



Best-practice examples in environmental education in Slovakia

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The main topics:

waste

energy

water

forest management

nature protection

sustainable lifestyle

global education

circular economy

There are several entities in Slovakia that show activities in the environmental education (EE) and forestry education:

1. State administration

State Nature Conservancy of the Slovak Republic „ŠOP SR“ ,

Slovak Environment Agency „SAŽP“

(both are allowance organizations of the Ministry of Environment SR),

City Forests „ML“,

Leisure Centres „CVČ“

(both allowance organizations of the City)

2. Civil associations (*DAPHNE, CEA, SOSNA, ŽIVICA ...*)

3. NGOs (*Špirála, Cvernovka Foundation BA, ...*)

4. Forest clubs (*Association of Children Forest Clubs in Slovakia – in Bratislava Region ca 9 already existing forest clubs*)

5. Others (bio-farms, private initiatives etc.)

However, no entity in Slovakia currently meets the criteria of a functional ecocentre !!!

Current Problems and Needs of environmental education:

Identifying basic conceptual needs (insufficiently set objectives, tools and methods of EE).

Insufficient EE research (need for regular update of EE objectives).
Missing themes in the EE (eg the theme of adaptation to climate change, self-education at the level of individuals and communities, education for consciousness, critical thinking skills).

Environmental Education of Teachers and Improvement of the Status of EE Coordinators in Schools (creating a conceptual education system).

Completing the EE infrastructure.

The need for cooperation.

Problems and needs in Slovakia

The Concept for Development of Environmental Centres



- Bratislava Self-Governing Region (2018-2025)
- Trenčín Self-Governing Region (in the process)

Reasons for concept creation

- Urgency for defining priorities and applying coordinated approach in environmental education (EE) corresponding with modern trends in the EU and Slovakia.
- Necessity of strengthening/widening the offer of products/services in EE in order to meet growing demand in the region.
- Need for setting frameworks for development of environmental education centres.

Main objectives

Support for teaching environmental education and natural science subjects for all age groups of pupils and students through the development of **network of environmental education centres in the region**. Increasing environmental **awareness among the general public**. **Development of ecotourism** services.

ŠPIRÁLA – Association of Legal Entities, 2001

- an „umbrella“ association of ecopedagogues in Slovakia, a member of the worldwide network *Foundation for Environmental Education* and is a holder of national Green School/EcoSchools and Young Reporters for the Environment/YRE Program licenses in Slovakia.

Members:

Organisations all over the Slovakia - CEA , DAPHNE, SOSNA, ŽIVICA, Strom života, Združenie Slatinka, o.z. Tilia, o.z. , Eviana, n.o. + some individuals

Activities:

Conception of the environmental education in Slovakia by 2030 (2015),
The Concept for Development of Environmental Centres in Bratislava
Self-Governing Region 2018-2025 (2017)

- many discussions with representants on national level/reflections on different educational and strategic documents (Conceptions, ISCED etc.)

**ŠPIRÁLA –
Sieť
environmentálne
výchovných
organizácií**

Ecocenter SOSNA (Družstevná pri Hornáde, district of Košice)

- SOSNA, civil association -1992
- environmental tutoring and education for sustainability, education and training methodological materials, festivals, courses, creative workshops, teaching offer and programs for schools,
- **demonstrations of ecological buildings, natural gardening and local sustainable solutions,**
- accommodation: in Ecocentre and „Hobit“ house for 20 persons,
- existing **Ecocenter** natural garden,
- www.sosna.sk, FB: ekocentrumsosna

Best practice: SOSNA Centre of sustainable activities



„Hobit“ house



Training room in Ecocenter

Ecocenter SOSNA with natural garden

Short test for YOU:

Did you play some of these games/activities in your childhood?

- Climbing a tree
- Skimming a stone
- Damming a stream
- Making a grass trumpet
- Rolling down the hill
- Making a daisy-chain
- Exploring a cave
- Building a simple shelter in the forest
- Building an „igloo“ from snow
- Organizing a snail race
- Holding a wild creature in your hand
- Picking some berries growing in the wild
- Walking barefoot on the grass
- Wading across the river
- Tasting of ant acid

Programme: Let's go to the forest!



