

Title

Green Flag – EU-wide initiative to promote green schools and environmental awareness

Short description

Green Flag / Eco Schools is a fundamental initiative which encourages young people to engage in their environment by allowing them the opportunity to actively protect it. It starts in the classroom where it expands to the school and eventually fosters change in the community at large. Through this programme, young people experience a sense of achievement at being able to have a say in the environmental management policies of their schools, ultimately steering them towards certification and the prestige which comes with being awarded a Green Flag.

Topic

Consuming – food, Living- Green spaces, Living- Energy efficient housing and Moving – Active mobility.

Characteristics

Local/Regional, National, EU level and Public.

Country/Countries of implementation

90 municipalities in Norway and many European countries

Aims and Objectives

Eco-Schools is a fundamental initiative which encourages young people to engage in their environment by allowing them the opportunity to actively protect it. It starts in the classroom where it expands to the school and eventually fosters change in the community at large. Through this programme, young people experience a sense of achievement at being able to have a say in the environmental management policies of their schools, ultimately steering them towards certification and the prestige which comes with being awarded a Green Flag.

Target Group

Children in kindergarden, young people in school, their families, school staff, local authorities, local communities

Status

Implemented on a continuous basis.

Start and Completion dates

2014 – today

Lifestyle and Behavior Change

Eco-Schools challenges children and young people to engage in tackling environmental problems at a level where they can see tangible results, spurring them to realize that they really can make a difference.

Effects on:

Health and Wellbeing	The Eco-Schools programme allows schools to embark on a meaningful path towards improving the environment in both the school and the local community while at the same time having a life-long positive impact on the lives of young people, their families, school staff and local authorities.
Vulnerable populations	The program is based on participatory approach involving children/young people from all social groups.
Environment	Eco-Schools places great emphasis on involving the local community from the very beginning. It is anticipated that by doing so, the lesson the children /young people pick up are transferred back into the community where they will take hold and lead to more sustainable, environmentally-responsible behavior patterns.

Initiated and/or implemented by

The practice was initiated by the Foundation for Environmental Education in the 80`s. The current Head Office of FEE is in Denmark. The green Flag program started in Norway in 2014. The mission of the Foundation for Environmental Education is to engage and empower people through education in collaboration with our members and partners worldwide.

Stakeholders and sectors involved

- National authorities, county authorities, and local government/municipalities, schools.

Financial support

This is an integrated education program in schools and kinder gardens in Norway.

Evidence-base

The FEE practice is based on the new Sustainable Development Goals, offering major improvements on the Millennium Development Goals, addressing some of the systemic barriers to sustainable development and offering better coverage of, and balance between, the three dimensions of sustainable development: social, economic and environmental, together with institutional/governance aspects.

Main Activities

Each school/kinder garden follows a seven step change process and empowers their young people to lead processes and actions wherever they can in the areas of; waste, energy, physical activity, nature, healthy diet, climate, water, woods, growing own ecological vegetables, outdoor school.

Evaluation of the Practice

The practice is evaluated every 6 month using a criteria set of 7 criteria's related to environment, involvement, plans, rules.

Main results

Key success factors and barriers

Legislations, challenges related to process management.

INHERIT Perspective

This project has the potential to increase young people's engagement in the environment by allowing them the opportunity to actively protect it. Each school/kinder garden follows a seven step change process and empowers young people to lead processes and actions wherever they can in the areas of; waste, energy, physical activity, nature, healthy diet, climate, water, woods, growing own ecological vegetables, outdoor school. It has a clear emphasis on promoting more SUSTAINABLE and ENVIRONMENTALLY-RESPONSIBLE BEHAVIOUR patterns among children/young people, with the participation of teachers and the local community at large.

More Information

- [Foundation for Environmental Education \(FEE\).](#)
- **Sustainable Development Goals** The future of international development Prepared by Elisabetta De Angelis, FEE Head Office
- [Sustainable Development Goals The future of international development](#)
- Prepared by Elisabetta De Angelis, FEE Head Office

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