



A PROJECT FINANCIALLY SUPPORTED BY NORDPLUS

“Promoting Young Peoples' Environmental Awareness for Sustainable Development by Traveling and Understanding the Processes of Human-Nature Interaction in the Northern European Region”

GOAL

to promote young peoples' understanding of human-nature interactions, **environmentally friendly behavior**, solving problems in changing real life situations, improving knowledge, personal and social skills, attitudes, making justified decisions for sustainable development that will improve the quality of life now and future generations, thus promoting the development of quality, creativity and innovation in education, using the latest technological advances, strengthening and developing cooperation between schools.

REALIZATION

The set goal and tasks, planned events, activities in the project were realized, ensuring the understanding of the involved partners about the **achievement of the project's goals** and the implementation of activities:

- The programs of the exploratory trips for students and teachers have been developed and exploratory trips to **Faroe Islands and Latvia** have been organized:
 - during which **35 students** and **10 teachers** from Distance Learning High School "Riga Commercial School" from Latvia, **30 students** and **3 teachers** from the partner-school **Miðnámsskúlin í Suðuroy** from the Faroe Islands got to know and learned, through observations and research, about the interrelationship of various aspects of the environment with sustainable economic development and social dimensions, cultural environment, sustainable development trends of economy, natural processes in regions and on a national scale;
 - So that young people can find answers to the questions: how do global processes affect the lifestyle of the population - living conditions, occupation in the Faroe Islands and Latvia? How to balance the relationship between human and nature in the Faroe Islands and Latvia? How to connect economic, ecological and social opportunities to ensure a sustainable future?
- As part of the project's activities, we got to know the processes of interaction between nature and human, the principles of smart and sustainable management, which balance the relationship between human and nature in order to ensure a **sustainable future**:
 - by visiting such places in Latvia as: the sea buckthorn farm **"Zelt"**, the farm **"Krūmiņi"**, participated in a bread baking master class; we also visited the seaweed farm **"Tari"** in the Faroe Islands, which promotes self-sufficiency, social responsibility. We learned how to combine ancient values and skills with modern knowledge and opportunities, how to live in harmony with nature, observing its rhythms and respecting its resources, by visiting the **Latvian State Forest pine cone drying facility** in Vīciems which is included in the list of European cultural heritage. We also visited **Strenči Tree Nursery** - one of the most modern in the world in the field of seedling growing technology, explored the ceramic workshop **"Rauna Kiln"** in Latvia, attended the pelagic fish processing plant **"Varðin"** in the Faroe Islands - the most modern in the world, and met with the representative of the company **"Bakkafrost"**, one of the world's integrated salmon farming companies, which is committed to maintaining the highest standards in terms of fish well-being, sustainability and sound environmental management.
 - We also familiarized ourselves with the processes taking place in the natural environment in Latvia - in the Ķemeri National Park, the Gauja National Park and the Faroe Islands - with the regions little affected by civilization, the typical natural landscapes - the majestic waterfalls, rocks that attract colorful storm birds - ravens, in order to promote young peoples' understanding of human-nature interaction, about environmentally friendly behavior, about the principles of environmental ethics that ensure and are able to ensure a **sustainable future**.
- The international professional competence development seminar-conference **"Education for Sustainable Development - for the Future Human"** for teachers was organized at the Distance Learning High School "Riga Commercial School" in Riga, Street Alberta 13, 14.09.2023. (agreement No. RIMC-23-147 from 31.05.2023), as well as at the partner-school - **Miðnámsskúlin í Suðuroy** Grønudalur 2, FO950 Porkeri, in the Faroe Islands - 24.11.2022, with the participation of students, teachers and parents to share the experience gained and analyze the experience of other countries which promotes the formation of environmental awareness for sustainable development in young people, develops and improves the ability to use knowledge, skills and express attitudes in solving problems in changing real-life situations. Students shared their experience of personal benefits, acquired knowledge, skills and attitudes, participating in project activities. Students conducted observation and research on the chosen topic, while teachers shared their experience on the project, research method and other modern approaches, organizing the **learning and upbringing process** in the natural, socio-economic, in the cultural environment, to ensure understanding of environmentally friendly behavior, principles of environmental ethics, the relationship between nature and people, the connection between local and global, as well as between history, present and future, as well as the sustainable development model of education, in order to understand the importance of a sustainable lifestyle now and in the future. Students together with teachers prepared **11 presentations, 2 short video films, 35 poster papers**.
- All the activities of the project - **exploratory trips, creative workshops, competitions, seminars, practical works, games, development of students' scientific research works, creation of poster reports, posters, presentations, short video films** - contributed to young peoples' understanding of how global processes affect the lifestyle of citizens - their living conditions, occupation now and in the future, how important it is to save resources, now and in the future, how important it is to critically assess one's own and others' actions, to look for solutions, to take responsibility, to participate in society's development processes, encouraging society to live more environmentally friendly, because we can only talk about sustainable development if they understand it and participate in the development processes of society. **Education is the key to sustainable development**.
- Distance Learning High School's "Riga Commercial School"** and partner-school's **Miðnámsskúlin í Suðuroy** lessons learned, after realizing the project, are integrated into both schools' teaching and upbringing process, making the lessons more exciting, useful for life activities, in order to encourage and promote:
 - young peoples' understanding of the interaction between human and nature, the **principles of smart and sustainable management**, combining ancient values and skills with modern knowledge and opportunities, about environmentally friendly behavior, living in harmony with nature, observing its rhythms and respecting its resources, solving problems of changing real life in situations, unusual conditions, developing personal skills - critical thinking, decision-making abilities and problem-solving skills, e.g. exploratory trip "Sustainable Farming Principles was organized;
 - young peoples' understanding on the processes taking place in nature and in the economy in the field of climate change on a local, national, regional and global scale, to express one's position against them and to be aware of the importance of cooperation at the local, national and international level in making **sustainable development decisions** that would improve the quality of life now and for the needs of future generations;
 - the development of educational quality, creativity and innovation, using modern methods, approaches, forms of cooperation, environment in the teaching and upbringing process, considering age, intellectual needs, wishes, **values that would lead to achievements**.

