



Accelerating the uptake of practices that promote greener, more energy efficient and sustainable school environments

General information

Climate change, clean environment and energy problems are major challenges facing the humanity. To solve these problems, the decision-makers all over the world are promulgating laws, standards and regulations, and international agreements are signed. One such document is the Declaration on Sustainable Development, through which countries have committed themselves to implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (SDG). The 2030 Agenda is an action plan for People, the Planet and Prosperity. All countries and all stakeholders must act in partnership in order to implement this action plan, in particular the objectives for clean air, clean energy, clean water, adaptation to climate change.

In this context, each school from the Republic of Moldova can contribute to achieving the SDG objectives at the local level – through the efficient management of its resources (energy, fuel, water, etc.) and its technical-material base (buildings, equipment, land, etc.), and providing solutions to various social and financial issues associated with them. An effective way to achieve these goals is to evaluate, plan and implement actions to improve schools' environments.

The project beneficiaries are over 1000 people, who will increase their capacity to monitor the level of comfort in school spaces, identify problems and take actions to solve them. Students, parents and teachers will be involved in practical activities and will learn how to integrate the sustainable principles into their daily life. This project will help students become more responsible for the environment, be more attentive to the consumption of



energy and natural resources and then will transfer the school activities to their families.

Project objective

Development and piloting of a sustainable planning model for the improvement of the physical environment in schools, in order to:

- improve the conditions of study and activity in the selected educational institutions;
- reduce costs in school budgets, through a more efficient management of resources (energy, water) and use of friendly environmental practices in regard to green spaces, waste management, green procurement, use of environmentally friendly materials, etc.);
- integrate new learning practices into environmental curriculum in schools;
- exchange, integrate and transfer good knowledge practices to accelerate the adoption of measures that promote cleaner, more energy efficient and more sustainable schools and to improve the image



of the school, which will serve as a model for the local community.

Project description

The project offers a series of interactive activities and interventions aimed at transferring the know-how and knowledge - to school community members, on how to do the assessment of environment situation in schools and, as a result, to carry out sustainable interventions to improve it.

The implementation model in the 10 selected institutions is a 5 step-by-step model to go through the stages of sustainable development, with an emphasis on assessing the current situation, planning and implementing demonstration solutions in terms of improving indoor air quality, energy efficiency, use of energy from renewable sources, water quality, waste management, green spaces and others.

To assess the current situation in the 10 selected institutions, the project provides a tools kit with specialized equipment for measuring various parameters of energy and microclimate in classrooms, including digital temperature and humidity detector, pyrometer, anemometer, lux meter, sound level meter, water tester, etc.).

With the help of the guidelines elaborated within the frame of the project and support from experts, students will measure the air temperature, the humidity in a room, the speed of the wind or air masses inside the building, the level of lighting, the concentration of carbon dioxide (CO₂), the amount of energy that is consumed by an electrical appliance, the content of heavy metals and organic materials in water, the salinity and purity of water.

And once they know the situation in their school, they will be able to develop an action plan that allows to set achievable goals, plan and then implement measures to improve the school environment, inform and motivate students and the community.

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Project approach

The following three groups of activities, with the effect of mutual consolidation, ensure the successful implementation of the project:

Outcome 1 - Development of sustainable planning model and monitoring of the school environment. Emphasis will be placed on efficiency and environmental issues, the model and planning tools will be piloted in at least 10 schools, being effectively adapted and managed by local stakeholders.

Outcome 2 - Capacity building of over 100 interested members of the school community (students, teachers, technical staff, parents) to assess the school environment and plan actions to improve it. Thus, more than 100 people (students, teachers, building managers, parents) will acquire skills and knowledge on how to assess the current environmental situation in schools, set goals, plan and implement actions to improve it, saving energy and achieving sustainability.

Outcome 3 - Over 1000 people (students, teachers, parents) have increased their awareness of environmental issues and how to approach them. Children, parents and teachers are inspired to integrate the principles of sustainability into their own lifestyles and communities. Several national schools and public bodies are interested in promoting the experience.

More information about the project can be found on the dedicated website: www.aeer.md.

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