratory character

The parent as an equal and active member of the group
ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION PROGRAM FOR PARENTS AND CHILDREN “I PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT THROUGH LEARNING AND CREATION WITH MY CHILD IN AND THROUGH THIS”

Examples of Interactive Activities

Discovering the risks

Involvement of parents, teachers and children on issues related to the environment

Participation in field activities – Consciousness - STEM Activities, Observation, Investigation, Information Collection

Interactive activities of exploratory character

The parent as an equal and active member of the group
ENVIROMENTAL EDUCATION PROGRAM FOR PARENTS AND CHILDREN “I PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT THROUGH LEARNING AND CREATION WITH MY CHILD IN AND THROUGH THIS”

Examples of Interactive Activities

Involvement of parents, teachers and children on issues related to the environment

Participation in field activities – Educational Games – Role-Playing Games - Empowered

Interactive activities of informative and enjoyable character

The parent as an equal and active member of the group