

## Avila | SPAIN

### THE ECOLOGICAL HOUSE



The Project The Avila County Council through the Avila Energy Agency and European Affaire department is developing the European project "We Are the Planet", the main goal is a raising awareness campaign among young students between 9 and 16 years, focused on the 7th Millenium Development Goal: Sustainable Development, in our particular case through the rational use of energy and water. The programme is being carried out in Naturavila, a leisure time and outdoor activities educational centre just 4 km far from Avila, where students are coming on weekly basis in the framework of educational agreements among Avila County Council and municipalities.



The methodology is training the students from a creative approach around the concepts of sustainability and energy consumption cut off, as well as water, using for this purpose a tree stages strategy:

a) Theory explanations in the teaching room about climate change, reserves of fossil sources, renewable energies,.... sustainability.

b) Creative workshops: children express their thoughts around the topic applying the theory knowledge in a drawing, and later on taking photos of them standing their own drawings as a kind of “human flags”, they also are recorded playing some instrument and saying in high voice their thoughts around sustainability in order to create a musical composition by all the students participating in the project from Spain, Italy, Cyprus and Slovenia, working with the concept of Universal language of music and painting. These activities are carried out in the workshop rooms

c) Visit to the Ecological House, and old workshop refurbished and transformed into a kind of interpretation centre for Renewable Energies, Energy Efficiency, Saving Water and Sustainable Transport. Here they learn how is possible in an high % to get a house producing its own energy needs (obviously the scale of demonstrative elements are in line with the exhibition needs).



Outside, at the roof of the house, it is installed a little solar photovoltaic panel, as well as a micro windmill, both providing service for electricity needs in the exhibition elements. On the roof it is installed a solar thermal panel. The proper roof was refurbished according with local tiles following the criteria of bioclimatic buildings in terms of isolation. Inside, in a approx. space of 75m<sup>2</sup>, there is a permanent exhibition, basically the content is as follows:

- 1.the climate change problem is introduced at the beginning.
- 2.The partial solutions: Renewable energies: windmills (current technology applied to tradition, connection with Don Quixote)
- 3.Solar Thermal, here we have to their disposal pipe in which is possible to open and feel by themselves the hot water using just the sun power.
- 4.Solar Photovoltaic & Micro windmill: provides electricity supply for the exhibition lighting, a clouds model, a tv screen.
- 5.Biomass Boiler: around 12 kw, provides heating to the proper facility through radiators, in the nearby





little space for internal staff we installed a another little biomass boiler heating by air, so showing two different solutions for the same heating purpose. We usually open the storage compartment and allow the children to touch the pellets, cause we want the experience by them, so “touching is allowed”, we ask them to be close to the radiators in winter time when the boiler is switched on.