Nothing taste better then wild berries

About the programme



Touch of living creature is one of the best experience.

The programme's target group are children from 7 to 13 years old.

It is based on reinvention of traditional games that children have been playing in forests and on meadows, in rivers, streams and on their banks.

The whole list of activities contains **50 various games** in the nature.

To play these games, children rely only on natural materials and objects, like grass blades, tree branches and leaves, stones, trunks, rocks and water.

The only tool necessary for these activities, is a jackknife.

These activities are really cheap, supporting healthy body and mind, creativity, sensitivity to the nature and the other positive human features.

During this programme SOSNA usually takes children to the nature to spend there around 4 hours.

In this time, they can learn and prove at least 10 games/activities.

They are motivated to use no electronic devices there, just their senses, mind and body.



Simplicity



To feel the elements...

Part of the activities are for teachers,

... because teachers also have to find their contact with nature :-)





**But activities
for children
are the most
important!**

*A booklet for children, with 50
games and their descriptions is
available for download on our
web page:*

[http://www.sosna.sk/content/
pr-ru-ka-ide-sa-do-les](http://www.sosna.sk/content/pr-ru-ka-ide-sa-do-les)

**Many activities can be played
in the spring...**



... in the summer ...



... in the autumn ...



and in the winter as well.



Best practice: DAPHNE - Institute of Applied Ecology



DAPHNE IAE (Bratislava, Banská Štiavnica)

- **scientific** civil association pointed on protection of biodiversity -1993,
- field of action all over the Slovakia,
- **educational** part pointed on education and training of teachers, children, wide public and experts, publishing of educational materials and tools (e.g. **3D models and identifiical circles**) and practical management in protected areas,
- since 1999 has offered many educational programmes for schools (in schools and in the nature),
- between 1999-2005 has operated one of the **first Ecocenter** in Slovakia, in Bratislava,
- www.daphne.sk, <http://www.zivaucebznica.org/>
- FB: Daphne Inštitút



DAPHNE Živá učebnica („Living textbook“) – EXPERIENTIAL story education

- inspiration from innovative Swiss practice (private school Primaria),
- elements of intuitive pedagogy, elements of the so- LARP games (Live Action Role-Playing) that form the basis of the "living textbooks" educational programs,
- include selected themes and areas of the natural and humanitarian departments, contained in the national curriculum of the so-ISCED 2 (national educational document for 2nd degree of primary schools).
- new knowledge, skills, social and communication competences through storytelling, experience and entertainment, with emphasis on a teacher-student relationship.



EXPERIENTIAL story education



Best practice: CEA Trenčín



Natural gardens



Discussion about the Slovak BIO

Centre of Environmental Activities (Trenčín)

- civil association -1994,
- environmental education, supporting of local bio-consumption, development of **ecological agriculture** and **natural gardens**,
- many campaigns, programmes and exhibitions for schools and public
- own bio-trade „Malý princ“
- Club BIO-PaPa – club of the friends of ecological agriculture,
- library for students and public,
- bio-food of the year in Slovakia,
- coordination of the YRE international Programme
- www.cea.sk, www.biospotrebitel.sk,



*Bio-trade
„Malý princ“*

Špirála – garant and holder of international lisense in Slovakia,
CEA – koordinator of the programme in Slovakia (the only V4 country)

- „Empowering the young people to take a stand“,
- the young people (11-21 years old) to explore/identify, search and advertise the local environmental problems through articles, photos and videos,
- cooperation with a professional institution „Slovenský syndikát novinárov“ (The Slovak Trust of the Journalists),
- YRE Awards competition 2017- Slovakia won 4 x 1st place, 2 x 2nd place from 34 countries around the world

