

# **CHILDREN'S ENVIRONMENTAL WORKSHOPS: A SUCCESSFUL EXAMPLE OF EDUCATION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT FOR CHILDREN AND THEIR FAMILIES**

Kate Sposob, Belarus

During the interactive presentation the author will introduce conference participants with the experience of the children's environmental workshops as a good example to implement education for sustainable development (ESD) in schools and families. Participation in the ESD practices is possible anytime, anywhere and at any age. But the best way to start "acting locally" is to encourage the preschool and primary school children. ESD practices which are aimed to build up so-called "shaping competences," like cooperation, collaboration, independent decision-making, acting in a forward-looking manner, acquiring knowledge in an interdisciplinary manner, guide children from the very beginning to the practical, environmental way of thinking and acting. However, to successfully internalize these practices, children need to get the feedback from their families and obtain support in their efforts to change some household's habits in a more sustainable way. School curricula mostly do not face these needs and even extracurricular school activities cannot overlap the gap between the younger and older generation within a family. That is why the non-formal educational sites are in demand today. The initiative "Children's Environmental Workshops" is a kind of non-formal family ecological club (or interaction platform), where children and members of their families can create and work with all kinds of recycled and natural materials according to the well-known rule of 3R's (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle), along with discussions about small improvements needed to be made in their households (or even in the world). The initiative "Children's Environmental Workshops" works in a close collaboration with Partnership Network "Sustainable Development Schools", with local authorities and non-commercial ecological organizations. Trainers and volunteers of the Initiative use different kinds of activities: trainings, workshops as well as street actions and city

holiday:., where they encourage younger and older generations to join their efforts in order to find beauty of nature or find solution to overcome the waste problem. The next step of the initiative is building a set of multipliers from among students, future teachers or even senior schoolchildren in order to promote these practices in the regions of Belarus.

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