



## **Schools for Resilience**

Linking schools with  
local communities' sustainability

### **WP3: Educational Resources on local sustainability**



Lifelong  
Learning  
Programme



The Schools for Resilience (SfR) project is an innovative learning programme taking a new approach to environmental education and education for sustainable development in schools. It is based on actions towards healthier, more responsive, and more resilient local communities, and developing the competencies students will need in the 21<sup>st</sup> century to collaboratively engage with challenges such as climate change.

SfR aims to encourage students to engage with their local community and develop a resilience-building project in the areas of energy, waste, food or transport. The project should build the community's ability cope with challenges, link local issues to global sustainability issues and help to encourage, motivate and create new opportunities for young people to actively participate in their communities.

The teaching plans for SfR projects will include suggested activities that can be driven by young people and that can be implemented in their community. It is envisioned that the projects undertaken will reinforce their connection to the people and the environment around them, and therefor strengthen their own and their community's resilience.

Simply put, community resilience is about the building of better relationships with our neighbours and the strengthening of social bonds; it is about encouraging a greater sense of place, having the capacity to collaboratively solve problems, and the ability to steward resources together.

In an SfR project, the proposed action or intervention in the local area will act as a trigger to the students' learning, which should take place in the community and not in the classroom. However the school is a significant asset and one that students could utilize to host an event for the community.

[Note: Depending on the time frame for implementing SfR curriculum, it may be necessary to narrow student's options of projects they might undertake.]

**To guide partners, students and teachers, the following are suggestions and examples of interventions youth could create to promote community resilience and sustainability.**

**Intergenerational Interviews** – Building a sense of community through young people interviewing older people in their locality on topics such as sustainability and resilience. eg 'How did this place feed itself in the past?' This exercise could be part of a project that helps young people examine their local community and assess its strengths, weaknesses, needs and opportunities. Encouraging young people to do interviews with businesses or other stakeholders to assess their community in



some way builds civic skills and could utilize technologies that younger people are familiar with such as social media.

**Community Mapping** - This is sometimes called community asset mapping and is a participatory planning tool that engages youth in collecting, organising and visually displaying community resources. The output could be a paper or web based map that identifies the resources, biodiversity, recycling, water or any assets in the local area.

**Community Surveys** – Through designing and conducting interviews in their locality young people can build a stronger sense of place and gather information on the needs of the community for a sustainability project. This could include surveys on biodiversity, perceptions of renewable energy etc

**Community Events** – Competencies could be developed through the young people organizing an event of some kind in their school or in the community. This could take many forms; a discussion, a fair, an exhibit, a meal, a film screening, a community clean up, a play or a multi-media performance etc. The objective would be for the students to design, outreach and host the event in the context of one of the SfR themes.





## Case Studies

The following case studies are of projects that were identified by the European partners of SfR. These can be undertaken by students in a short timeframe and can contribute to the transformation of their local communities while building their competencies.

### Spain

#### A Basque case study to inspire a local project or intervention in the SfR programme.

Project Title

#### Sharing European Memories



#### Description

The European project involved young people in the process of building the collective memory of their community of the European conflicts of the 20th century. The aim was not only recover testimonies and stories, but to express the reflections and feelings arisen by means of an artistic production. In Anoeta, students interviewed old people on their memories of the 1950s and 1960s as part of a school project linked to the curricula and organized an event narrating the history of the village since 19th Century. The students participated through different local groups who collaborated in the project.



## Outcome

The event was the result of a collaboration between the Town Council, a local school and Aranzadi Society of Sciences. The results were presented during the cultural week of the village. Around 550 people attended the event, in which more than 130 people participated as volunteers (students, performers, witnesses, organisations, etc.).

The event consisted of a short movie; a piece of theater (traditional folk poem show) prepared by the local theater association; a traditional song performed by Anoeta's children orchestra and the local music school *and* contemporary from the local dance school. The event was, then, not only an exhibition of the students' work, but also a common work of the whole town.

## Resources Needed

The school project involving intergenerational interviews and elaborating digital stories just need software and skills for the ICT part. As for the event, it would have been impossible without the commitment of the municipality which provided the facilities, the legal permissions, the emergency services and the necessary technical support (lighting, audio, etc.)

**Web Link** <https://vimeo.com/44974426> (Video summarising the activities)

## Latvia

### Latvian case studies to inspire local projects or interventions in the SfR programme.

#### Project Title In the Freedom Garden



#### Description

The “Freedom Garden” was planted at Vidzemes Market in Riga. It is an aesthetically ecological research-oriented project aiming at creation of real urban garden. Its main idea is to urge thinking about the idea of urban garden in the center of town and returning to community values, traditions and long-forgotten skills such as ability to grow edible and medicinal greens on window sills, balconies and terraces in the city. The project was facilitated by the interdisciplinary art group SERDE.