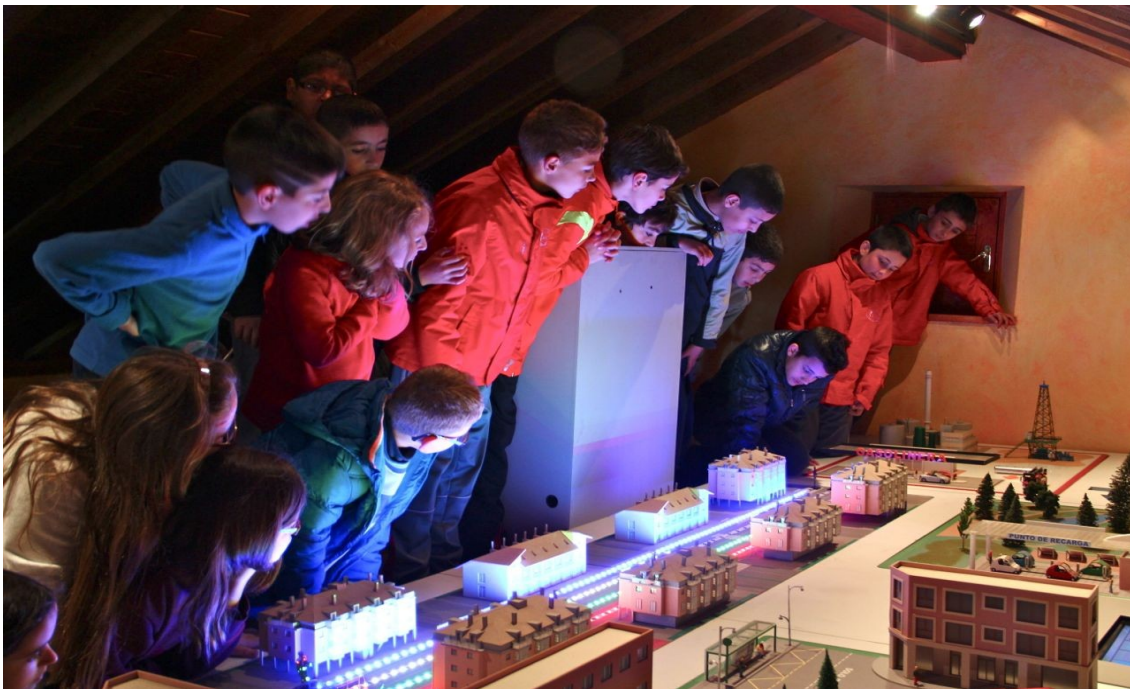


- Then we move to the concept of Efficiency, and we show them how the lighting installed is micro-led or led, reducing around 90% the standard consumption. We have two samples of fluorescent tubes, with their own displays showing on real time how much energy they are consuming depending on whether is efficient or not.
- We have a chart showing them how a house could be in the coming future, then we explain all those elements are already there, so it is possible !! in this case in a micro scale.



- Water management, we explain how the climate change is affecting to the North and South poles, so once more reducing water and energy consumption could be mitigate the problem partially or at least delayed, so we focus on how to save water at home.
- The final idea is showing how other children in the World are not such a privileged ones like them, so we explain some problems at the schools or hospitals or houses on daily basis because the lack of energy supply and problems as a result of the climate change consequences, therefore we displayed a short video recorded in Africa about a common day in their life, the message is “save energy cause is good for you, for them and for the planet”
- In the upper part of the house, we have installed a Sustainable Transport model , within another European project called “E-Aire”, the basic outline is showing the children how another scenario of transport is possible keeping the same quality of life, the external part of the model shows 4 different situations, and the internal part shows how those could be improved using public transport, bikes, pederastian areas, renewable energies and biofuels for vehicles instead of standard oil, as well as recovery of green parks in the cities.

The educator is choosing each scenario through a touchscreen, an electric bike is available to show how it works. The proper facilities of Naturavila has a Recharging Station fo electric vehicles The educators participating in this programme have received a training for trainers previously by a specialized company, follow-up sessions are carried out each semester to improve the methodology.





## Nova Gorica | Slovenia



The Sustainable Development Museum in Nova Gorica is situated in Nova Gorica Town Hall. It opened to the public on 20th June 2013. The opening ceremony was organised by the municipality of Nova Gorica and was attended by teachers involved in We Are the Planet project, representatives of the municipality, journalists and general public. The museum hosts a permanent exhibition of objects made by children at creative workshops which will be complemented with new items created throughout the course of the project.





In May 2014, the museum moved to a slightly more spacious location (also in the Town Hall). New items were added to the exhibition and project presentations were installed anew.

Just outside the museum, an eye-catching new feature has been added - the Interactive Informator. It is a large screen with the Kinect sensor to enable visitors browse through the different contents related to the project. Anyone visiting the museum can read about the project and its goals, see the photos and the videos made by the Slovenian project team and also some contents of the official We are the planet! website. The Interactive Informator enables new contents to be added constantly thus making the Sustainable Development Museum even more sustainable.



The Municipality of Nova Gorica is situated in the West of Slovenia, adjacent to the Slovene-Italian border. It has 31.932 inhabitants and is spread over a territory of 280 km<sup>2</sup>. It is one of the largest and economically more developed municipalities in the country.





Nova Gorica (also known as the Town of Roses) was founded after World War II. It is situated on the border with Italy and enjoys very close ties with the neighbouring town of Gorizia.



It is the diverse and interesting natural and cultural heritage which makes Nova Gorica and its surroundings a place worth visiting: □ Kromberk Castle, Rihemberk Castle, the Sveta Gora Basilica, Sabotin Hill and Peace Park, Panovec Wood, the Trnovsko-Banjška plateau, and several other natural and cultural beauties.



