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CHAPTER 7

Types of solidarity support, implemented within Baleria project

This chapter is part of the Baleria Solidarity Manual. The Manual was created within the Erasmus+ Sport project BALERIA – Social Inclusion Programme for Educators, School Kids and Parents.

More useful materials:

W. www.baleria.eu/project/

FB. BaleriaProject

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Baleria Solidarity Support encourages, promotes and awards paper recycling and other types of solidarity. Recycling activities are an indispensable way to gather people in cooperative actions, devoted to the ecosystem and community welfare. It is one of the easiest and effective ways to help the environment.

Why is recycling important?¹

- Recycling reduces the amount of waste going into a landfill, helping to prolong its useful life.
- Recycling saves energy. It takes 20 times more energy to make aluminum from ore, than using recycled aluminum.
- Recycling creates jobs.
- Recycling saves natural resources.
- Products made from recycled material slow the depletion of resources such as metal ores, oil, and natural gas.

Having learned more, make a try at educating family members, neighbours and people in the community about the do's and don'ts of recycling, which will scale up our individual efforts for maximum impact. Anything you can do to spread the word and motivate others brings us one step closer to a less wasteful way of life and a more sustainable planet for future generations.

For more on the issue, open the Annex file »Recycling details«.

How can YOU act to benefit others

Recycling activities are an indispensable way to gather people in cooperative actions, devoted to the ecosystem and community welfare. It is one of the easiest and effective ways to help the environment.

¹ Catch the Cycle, A Guide to Recycling in Georgia Schools, Link:

https://static1.squarespace.com/static/50be40d2e4b01225ee7316f6/t/51e80850e4b0fa8b033ce363/1374160976024/Catch_the_Cycle.pdf

Suggestions for various recycling activities on practical cases from Baleria countries:

1.1. Paper recycling

In Slovenia all elementary schools and kindergartens were invited to participate in the Baleria Solidarity Support action by organizing a paper collection campaign in their institution. At the same time, all the participants in Baleria Campus Days were encouraged to bring old paper to the event, where collection stations were set up.

We partnered with public utility service, to ensure the pickup and weigh-in of the collected waste paper and the amount of funds raised by recycling the wasted paper.

The funds collected were distributed (and will be in the next year), among young promising students and athletes from deprived communities. The potential students were suggested by participating schools and institutions and are entitled to receiving a monthly bursary (the amount depends on the funds raised and therefore varies each year).

The standard for selecting the students, eligible for bursaries, included the amount of effort they contributed for the achievement of educational success and the social status of the potential candidate (including a certificate of an average income on family member, which is issued by local social workers from schools and other authorities).

1.2. Old toys recycling

In Greece two primary schools were addressed with children aged from 10 to 12 years old. Besides working on the values in the BALERIA project, Baleria team introduced the high societal value of showing their solidarity to another group of people. Throughout the whole timeline of the Greek Baleria Campus the students were asked to collect second handed children's toys and books in good condition. The solidarity action undertaken within the BALERIA campus was addressed towards The Smile of the Child which is a voluntary, non-profit child welfare organization based in Athens, Greece.

At the beginning of the Campus two big fabric wardrobes were assembled during brake time. Immediately the scene captured the attention of the students. All of them wanted to be informed

regarding the purpose of the construction. At the end of the day it was announced that the wardrobe was a place where solidarity material would be collected. At the same time both schools were competing each other for the prize of the most solidarity showing school. All students who didn't have the chance to contribute to the solidarity action within the schools had a second chance to show their solidarity at the BALERIA "game day" and at BALERIA "family day" where a collection point kiosk was settled.

1.3. Used toys and outgrown clothes and shoes recycling

In Bulgaria jackets, boots, sneakers and sandals were taken special care of, in order to avoid the feeling of "rich give to poor out of pity". Toys and all other used collectibles were gathered in school classrooms, carefully sorted according to their material and after thorough hand washing, or machine cleaning have been packed in transparent bags, tied with beautiful ribbons, and given hand to hand when visiting kindergartens and schools with ethnically mixed classes, mainly in more disadvantaged, low income communities.

A creative workshop was created where school children and parents learned about recycling. Children collected and delivered recyclables with the help of parents. They made presents (toys) together with their parents for children in need. They prepared treats to have a party with parents and carved the food (vegetables, fruits) to look delicious.

1.4. Plastic bottle recycling activity - raising awareness while providing the alternative

In Italy the recycling activity was developed during the 10 days of the Vittoria d'Este Sports Summer Festival within which the Italian Baleria Campus was held.

The Solidarity activity consisted in the Recycling campaign 'La raccolta è differenziata, la solidarietà no!' / 'Waste collection is differentiated; solidarity is not something you differentiate on!', which aimed to raise awareness on reducing plastic waste as a way of demonstrating solidarity principles (i.e. solidarity with the environment and with endangered natural habitats as well as communities across the world).



The campaign consisted in the establishing of an Info and Collection Point (i.e. 'L'angolo del riciclo'/'Recycling corner'), in which participants to the events were invited to bring at least 4 plastic bottles, in exchange for which they were awarded with aluminium Reusable water bottles (i.e. bottles were personalised with the Baleria visual identity).

Upon collection and exchange, Baleria project staff interacted with participants so to raise awareness on the importance of reducing plastic waste, as well as to promote Baleria project and its values.

The activity represents an example of incentivising young and adult citizens to adopt environmentally-friendly behaviours, sharing both information and concrete examples of possible alternatives to harmful behaviours (i.e. the re-usable aluminium bottle can be immediately put to work and substitute the plastic bottles, not only on the sports field, but also in daily life).