- www.mladireporter.sk

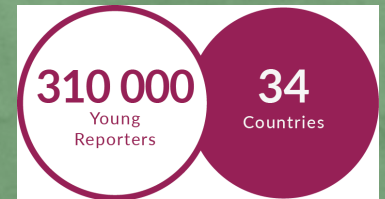


*Jakub – author of a winning video
(category: 11-14)*



*Winning photo: On Tiptoes
(category: 11-14)*

Programme: Young Reporters for the Environment (YRE)



*Authors of the winning article about the water pollution
(category: 11-14)*

Best practice: CEEV ŽIVICA



Centre of Environmental and Ethic Education ŽIVICA (Bratislava, Zvolen and Zaježová Education Center)

- NGO that brings inspirational ways in education,
- global environmental education, eco-guidance and spirituality,
- own Community school and Educational Centre won international Eco-Village Award,
- **responsible consumption** and **conscious simplicity**,

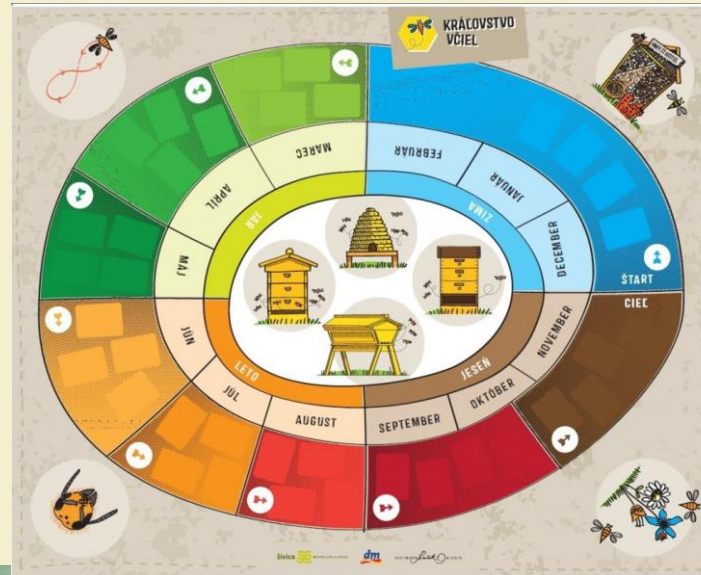
Zelená škola (EcoSchool) – a complex international programme running 14 years includes more than 320 schools around Slovakia
Komenského inštitút – one year studium for pedagogical leaders supported by the President
Sokratov inštitút – the only educational programme for students created by NGO accredited by the university (Technical U. Zvolen)
Čierna labuť – web-opinion portal of the organisation with themes like environment, society, education and spirituality
Tajný život mesta – mapping the biodiversity of the city thanks to the mobile application PlantNet, which identify species of plants from photo due to a special visual softver

Do you drink coffee, eat apples, do you wear cotton clothes? In order to grow up, they had to be pollinated by a bee. Bees are looking for a new home. They return to the cities.

Education for schools: Environmental experts - pupils and educators trained by CEEV Živica lecturers and invited experts in the topics of eco-agriculture, ecopointing, ecocosmetics and medicinal herbs. These enviro-experts provide the acquired knowledge and skills further within their school and community in the form of peer education (pupil-pupils), school microprojects and promotions.

- Environmental programme „Come with us in the beehouse“ for kindergartens and schools (45 min.)
- school game „The Kingdom of Bees“ about annual cycle in the bee life
- excursions for schools and **public** to 3 city beehouses in Bratislava (ŽIVICA cares about them as well)
- mestske-vcely.sk

Poster to the „The Kingdom of Bees“



Urban bees



Nature Conservation School Varín (Varín, district Žilina)

- unit of the State Nature Conservancy of the Slovak Republic,
- focused on environmental education of visitors of protected areas, building of educational facilities in nature, promotional and publishing activities and others.
- yearly visit rate (in 2016 - 7 768 people): the general public, pupils of kindergartens, elementary schools, secondary schools, universities, visitors of the protected areas, owners of land in the protected areas,
- accommodation with a capacity of 33 beds

Best practice: Nature Conservation School Varín



Garden at Nature Conservation School

Environmental education

Nature Conservation School – main building

Thank you!