## Strovolos | Cyprus

The Didactic centre and Sustainable museum of Strovolos Municipality is located in Acropolis Park. The Acropolis Park was formerly a place full of caves and hollows that were created by the quarrying operations of sandstones. In 1977, the area was converted into a park with the input and help of citizens and in following years was exploited and transformed into today's Park.





The Municipality of Strovolos was established in 1986 and is the second largest Municipality in Cyprus with a population of over 60.000 inhabitants. There are references to Strovolos or Strovilos since the Middle Ages from the well-known medieval chronicler Leontios Macheras and from Forius Boustronius a little later. According to these sources, Strovolos was a royal field during the years of Frankish Rule.



Strovolos is now a big city that covers an area of 25km<sup>2</sup> and is divided into six parishes: Chryseleousa, Ayios Demetrios, Apostle Varnavas and Ayios Makarios, Ayios Vasilios, National Martyr Kyprianos and Stavros.

Strovolos evolved in its present condition after the tragic events of 1974, when Turkey invaded Cyprus and occupied 38% of the island's territory. Due to this event many refugees settled within the city of Strovolos. Since 1974, a big industrial area was created in Strovolos and the areas of services and manufactures have developed to a great extend.





**CULTURE:** The Municipality of Strovolos has given a great attention to Culture since its establishment. A Municipal Library has been established, as well as a Geographical Museum, a Municipal Choir, a Children's Choir, Children's Theatre workshops and a Photography Club. The Hall of music and theatre has been completed and is in operation since 2003, a construction that constitutes a milestone in the history of the contemporary culture covering a big gap of the cultural life of Strovolos and of Cyprus in general.



**ENVIRONMENT:** Bright green parks have been created for the entertainment of the citizens, parks that beautify and transform the whole area. More than 100 green places have been created in the city of Strovolos and more than 42 organized green places exist with amphitheatres, lakes, fountains and play-places. The best parks are those of Acropolis and Agios Demetrios which are one of a kind.





## Teramo | ITALY



The Sustainable Development Museum is the place where it is possible to see and experience what pupils, teachers, and the Solstizio's and ProgettoMondo Mlal's experts and artists have produced in their combined work during the laboratories. The exhibition of manufactured goods, the projection of videos and photos and the interaction with the web platform offer visitors the possibility to understand the course and the objectives of the works and to take part with their emotional involvement and their own viewpoints, giving also the possibility of recording sounds and pictures. The web platform is thus continuously enriched with new materials, making the project become a work in progress.





The Museum has been set up in the premises of the Gran Sasso Center for the Waters belonging to the Gran Sasso and Monti della Laga National Park (in the village of S.Pietro, in the town of Isola del Gran Sasso), with which a long- term agreement has been signed for the management and promotion of the exhibition space.



The idea of setting up the Museum in an already existing exhibition space belonging to the Gran Sasso and Monti della Laga National Park arises from the possibility to integrate the already existing experiences giving greater visibility, and to offer a temporal continuity to the project beyond the EU funding. The main activities of the Museum will be:

- Education to the environment and territorial knowledge;
- Awareness campaign on the themes of the 7th Millennium Goal of the United Nations;
- Connection to the Web Platform of We are the Planet and sound and image laboratories;
- Fund-raising activities and knowledge of the African Countries involved in the projects: Burkina Faso and Benin;

The Museum is part of the net We Are the Planet, to which the Didactic Center, where educational activities and artistic workshops are carried out, and the local schools who have joint the project, belong. The exhibition is the synthesis of different artistic languages: visual art, music, performance.





The territory of the Province of Teramo is particularly heterogeneous and comprises in a small area the highest peak of the Apennines, the Gran Sasso peak, and the beaches of the Adriatic sea with an almost 3.000 m difference in height. Between them, the hills outline one of the most evocative landscape of Abruzzo. In a short distance you can reach the mountain landscape with its endemisms and natural architectures typical of the Apennines and the hills characterised by fields and clearings that gently slope to the sea.



The territory has a rich historical and cultural heritage, both in its material and immaterial aspects, as it has been populated since the prehistory, as shown by the presence of important necropolises, Romanesque churches, castles and fortresses.

