**GreenACT: Transforming Young people in active agents for tackling climate change**

**Applicant Organisation: Asociatia D.G.T. ROMANIA**

**Program – Erasmus+: Key Action 2 – Strategic Partnership**

**Cooperation for innovation Sector: Youth Sector**

**Rationale (define terms, explain why?)**

Europe’s continuous economic development over many decades has been fueled by the intensive use of both renewable and non-renewable resources. However, Europe faces multiple challenges in terms of securing ecological sustainability and addressing climate change. Recently in 2019, European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen presented the "European Green Deal" in the European Parliament, a proposal of measures aimed at tackling the climate emergency. The 2019 [European Green Deal](https://ec.europa.eu/info/publications/communication-european-green-deal_en), as an integral part of the EC’s strategy to implement the UN’s 2030 Agenda, emphasizes the need for education providers to engage young people with the changes needed for a successful transition towards sustainable development.

The high percentage of greenhouses emissions, plastic waste, climate change, pesticide use and other threats to biodiversity demands from people, especially young one, to make caring for the nature, part of their lives. It requires advancement of peoples’ awareness, attitudes and knowledge about these issues. Environmental education is one of the most important indicators for displaying civilization.

Europe's future will be built by young people. One third of the EU population is under the age of 30. This is why we need empower young people with capacities and skills to help tackle climate change. The future of our continent will be shaped and experienced by more than 150 million young Europeans. While several initiatives dedicated to climate action by the EU have been developed and implemented there is a continuous need to change the attitude of young people in order to take action for the climate and for their communities.

**DATA on recycling in EU**

In 2016, in the EU, an estimated 42% of plastic packaging waste was recycled. In eight EU Member States, more than half of the plastic packaging waste generated was recycled in 2016. The highest recycling share was recorded in Lithuania (74%), ahead of Cyprus\* (64%), Slovenia (62%), Czechia (59%), Bulgaria (53%), Slovakia and the Netherlands (both 52%) and Sweden (51%). In contrast, less than one third of plastic packaging waste was recycled in Luxembourg (33%), Hungary and Ireland (both 31%), Malta\* (29%), France (26%), Finland and Estonia (both 25%).

Although Cyprus came second in recycling plastic waste, according to a study conducted by Eurostat in 2017, Cyprus is among the worst countries in the European Union (EU) when it comes to recycling. With a 16.1% rate of municipal waste destined for recycling, Cyprus was the 25th out of the 27 EU member states. Greece is also very far behind the EU average of 46.4%, as only 18.9% of their total waste ends up being recycled. The same applies for Romania and Malta.

In August 2018 #FridaysForFuture movement initiated after 15-year-old Greta Thunberg and other young people sat in front of the Swedish parliament for three weeks, to protest against the lack of action on the climate crisis. Greta posted her actions on Instagram and Twitter and it soon went viral all over the world. In May 2019, more than 1.5 million young people in more than 125 countries walked out of schools, colleges and universities in the biggest student climate action.

The project Green-ACT aims to support further these initiatives by training and raising awareness of young people to make positive change. As the world’s leading climate scientists agreed, we have only 12 years to limit global warming to a maximum of 1.5°C. Still, most governments are not doing.

Starting from the age of 14, the GreenACT project aims to educate young people and make caring for nature part of their lives, as opposed to just studying it. The idea behind this project is for young people to develop a firm ecological mindset, become influences and organize actions to overcome today's environmental challenges.

**The project idea**

The main goal of the project is to cultivate young people’s 14-18 years old interest in environmental issues and develop a young activists network with an active role in shaping the environmental wellbeing of Europe.

