

Towards Introduction of Climate Action in the Educational Curriculum of Bulgarian Schools

01.09.2018 – 30.08.2021

Project partners

- National Trust Eco Fund, Bulgaria
- Independent Institute for Environmental Issues, Berlin
- National Center for the Improvement of the Qualifications of the Pedagogical Specialists at the Ministry of Education and Science, Bulgaria

National Trust Ecofund is a public independent institution, established in 1995 to subsidise environmental projects using the proceeds of Debt for environment deal, under art 17 of Kyoto Protocol, EU ETS, and others. Its Board of directors consists of deputy ministers of three ministries, Bulgarian academy of Science, National Association of the Municipalities of Republic of Bulgaria and the environmental NGOs.

Project summary

The project is a continuation of the three educational projects implemented already by NTEF and supported by BMU. Educational actions were added to the priorities of NTEF to improve the efficiency of public investments in the energy efficiency measures in public schools. The change of students' and teachers' behavior leads to GHG emissions reduction. Training of trainer's program for 14 academic teachers' trainers will institutionalize a new curriculum which will be offered as a permanent program in the long term to all teachers in Bulgaria, which will issue credits to teachers, leading to increase of professional status. The educational materials of it will be tested in the field with direct involvement of teachers and students from preschool from kindergarten to 7th grade, involving 140 teachers and 2000 students. German and EU experience will be implemented through the partnership with UfU and the other Bulgarian partner will remain as the owner of the new curriculum and programs for the long term.

Project justification

NTEF is financing investment energy efficiency measures in municipal and state schools. To ensure for the sustainability also after the commissioning of the sites, there is a need to implement educational project leading to the change of students' behaviour towards energy efficiency with a long-lasting effect. This would lead to additional energy savings to add value to the public investments. However, effective implementation requires continuous dialogue and coordination with all stakeholders.

We expect to overcome following obstacles:

- Insufficient institutional capacity to include climate change issues in the educational system and lack of educational materials on the topics of resource-efficient, low-carbon and climate-resilient economy
- Lack of interdisciplinarity - mainstreaming on cross-cutting level of the subjects of climate change and energy efficiency requires a lot of effort and resources
- Lack of experience and mechanism to change the behavior of students and teachers towards low energy consumption.

Project activities

WP 1 Training of trainers – the ToT for 14 BG teachers' trainers

The ToT will consist of two modules:

- a training in Germany – lectures, visits to schools and universities are envisaged.
- Three days training - by climate experts from Bulgaria on Bulgarian and EU climate policies and specifics of climate change for Bulgaria

WP 2 Development of draft educational materials by the Bulgarian team with assistance of UfU

- Drafting of the educational packages for extracurricular lessons by the teachers' trainers (teachers manuals and students' handouts) – 14 packages – 2 for the kindergarten, 2 – for the elementary school, 10 – for fifth to seventh grade.
- Printing of the educational materials to be used by the teachers – total 150 manuals and 3000 handouts, plus a tutorial for energy tours regarding technical issues.
- Training workshops for the teachers – 7 workshops x 20 trainees x 5 days – training for the field work. With the participation of one German expert for each specific group. (NTEF, NCIQPS, UfU)

WP 3 Field work – implementation of the program in schools, beneficiaries of NTEF

- Each teacher will implement the program under the supervision of the professors and will contribute to the educational materials.
- During the phase – presentations to local authorities
- Six two days' workshops to share experience and the contribution to the materials. Teachers obtain their certificates for credits. (NCIQPS)

WP 4 Finalization of the educational materials

- Teachers' trainers incorporate the contribution of teachers - 1000 copies each. (NCIQPS)
- Final conference – improved coordination

WP 5 Publicity – media events and website publications in the partner websites. (NTEF, UfU, NCIQPS)