LESSONS LEARNED

The goal, tasks, planned events, activities of the project ensure **productive learning, learning by going deeper** - expertise, self-directed learning, creating an understanding of the connection between the local and the global, as well as between history, present and future, promoting **education for sustainable development**.

By participating in exploratory trips, expeditions outside the territory of the country where they live, **young people more successfully develop an understanding** of the interaction between people and nature, **sustainable development**, because they acquire knowledge and skills - in an unusual environment, in unusual conditions, in unprecedented real-life situations, in a changing, living environment, by conducting research and observations, thinking, debating, searching for the truth on the interrelationship between nature and people, on ancient sustainable management principles that promote self-sufficiency, social responsibility.

The inhabitants of the Faroe Islands **live in harmony with their environment**, meaningfully using natural resources, promoting the preservation of a clean environment, sustainability and proper environmental management.

It is important to understand how global processes affect the lifestyle of the population - living conditions, occupation now and in the future, in order to get to know the principles of smart and sustainable management, which promote self-sufficiency, social responsibility and ensure a sustainable future for us.

Education is the key to sustainable development, understanding how natural, economic and social systems work, seeing their mutual interaction.

We have got acquainted with the processes of interaction between nature and human, which have ensured the development of humanity from generation to generation in the Faroe Islands and Latvia.

Nowadays, the value is not what you know, but what you can do with this knowledge.

Effective communication is important to ensure the understanding of the involved partners about the achievement of the project's goal, the implementation of activities, the allocated funding

During the exploratory trips, young people, by engaging in diverse activities, develop and improve their research skills, observation abilities, skills to discuss, present, logically justify their opinion, to cooperate, to accept the different, getting to know the life experiences of young people from other countries, to perceive nature and the human-made environment as an aesthetic value.

The **cooperation of different subject teachers**, by implementing an integral approach - **interdisciplinarity** in the learning process, **purposefully** promotes the transfer of knowledge, so that students can use the knowledge and skills learned in one subject in other subjects, thus ensuring a deep understanding of the learning content and encouraging students to active, purposeful and meaningful activities. Interdisciplinarity in the learning process promotes the formation of personal and social skills and attitudes, based on values, towards the natural environment, oneself and the cultural environment, learning an environmentally friendly way of thinking, taking into account the **global change**, anticipating actions to reduce its impact.

We have investigated the sustainable development trends of Latvia's cultural environment and economy in the regions, as well as the processes occurring in nature, which balance the relationship between man and nature in order to ensure a sustainable future.

Nowadays, we - the entire society - must learn to live in a world that is constantly changing. We must be able to improve the skills to implement our ideas in new conditions, be ready to create an unprecedented economic, political, social and **global change**, anticipating actions to reduce its impact.

"Who knows what one wants - can do what one wants." /Rains/



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In gratitude

Ilze Beļinska
Project Director and the principal of the Distance Learning High School "Riga Commercial School"



PHOTOS FROM PROJECT ACTIVITIES