Furthermore, it aims:

* To encourage young Europeans in getting involved in addressing environmental challenges in their communities;
* To promote the idea for establishing **SUMMER SCHOOLs** for raising young people’s environmental awareness
* To set up a **Knowledge and exchange network of ECO-fluencers** where young people will come together, coordinate their actions and engage citizens;
* Raise awareness and a sense of environmental stewardship among the youth of today and future generations
* to build/increase the capacity of partner organizations to take action regarding reducing waste in the partner countries by encouraging local communities to recycle and re-use.
* to equip youth workers with new sustainable environmental skills in order to empower more young people
* To promote active citizenship from an early age;
* To facilitate brainstorming on challenges and possible solutions of topics such as alternative forms of socio-economy, biodiversity and food production, sustainable production and consumption, transport etc.
* To enhance young people skills which are essential for succeeding in tomorrow’s world, such as questioning, investigating, defining problems, analyzing, reasoning, developing conclusions, and solving problems.
* Development of artistic and creative skills of young people;
* To raise awareness about SDG Goals 2030 (Ensure Environmental Sustainability)
* To promote the development of eco- friendly communities in urban areas by supporting sustainable systems (preservation and development of nature value)

**Target group**

Two are the main **target groups**:

* the **young people (14-18 yrs old)** ın each partner country. Target: 20 young people in each country
* the **youth workers** whose profiles will be strengthened through the new tools and resources to support the project’s implementation.

**Horizontal priorities**

* **Supporting opportunities for all in acquiring and developing key competences, including basic skills**: In order to foster employability, socio-educational and personal development, as well as participation in civic and social life. Priority will be given to projects that support and reinforce the development of key competences for all individuals from early childhood and throughout life
* **Environmental and climate goals**: the programme aims to support, across all sectors, awareness-raising about environmental and climate-change challenges. Priority will be given to projects aimed at developing competences in various sustainability-relevant sectors, developing green sectorial skills strategies and methodologies, as well as future-oriented curricula that better meet the needs of individuals. The programme will also support the testing of innovative practices to prepare learners, staff and youth workers to become true factors of change (e.g. save resources, reduce energy use and waste, compensate carbon footprint emissions, opt for sustainable food and mobility choices, etc.). Priority will also be given to projects that – through education, training, youth and sport activities - enable behavioural changes for individual preferences, consumption habits, and lifestyles.

**Erasmus+ Specific Youth Priorities**

* engaging, connecting and empowering young people: strengthening cross sectorial cooperation, allowing for greater synergies across different areas of actions that matter for young people. A special focus will be put on participation including alternative and innovative forms of participation and active citizenship of young people, notably those that involve youth at risk of social exclusion.

Priority will be given to projects that:

* Enhance the participation of all young people in democratic and civic life in Europe;
* Enable young people to connect with, express their views and be heard by elected policy makers, public administrations, interest groups, civil society organisations or individuals active in political or social processes affecting their lives;
* Foster active citizenship and notably volunteering and solidarity among young people;
* Promote intercultural dialogue and promote knowledge about and acceptance of diversity and tolerance in society;
* Strengthen young people's sense of initiative, notably in the social field and to support their communities;

**Activities/ Intellectual Outputs/ Multiplier Events/ Teaching and Learning**

* **IO1 A LEARNING AND TEACHING PACK: ENHANCING ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS OF YOUNG PEOPLE (Targeting High schools 14-18 years old)**
* **IO2 Green-ACT CLOUD-BASED PLATFORM: DEVELOPING the GreenACT- CITIES ASSESMENT TOOL, E-LEARNING PLATFORM AND EU NETWORK**
* **IO3 GreenACT TOOLKIT for implementation of the GreenACT SUMMER SCHOOL (indoor and outdoor)**
* **IO4 The 3 R’s STORIES (reduce, reuse, recycle) for project exploitation**

**Exceptional cost**

200 euro per video

**Activities/ Multiplier Events/ Teaching and Learning**

* C1 Short term staff training for training youth workers
* C2 Blended learning mobility for young people in Brussels for setting up the GreenACT SOCIETY, further training and participating in a Green European conference
* Multiplier events in all countries
* 4 Project Meetings

**Potential Partners:**

Youth organizations, Municipalities, Local Authority, Schools, ECO related organization, Social Enterprises, Research Centre…..

**Potential Countries:**

Belgium,

Romania

Greece,

Morocco,

Other countries from North Africa(<https://www.unenvironment.org/resources/publication/environmental-challenges-middle-east-and-north-africa-region-paper>)

**Project duration**

* **15 months**