

Environmental Education
Center of Vamos

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION ACTIVITIES



Kefalas Apokoronou, Chania
Prefecture,
Crete, Greece



ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΗ ΔΗΜΟΚΡΑΤΙΑ

Υπουργείο Παιδείας
και Θρησκευμάτων



Hellenic Republic
Greek Ministry of
Education and Religious
Affairs



History

Environmental Education
in Greece was officially
recognized in 1992.


- The first Environmental Education Center was established in Klitoria in 1993, in the Region of Peloponissos.
- Educators from Primary and Secondary Education cooperate in team in the 64 Environmental Education Centers later established in all Regions of Greece.
- In the beginning of the economical crisis in 2010, one third of the Environmental Education Centers was shut down by the government, in the spirit of minimizing the public sector in Greece.
- After a campaign, we managed to open up again the Environmental Education Center of Vamos and 9 more out of the totally 24 that were closed down



Educational programs implemented

- The Environmental Education Centers offer **educational programs** for environmental school teams.
- These programs are designed by the **Pedagogical Team** of each Center at the beginning of every school year (September–October) and submitted to the Directory of Environmental Education of the Ministry of Education.
- Once approved, they are sent to schools and **educators are called to fill an application for a visit** (with their school's environmental team) to one or two Environmental Education Centers. This application is given to the Coordinator of School Activities of their local Directorate, along with a plan of a project of environmental education. He/she sends the applications to the Environmental Education Centers and the Pedagogical Team of each Center schedules a year-long program of school teams' visits.
- **These visits can last 1–3 days.** In two or three days' visits the school teams stay in a guest house of the Center or a nearby hotel paid by the Center.

Educational programs addressed to school teams

- **Recycling SOS**
 - Olive tree and olive oil in Crete
 - I walk into the forest
 - A 5500 years' old walk in the Old City of Hania
 - **Ecotourism**
 - **Water and wetlands**
 - **Climate change**
 - **The magical world of caves**
 - **Our school is going green: Scents, colors and tastes in the school garden**
 - **Mediterranean: The sea we share**
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The Environmental Education Center of Vamos



A building of 1902, originally used as a primary school, restored in 2009 to be used as an Environmental Education Center.

Our guest – house, Parthenagogio of Vamos, a building of 1880, restored in 1984, can host 21 persons.



Greece



Crete



When a school team visits our Center

- ▶ **Getting to know each other with a game:**
- ▶ We usually begin our program getting to know with our students, with a game in our courtyard or in the field, if our program is conducted in the field.



Eating healthy during our educational programs

When a school environmental team takes part in one of our educational programs we offer them a traditional Cretan treat with “dakos “ (toasted bread with tomato and mizithra cheese), small tomatoes, olives and fresh organic orange juice that we prepare.

In our outdoor programs we offer the pupils sandwiches or cretan traditional cheese and spinach pies (kalitsounia).



Indoor activities



Presentation



Work and play in groups



Theatrical games



Workshops



Outdoor activities



In the forest



In a wetland



Cleaning beaches



**Walking in the Old City
of Chania**



The power of the sun



Educational games in a wetland about saving water



← Theatrical game:
“The cycle of water”



→ Treasure hunt in a
wetland



← Birdwatching

Testing the water
quality



Getting to know with animals
and plants of the wetland



Games into the forest





Educational visit to a wetland (lake

Into a cave



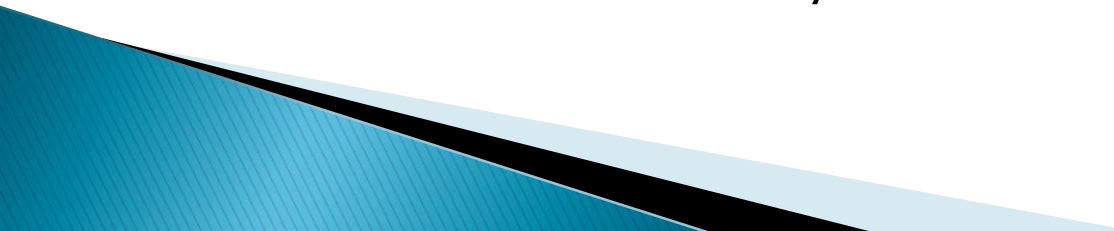
In the Old City of Chania



Creating a school garden



Environmental Education Networks

- ▶ Each Environmental Education Center can create one or more Environmental Education Network, with the participation of teachers and students of at least 5 schools. This participation of teachers and students is voluntary.
 - ▶ The participation of teachers and students in an Environmental Education Network gives them the chance to exchange ideas with other teachers, students and schools who work in a common theme (recycling, energy, water etc). They also can present their work and ideas in an annual Meeting or Seminar of the Network, that is prepared by the Environmental Education Center who coordinates the Network.
 - ▶ Each Network has to be approved by the Ministry of Education and Religion (if it is a National Network involving teachers, students and schools from all over Greece) or by the Regional Directory of Education (if it is a Regional Network involving teachers, students and schools only from one region) or by the Local Directory of Education (if it is a Network involving teachers, students and schools only from the local Prefecture).
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Our Center's Networks

- A Regional Network about Climate Change
- A Regional Network about Recycling
- A Local Network about School Gardens

Days of action

- ▶ **An innovation for the function of Environmental Education Networks** that our Center has introduced is the **Day of Action of the Network**. The Regional Network about Recycling (Anakyklososte–Recycling SOS) we coordinate calls for a common action of the schools that participate in the Network (and other schools, if there is one teacher and a team of student willing to participate). The last three years we call for a common **Day of Action for Reusing and Reducing garbage** in February (involving 87 schools, 2,108 students and 151 teachers in 2016), During this day, teachers and students from schools from all over Crete organize in their school an action that has to do with Reusing, Reducing and Recycling. So, they use their imagination and create toys, dolls, costumes for the Carnival etc, reusing a wide variety of material. We help them with ideas and a small package with glues, paints and other materials we send to the schools that participate. Each school that participates sends us photos of the action in their school and we publicize them in the local press and in the blog of the Network (<http://anakyklososte.blogspot.gr/>)



Participating in the Climate Action Days from Fridays For Future





Erasmus+

- A. KA1 projects:** Our Center has been taking part in Erasmus+ KA1 Courses in 2015–2016 (“Using innovation and inquiry learning in adult education”), 2017–2018 (“International school open to migrants and refugees”), 2019–2021 (“Nature and culture as tools for intercultural education”)
- B. KA2 projects:** “Colourful World” (2018–1–UK01–KA201–048028) for the creation of an online educational game about sustainability for children 6–10 years old, “Greenopolis” (2019–1–PL01–KA201–064753) for the creation of an e-book about sustainability for children 3–6 years’ old
- C. Erasmus+ Youth in Action:** “Precious Plastic” in Portugal, 2018–2–PT02–KA105–005287, 2018–2019, 2 teachers and 5 students were sent to Portugal
- D. Erasmus+ Traineeship mobilities:** [Daniela Sannino](#), a marine biologist from Italy worked with us from September to November 2020 and [Enola Comte](#) from France from February to May 2021

Communication



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Vamos

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☐ Climate Action blog: <http://climatecreteschools.blogspot.com>

☐ National Network of Environmental Education "Greek caves brought to light"

<http://spilaiakpevamou.blogspot.gr/>

☐ Regional Network of Environmental Education "Change attitude... Recycle SOS"

<http://anakyklososte.blogspot.gr/>

☐ Regional Network of Environmental Education "A garden at my school" : <http://kpevamoukipos.blogspot.gr/>

