

Project Overview: Germany

Organic Food and Renewable Energy

Johann Comenius Schule Emmerthal

Description of the activity:

- Describe the content, methodology and expected results of the activity.

- How is it going to be related to or integrated with the normal activities of the involved schools?

Nowadays more and more children do not know where their food comes from and what effort was put into harvesting its ingredients. Fifty years ago, it was common to maintain a kitchen garden or even to have some animals.

In Emmerthal and its surrounding region organic food and renewable energies are important and visible parts of everyday life. There are farmers specialised in growing vegetables organically, keeping cattle species-appropriately and reducing carbon dioxide emission by keeping the distance between producer and consumer short via selling locally or directly.

The need and use of renewable energies can be seen perfectly in Emmerthal. While there is a nuclear power plant, you can also see the rise of wind farms, the renaissance of hydropower, the use of photovoltaic systems and biogas plants to replace the nuclear power plants someday and reduce the risks mankind brings upon nature.

Together with the students we will visit organic farms, sources of renewable energies and work on implementing a kitchen garden in our school yard. We will use seasonal organic food to cook local meals and try to find out how a kitchen

garden typical to their region could look like.

Our school is surrounded by places involved in organic agriculture and renewable energies. During this activity the students are going to visit an organic farmer and get an insight view on how a normal day of farmers looks like by working with them. They are also going to visit a hydro plant and a biogas plant to see how energy could be produced without fossil fuel.

In our school we have classes where students learn to cook or work on a biological project. We are going to mingle these subjects and create a kitchen garden. The food produced in the garden will be used during cooking lessons to prepare local seasonal meals.

This LTTActivity is meant to introduce the participating students to the wide scope of naturally grown agricultural products and organic food as well as the existing facilities in respect of renewable energies. Students of the partner countries will thus get a first introduction in this task area, will become acquainted with the tutorial and will be encouraged to initiate research work in their own countries together with their teachers and fellow students.

The activity is well integrated in everyday school life as we have a small school garden where students grow their own vegetables and we regularly visit local markets for organic food to buy products for our home economics lessons. In addition we have cooperation agreements with the local suppliers

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of renewable energies and courses in Biology, Physics and Chemistry regularly visit these institutions.

How is participation in this activity going to benefit the involved participants?

The students will learn how to take care for their food and get an idea of how to implement a kitchen garden at their own schools. Their kitchen gardens will probably differ from ours. Local vegetables need to be used and synergy effects should be taken into consideration. This applies in the same way to renewable energies. Due to climatic conditions and access to natural resources the focus on special forms of natural or renewable energy will be different. With this activity we want to provoke the state of ecological awareness of the students and give an impact to start inquiries in their home regions. There the emphasis, the traditions and the development status might be different but this is what the students have got to find and what further progress is needed to keep up with needs and expectations. And this is something that brings us back to the priorities and the main topic. We all face the challenges of Europe in the 21st century; the different countries will need different solutions but they all will be under the umbrella of the EU benefiting from each other and united by the effort to accomplish these challenges together.

Of course taking part in mobility has an intrinsic value. For the students it

is a great experience to travel to another country and to apply the foreign language and to find out about a different culture and family life in the host country. If we want to promote mutual understanding in the EU there no other way than to get to know each other and to learn to tolerate each other's way of living. This is why it is important to have a project with six European countries. Only this way it is possible to emphasize the different prospects the countries have (the students from Cyprus would never have a chance to experience the potential of energy from water power if they only cooperated with students from Cyprus and the Finns wouldn't get a chance to experience the potential of gardening if they had only schools from their own country.