#### Outcome

The project focused on the gardens of the city. During May a plant-planting event was organized in the vertical garden created in the Vidzeme Market, as well as a seminar on urban garden building on the windowsills, balconies, and terraces was organized. Interested parties could receive a handbook about cultivating plants in the city. In addition, the garden that was created in the fall was



harvested, by organizing the Freedom Garden harvest festival, where people shared their canning recipes, tasted the grown produce, as well as drew the story of the garden together. The evening concluded with a musical performance in the community called, "Chokeberry overture".

### **Resources Needed**

Boards, from which to build cascade pots, used plastic water bottles, pipes for irrigation, soil, seeds of various plants.

### **Web Link**

<http://riga2014.org/BrivibasDarzs?qPage=1&>

<http://www.serde.lv/?q=lv>



Project Title  
**En-rooters**



**Description (100 words)**

“En-rooters” is an intergenerational communication and tolerance-evolving project, which is based on the cooperation between social care center inhabitants and primary school pupils in the creative horticultural/design workshops, where citizens had the opportunity to learn together, to create and to make build relationships in the community.

One of the main objectives of the project is to raise the issue of active and dignified aging, including also the nursing homes. In order to improve the daily lives of the residents of the social care center, the project established a garden area on the grounds of the nursing home, where the inhabitants could work actively and creatively.



## Outcome (100 words)

During the project 10 seniors from the social care center "Ezerkrasti" and 10 students from Riga 6<sup>th</sup> Secondary School met and jointly planted plants, pricked out seedlings, created mobile flower beds, spent time talking and working in creative workshops.

Created beds were used to decorate the care center. Seniors and children quickly became friends and met outside the project – children invited the seniors to a concert at the school. At the conclusion of the project, a joint picnic and an exhibition was organized about the progress of the project.

## Resources Needed

Plant boxes, soil, seeds, desire to work together and make new friends.

## Web Link

<http://iesakno.lv/>

<http://riga2014.org/lat/news/6237-lai-aug-berni-un-seniori-projekta-iesaknotaji>



## Project Title

SOS Youth Mobile Technical Service



## Description (100 words)

SOS service provides help to seniors to cope with today's modern technology. For example, topping-up of prepaid cards for a cell phone, opening e-mail on the internet, help to make payments on the internet, reading electricity meters, battery replacement of torches or electronic thermometers, setting TV programming and many other things that are difficult for seniors, but are easy for young people to do.

## Outcome (100 words)

The volunteers in the project were young people - teenagers from Ledmane, Krape, Stubble and Lazdukalns parishes. who took turns answering seniors' calls. Young people travel in twos, equipped with Latvian made electric bicycles and tablet PC with an internet connection.



The tablet PC features a special call service program "Mappost" where you can see the location of the call and the problem that needs to be resolved. House dwellers can use this service by calling the dispatch and agreeing on a specific time at which young people can come to help.

## Resources Needed

Bicycle, tablet PC with an Internet connection, the program Mappost, and desire to work together.

## Web Link

[http://www.lielvarde.lv/page/182&news\\_id=3646](http://www.lielvarde.lv/page/182&news_id=3646)

<http://ltv.lsm.lv/lv/raksts/26.12.2014-jaunieshu-sos-dienests-steidz-paliiga-senioriem.id41337/>

## Project Title

Miera Street Republic





## Description

At the onset of the economic crisis in Latvia activity on the streets slowed down in most places. On Miera Street in Riga the opposite happened – the bustle on the street began. Locals quickly realized that even in these times, strength is in unity and they founded the organization, "Miera Street republic", which has become one of the most successful examples of local community development in the city. One after another creative cafes, workshops, and pop up boutiques appeared.

## Outcome

In the Miera Street Republic enthusiastic and enterprising people of all ages worked together not only creating the new face of the street, but also changing the character of Riga. There are many interesting examples of small businesses and creative enterprises such as a hair salon, a reading room called "Black Beak", a cultural café called "Taka", an exchange point of houseplants and a bottle makeover point called "Buteljons". Young people also organize their own street festivals both at Christmas and at Whitsun celebration. Whitsun on Miera Street has even transformed in a Riga festival "Whitsun on Miera Street".

## Resources Needed

Ideas and a desire to be together and work together.

## Web Link

<http://riga2014.org/lat/news/5023-republika-bez-prezidenta-miera-iela>

<http://www.mieriela.lv/>

<http://www.riga2014.org/lat/news/4348-miera-ielas-republika-aicina-uz-vasarsvetkiem>



## Ireland

### Irish case studies to inspire local projects or interventions in the SfR programme.

Project Title

#### Generation Green



#### Description

Students from Presentation Secondary School in Thurles, County Tipperary developed a project called Generation Green, which was a campaign that aimed to make their community, and in particular local businesses, more aware of what alternative clean energy resources are available to them.

