

## EDUCATIONAL VISIT REPORT

April 29, 2014, Struga, Macedonia

Educational lecture in the Eco-incubator and visit to the Museum of Natural Science “D-r Nikola Nezlobinski”, Struga with the primar schools of Korca and Pogradec.

### Participants:

- 40 pupils from the schools: School “Mesonjetorja e pare shqipe”, Korca; School “Pandeli Cale”, Korca, Kolë Koci” and “M & Esat Minarolli” in town and “Shefki Muçllari” in Vërdova “Sheme Mahmutllari” school in Rëmenj Pogradec; 8 school Teachers - see the list of the pupils attached.
- Entela Pinguli, Project Manager, Biologists of Albania
- Avdulla Cano, Regional Directory of Education in Pogradec
- Gjoko Zoroski, Project Coordinator, LDA, Struga
- Jasminka Popovska, Project Director, LDA, Struga

Organisers: Biologists of Albania, Albania in cooperation with the project:



### Objectives of the visit:

- to familiarize the pupils with the project aims and activities and its transboundary character;
- to provide opportunities for the pupils to learn more about environmental and natural resources conservation in the region of the Ohrid Lake;
- to promote an understanding of the fragile balances among land, water, local people activities and the environment in the transboundary region of the Ohrid Lake;
- to create awareness, understanding and appreciation of sustainable use of natural resources in the transboundary region;



- to sensitize the pupils about the communities' responsibilities in managing and utilizing the environment;
- to provide information on joint lake conservation efforts to pupils

Host: Local Agency for Development, Struga, Macedonia

Date of the visit: Friday, April 25, 2014;

Place(s) of the visit:

1. Eco-incubator classroom (Gjuro Salaj str. Nr 28, Struga, Macedonia)
2. Museum of Natural Science "D-r Nikola Nezlobinski", Struga

The Eco-incubator was a place which gathered around 40 pupils along with 8 teachers, from the primary schools from the regions of Korca and Pogradec, Albania. For many of them it was first visit to the neighboring/other side of the Ohrid Lake and Macedonia. The pupils were divided into 2 groups: while one group had lecture, the other group visited the Museum of Natural Science "D-r Nikola Nezlobinski".

The project coordinator at the ECO incubator Gjoko Zoroski and the president of the Local Agency for Development, Jasminka Popovska greeted the pupils and recognized them with the project aims and activities. They highlighted the importance of the youth as the crucial target group in the project.

After the introduction, the interactive lecture started. In the beginning the pupils were immersed in the Ohrid Lake natural world, showing them its rich flora and fauna. The lecture was focused on transboundary but also on global environmental issues, natural resources management, wildlife habitats, and endangered species recovery efforts. It was about to raise the understanding of the pupils of the importance of the Ohrid Lake and the natural resources we rely on in our everyday lives. The lecture continued on how streams, rivers and the Ohrid Lake are affected by the local people.

At times pupils were asked to consider local and global environmental issues and ways they impact environment in their own backyard.

In the end the pupils started to ask questions and the debate was raised. The flow of the discussion was maintained about the importance of making informed choices for the good of our environment.

Also visit to the Museum of Natural Science was exciting one. The pupils had unique chance to learn and explore the wildlife native to the Ohrid Lake region, featuring a variety of mammals, birds, snakes, fish, and insects.

All in all, we hope that we inspired many of the pupils to become stewards of the natural environment. We see many of them in the future involved in projects of their local organizations supporting the Ohrid Lake transboundary region.

Prepared by: Entela Pinguli, Project Director

