Environmental Education at the Romanian Black Sea Coastline

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Changes of the natural environment as a consequence of the human activity increase at both local and global level. Only by raising people's awarness and making them understand the functioning of the life support systems and the relationship between the quality of the environment and the necesity of the resources exploitation a decrease of the man made impact can be achieved. The key of solving these problems is the environmental education, a relevant and necessary field for all agesand for all socio-economic levels. Environmental education includes the formal education (schools, training institutions) and nonformal (clubs, associations, foundations, mass media, adult education institutions, etc).

It is more and more necessary the creation of new kind of relationing between individuals, society and nature phenomenology in order to find a new alliance who should stop the more and more probable eventuality of ireversible damage at the natural population level. Such methods are useful new knowledge forms who can enable the individuals and the social groups, and also the responsible of the social life at all levels (economic, political, productive, cultural, administrative, etc) in the situation of stop ignoring the consequences of the human action on the environment.

From this perspective it becomes obvious the place of the educators and of the new generation' trainers but also for the adults in order to accustom the students to faced in a more resposible way the different dimesions of the reality without beeing overwhelmed by thise but, on the contrary, sustained in diminuishing the effects of the negative human behaviour upon the nature. From this point of view the environmental education is a kind of civic activity which goal is to develop the knowledge and action of the people so they could observe, analyze and make the difference between the various aspects of the nature and the social situation in which they are living, in order to understand the profound features of that.

One of the most important results of an environmental education project which is dealing with teenagers is to improve the critical thinking skills, to change their mentality in confront with the day to day behavior oriented to the nature. The general interest of the young people toward the IT, INTERNET can be used in order to enhance a better way of communication of the environmental issues.

So, the main point of our project is to develop in our students or volunteer the capacity of shearwith the others their knowledge and abilities. The target group of ours project are highschool students from 15 to 19 years old that are also volunteers for the NGO Mare Nostrum, which is an organization comprised of citizens concerned about the severe degradation of the Romanian Coastal Environment, whose mission is to promote the transformation from the current unsustainable practices and attitudes towards more sustainable and environmentally conscious methods regarding the utilization of Romanian Coastal Zone. In order to achieve this mission, Mare Nostrum is focusing on environmental education, public awareness campaigns, and advocacy and lobbying.

We are performing different kind of projects in our NGO, like Sustaining the Romanian Federation of the Black Sea NGO network (the aim is to increase the

individual and collective capacity of NGO's which are members of the Romanian Federation of Black Sea NGOs to influence national policy affecting the marine and coastal environment). This objective contributes to the implementation of the mission of the Black Sea NGO Network (the Regional Network for Black Sea NGOs operating in 5 countries around the Black Sea); Support for small educational projects in high schools in the coastal zone (t*he aim is to use environmental education to increase understanding of environmental problems and to stimulate interest for action, among young people of the Romanian littoral zone); i*dentification of partners and preparation of projects for current funding programmes e.g Ecolinks Challenge Grants, the World Bank programme for the reduction of agricultural pollution, Copernicus 2; t*he aim is to encourage joint ecological inititatives & projects between NGO's and other sectors in the Romanian Coastal Zone eg businesses, local authorities; e*ncourage the participation of the public and other interested parties in the revison and application of the National Strategic Plan for the Black Sea, legislation for the Coastal Zone, other laws and regulations which have an impact on the coastal environment; t*he aim is to inform the local public and other interest groups and to facilitate their consultation in defining and evaluating public policy for protection of the Black Sea/ management of the Romanian coastal zone.*

We are dealing with the formal (in the school) environmental education less than the nonformal (in the NGO). In order to insure that the environmental message get also to others people we are using the experience and skills developed by our students/volunteer in environmental education. During the last 2 years we choose like topic of the investigation a marine protected area in the south of the Romanian shore – line.

The problems of the Black Sea and especially of the Romanian coastline have drawn the attention of the mass media recently. We find out from newspapers or TV broadcasts about pollution accidents (for instance, the oil spots that reached the south of the Romanian coastline at the beginning of the summer, the stranded dolphins or the fish which died because of the unusual spread of oxygen consuming phytoplankton). That is way we should make the people aware about the situation of the only marine reserve at the Romanian coast by studying the human effects on the local biodiversity and landscape, by involving NGOs, schools and local authorities. This area was chosen to be protected because of the researches of the marine ecosystems, such as: fauna and flora systems; the study of the filtration populations; the quantitative evolution of the different populations and communities ; the adaptation experiences of different communities of fauna and flora; the study of the populations that feed themselves with substances found in suspension in the water mass ; the phytoplankton's dynamic ; the ecological management of the coastline zone related to the human activities .The under water tourism could be as well developed in very good conditions.

One of the most important produsct of the project is a multimedia CD – ROM entirely developed by the students. The CD ROM contain a scientific presentation (in HTML format with Flash 4 buttons and animations), a movie (create with AnFy Team and Java Sript applets), qizes, games, pictures, etc. This CD ROM habe been used to present the results of the project to the local community (local autorities, school pupils), but also turists and scientific community for local, national or international contests.

In conclusions, the use of the passion for the info technologies can be a good way to improve the interest of students in the environmnetal education and in raise the awaeness of the young people.