The team used their local supermarket that had made energy improvements and installed solar panels, as an example of good practice in their area. They created a presentation, which they then delivered to other local businesses encouraging the use of cleaner, greener energy. A low energy day was then organised by the team in their school, which attracted other pupils, parents and people from their community.



## Outcome

The project by Generation Green team won the overall prize in Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland's 'One Good Idea' contest in 2012. They then were selected to represent Ireland at the U4Energy Awards in Brussels and won the Best Practice Beyond U4Energy award for their community campaign. Their Low Energy day, which they ran in their school, succeeded in raising awareness as well as reducing their energy consumption by 40% that day.

## Resources Needed

This project was delivered with very few resources. The students did some initial research, developed a presentation using PowerPoint and held an event using the school facilities.

## Web Link

[http://www.seai.ie/Schools/Post\\_Primary/One-Good-Idea-Project/Overall\\_winner\\_2012\\_-\\_Generation\\_Green.html](http://www.seai.ie/Schools/Post_Primary/One-Good-Idea-Project/Overall_winner_2012_-_Generation_Green.html)

## Project Title

## Food for Thought





## Description

This was a project by a team from the St. Louis Secondary School in Dundalk, County Louth, which was entered into the Young Environmental Awards and won the Eco-leader award. The team felt that the challenge of food miles was an underrated issue in the fight against climate change and something that very few people take into consideration when purchasing food.

The project set out to make their peers and their local community much more aware of food miles and their carbon footprint. They set up a Facebook and Twitter page, which supplied information on food miles and seasonal produce, and embedded a food miles calculator that they found on the web. The project also developed and distributed a directory of local food producers.

## Outcome

They researched and developed a poster and PowerPoint campaign providing information on how to cut down on food miles and the importance of doing so. To raise funds for an orchard, they held a bake sale in the local market, where produce made from all locally sourced ingredients was sold to the public. With their €300 fund, the group planted 8 fruit trees which now not only supplying the school with fresh produce, but also absorb carbon dioxide and thus help to combat climate change.

## Resources Needed

This project was developed for ECO-UNESCO's Young Environmentalist Awards in 2015. The awards began in 1999, encouraging young people to develop local environmental action projects to help conserve and protect the environment and by encouraging others to do the same. Tens of thousands of young people from all across the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland have now participated. The resources needed for this project were simple, energy and commitment from the team, some computer skills, creativity and access to the internet and a printer, as well as the ability to set up and use social media were all that was needed to complete this project.

**Web Link - <http://www.ecounesco.ie/eco-unesco-young-environmentalist-awards-2013>**



## Italy

### Italian case studies to inspire local projects or interventions in the SfR programme.

#### Project Title:

**PiantamoLA! – Plant IT!**



#### Description

In class students learned about the different energy resources used by households, and by interviewing their families, they found out the average costs for water-methane-electricity-transport-waste. With the aid of an expert, students in class converted the consumption of each family in quantities CO<sub>2</sub> and calculated how many trees should be planted to balance their consumption.

Then students prepared leaflets and distributed them to their fellow citizens in some of the most popular and crowded places of the community. These included the weekly local market, the Sports Centre, the Town Hall and church courtyards. The students also explained how to use a simple computer tool that can help them calculate their carbon footprint.

After a mapping of all the green areas of the community, students took part in a town council meeting, where they presented the results of their surveys and their proposals about the planting of new trees in some specific areas. An intergenerational network of grandparents-grandchildren-volunteers was established to adopt, plant and to take care of the trees.





## Description

Reading the local newspaper in class students discovered that the Municipality had been fined because the separate collection of household waste was badly done. They organized to talk to the Mayor to enquire about the services that might be provided to citizens to minimize waste and future fines. The students then interviewed their relatives and neighbours to see what they know about this problem and the consequences of the fine on their community.

First students checked the waste paper & rubbish bins of their school to see if they complied with proper separation of waste, as they are described on the websites of local institutions.

Then finally the students worked in groups to map all the collection places in the community and looked for solutions that would help citizens improve the separation of waste.

## Outcome

To raise the awareness of the importance of good separate collection of waste and help their fellow citizens improve their behaviours the students:

- analysed the results of their interviews and collected the information on the school's and the Municipality's websites
- organised a competition among classes at their school to see which one has the best rubbish bin
- organised a competition between parents and students with quizzes about waste separate collection
- produced stickers with images of DOs & DON'Ts to put on the waste paper bins at school and around the town
- promoted local events with practical demonstrations and competitions about construction of bins, waste collection and separation of waste
- involved local people in the "adoption of a bin" in town and its constant monitoring.

