

Press release

TRAINING WITH TEACHERS

What should we do not to pollute rivers?

Not to be used until 20 November 2020, 12:00 PM.

The answers to this question, or rather the methods of human waste management were discussed during the Teachers' Training Seminar for Chemistry and Biology Teachers in Nova Kakhovka.

On November 20, the Chairman of the Nova Kakhovka Non-governmental Environmental Organization "Mama-86- Nova Kakhovka " Taisa Kozak organized a Teachers' Training Seminar as part of the international project CRoCuS -"Cleaner Rivers - Cleaner Seas", which is implemented with the financial assistance of Black Sea Basin programme of the European Union. Ivan Ivanovich Burakov, an agronomist, was also invited. He has long-term experience in growing vegetables and fruits. Concerned with the problem of uncontrolled application of chemical fertilizers by farmers, Ivan Ivanovich developed a unique technology for the production of fertilizers based on composting. The final product - gum - is completely safe for both humans and plants. It does not only nourish the soil but also protects it from pests. I. Burakov's product is applied even by foreign farmers but not all local farmers are aware of the unique product that reduces the use of pesticides and chemicals. Promoting safe technology for growing plants is the main task of the agronomist now.

Project CRoCuS is a synergistic action of 4 NGOs and 1 townhall from Moldova, Ukraine, Bulgaria and Romania. Its main task is to produce innovative tools for rapid assessment of river litter and waste recycling potential, promote sustainable waste management practices, share good practices and mistakes and spread the word across the borders for reduction of bio-degradable waste and plastics recycling and minimization.

Concerning the latter issue Iryna Kucherenko, a Biology Teacher at Secondary School No. 3, said: "Last year, during the celebration of the First Bell, we were presented with canvas bags which can be used instead of plastic bags. They are becoming more and more popular. Many of my colleagues, buy such bags very often. They are very comfortable and, what is more important, not harmful to our health. "

A specific objective of the project CRoCuS is the development of the mobile application Trash Alert (TAMA). The application can help to assess the volume of waste that could be recycled, provide valuable data for development of feasibility plans and can be a useful tool for economic activities from the recycling of plastics and biodegradable waste. The Trash Alert mobile application will allow assessing the magnitude of the trash dumped near rivers, indicating the approx-

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Common borders. Common solutions.

imate volume of plastics or biodegradable waste, waste compositions and potential impact on river biodiversity, reporting to relevant authorities and mapping of the areas. It will allow to upload pictures and identify the location coordinates. The TAMA will be elaborated by WiSDOM association (Moldova) in consultation with all other partners.

T. Kozak encouraged the teachers to involve students in the cleaning up activities. She said that the project would last until 2022. Demonstration days and master classes will be carried out. The experience of communities located on the Prut, Dnipro and Tunzha rivers will be used.

During the demonstration days, equipment for grinding organic waste for production of mulch or compost, blowers for collection of dry leaves will be presented. Children will be taught to make construction elements from waste, plastic bags and bottles. Outdoor eco-parties and cleaning up activities are planned for the next year. In this way, the students will have the opportunity not only to obtain information, but also to apply their knowledge in practice.

In fact, children can do a lot. In my practice, there was a case of ragweed in the yard of a serious organization. As soon as the children posted announcements about the harmfulness of this plant, the next morning the whole weed was weeded out. And this is just a small example, said Taisiya Fyodorovna.

The participants in the seminar showed deep interest in the project. During the practical task, they not only offered creative means of cleaning up littered areas near rivers, but also embodied their ideas in vivid presentations, which were meaningful, extraordinary and bright.

It was suggested to involve parents in solving the problems related to littering. Because, very often children are taught not to litter, to sort garbage, to collect plastic waste, but in real life they see something completely different: they leave piles of garbage after a vacation, throw cigarette butts, do not clean their own yard. Considering this, environmental education requires the cooperation among adults and children. The participants of the seminar were also invited to sort litter not only at schools and multi-story buildings, but also in technical schools, universities and all enterprises and organizations of the city.

At the end of the seminar, an evaluation form was filled by the participants. All participants reported a positive impression. In their opinion, the training was relevant, necessary and informative. Such events, as well as the project in general, contribute to raising public awareness about waste management, contribute to improving the environmental situation in our region and in the Black Sea basin as a whole.

Contact persons: Svetlana Kukharyik, Taisa Kozak.
E-mail: svetrekrama17@gmail.com, mama86nk@gmail.com
Phone: +380509689463, +380954732767