

JUNIOR ECO-EXPERT PROJECT



9th JUNIOR ECO-EXPERT PROJECT

Cieszyn, Poland

18-22 September 2006

„The influence of industrialization on the environment in Cieszyn”

Höhere Lehr-Anstalt Umwelt u. Wirtschaft, Yspertal, [A]

SOŠ pro ochranu a tvorbu životního prostředí, Veselí nad Lužnicí, [CZ]

Ferenc Gimnázium Szakközépiskola és Kollégium, Tokaj, [H]

Zespół Szkół Ponadgimnazjalnych nr 1 im. Władysława Szybińskiego, Cieszyn, [PL]

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The aims of the Programme

Since 2004 the Szybiński Secondary School has been co-operating with the schools of environmental protection from Tokaj in Hungary, Ysper in Austria and Veseli on the Lužnica River in the Czech Republic. The co-operation focuses on initiating youth ecological workshops called “Junior Eco-Expert Project”. Students acquaint themselves with the problem of purity of water, soil and air in particular countries, which is considered in European aspect. The mutual acquaintance with culture, traditions and language of the countries participating in the project, makes the co-operation vivid. Another important advantage of the project is the opportunity for students to improve their skills of speaking in English.

The 9th Junior Eco-Expert Project was organised in the Szybiński Secondary School in Cieszyn. The topic of the ecological workshops was “The influence of industrialization on the environment in Cieszyn”. The project aimed to make students acquainted with the development of industry in Cieszyn Silesia and let them observe environmental changes that have been a result of the development of mining, metallurgic and heating industry in Cieszyn and its surroundings. Cieszyn is situated on the crossing of historical trade routes, which, on the one hand, favoured economic development of the town but, on the other hand, is a source of some difficulties. For that reason, the intensity of border traffic, as well as water and air pollution, has also been measured.

During the educational trips, the students visited a coal mine, ironworks, a heat and power generating plant, an electricity distribution board and a purification plant. Each group was doing research, the results of which were presented during the Final Ceremony. English language was used by all the participants of the project.



Programme accomplishment

The students, divided into 6 international groups, were doing research in the following fields:

1. Industry and landscape, air
2. Energetics
3. Forest Ecosystem I
4. Forest Ecosystem II
5. Water
6. Cieszyn – a border town

Industry and landscape, air

During a trip to „Queen Luisa” coal-mine in Zabrze and a sightseeing tour around Jastrzębie and Karvina, the students were taking observations of the influence of mining industry on the landscape. A special attention was paid to mining damage. The emission of fumes from the heat and power generating plant has a big influence on the environment. During the visit to this place the students were acquainted with pro-ecologic activities, and the purity of air was evaluated with the use of lichen scale. During a visit to “Kopce” reserve, the students got to know preserved species of plants and the ways of environment protection in Cieszyn.



Energetics

The students became acquainted with the way of obtaining heat and power in Cieszyn. They visited a coal-mine to see how coal is mined. They analysed and compared the statistics showing different ways of obtaining energy in Poland, Austria, the Czech Republic and Hungary. In the Energy Laboratory of the Secondary Electro-Mechanic School they got to know alternative ways of obtaining energy. The main achievement of this group was the construction of a solar commutator for heating water, in cooperation with the Association “Ecoenergy”.



Solar collector

Forest Ecosystem

Both groups of „Forest Ecosystem” were working in the Educational Centre “Leśnik” in Ustroń Jaszowiec. Thanks to the co-operation with Ustroń Forest Inspectorate, the students could carry out research on the premises, on “Skalica” Hill and during a trip along the educational path from Równica to Dobka. The groups’ task was to recognize trees, estimate their health condition, distinguish different kinds of bedding and the condition of ecosystem in different parts of the forest.



Water

The group carried out research of water purity in the Vistula, Olza, Bobrówka and Młynówka Rivers. During a visit to the Town Purification Plant, the students got to know the ways of purifying urban sewage. They also saw how salt groundwaters are obtained in Dębowiec and Ustroń, how they are used and how Ustroń saline is being turned back to its original deposit in an ecological way.



Cieszyn – a border town

The students evaluated the drawbacks connected with heavy tourist and commercial pedestrian and car traffic on the border bridges in Cieszyn. In addition, the students examined the noise level on the main junctions in the town. The group assessed the benefits and drawbacks of Cieszyn being a border town.



Social gatherings

The sightseeing tours around Cieszyn, as well as a get-together evening and sports games were a great opportunity to tighten bonds of friendship.

The Final Ceremony

All the groups described the results of their research and prepared multimedia presentations for the Final Ceremony. Mr Zdzisław Matysiak- the chairman of the Association“Ecoenergy “ gave a lecture about alternative and future sources of energy. Each country presented a short artistic programme.

We were honoured with the presence of: the Headmasters of all partner schools from Ysper, Tokaj and Veseli, the Mayor of Veseli, the Vice-Mayor of Ysper, the Foreman of Cieszyn District, the representatives of Ysper Commune, the representatives of Education Department in Cieszyn Administrative District, the representatives of the Town and District Environment Protection Departments, the editor of a local newspaper.



Description: Małgorzata Waclawik-Syrokosz