## Resources Needed:

- adhesive paper to print stickers
- bins for the separate collection of waste
- school gym for the competition parents/students
- local associations and volunteers



**Web Link: To leaflet published by the Municipality of Lecco**

<http://www.sileaspa.it/files/news/opuscolo%20raccolte%20lecco.pdf>





## UK

### UK case studies to inspire local projects or interventions in the SfR programme.

Project Title

#### Propaganda Planting



#### Description

Rather than complaining about what they could not do, IET (Incredible Edible Todmorden) just got on with what they could do. This was true of the lack of allotments in the town; rather than complain IET simply encouraged people to build their own planters in small places, plant fruit and vegetables, and ask people to help themselves. They even just moved onto neglected land and planted without permission.

#### Outcome (100 words)

In making food growing prominent IET started conversations that have lead onto a range of projects throughout the town. Perhaps the greatest impact is that much of this activity has started not due to a planned development, rather initiatives have arisen because people felt the need to join in and be a part whether by planting fruit bushes along the canal, buying more local food or taking part in one of the many local events. As a result, as resident's survey found that 96% liked the fact that vegetables are grown in public spaces and 67% said they had picked some food from the propaganda beds.



## Resources Needed

Wood to build planters, compost, seeds, and a sense of adventure.

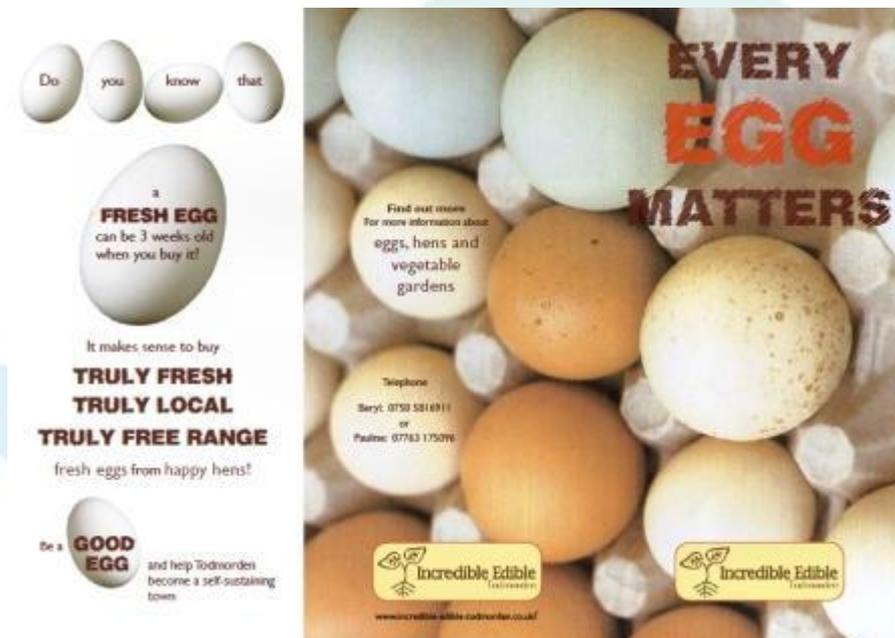
## Web Link

<http://www.incredible-edible-todmorden.co.uk/home>

[http://www.theecologist.org/green\\_green\\_living/2202429/incredible\\_edible\\_todmorden.htm](http://www.theecologist.org/green_green_living/2202429/incredible_edible_todmorden.htm)

## Project Title

### Egg Map: how to accelerate local food abundance



## Description

As part of Incredible Edible Todmorden's self-sufficiency drive the Every Egg Matters campaign was launched to demonstrate the practicalities of producing your own food; enough eggs for your own family with a surplus to sell to your neighbours. So the Every Egg Matters campaign was launched in 2009 with free pancakes, brilliant egg painting and feathery hen hard hats. That Easter saw our Eggstraordinary Spring Festival with fun for children of all ages and our serious message underneath: let's try and be self-sufficient in eggs.

## Outcome

The result of this project was more people supplying more local eggs to local people. The Egg Map has 32 producers on it but there are many more people or groups considering



keeping hens, from schools to community groups. Every point on the map is a home, farm or business that has a chicken coop. Many of them got started with chicken keeping through the Todmorden “Every Egg Matters” campaign.

Given how productive chickens can be, it’s not that hard to overproduce. So, a good portion of these locations produces MORE eggs than they need. Further, the campaign increased the awareness of people in the town to the benefits of fresh, locally produced eggs — from the radically better taste, particularly if eaten within 48 hours of being laid, to the claim (mostly unproven, although I suspect it is highly dependent on the type of chicken and what you feed them) that they are much better for you than the factory fresh eggs bought in a store.

### **Resources Needed**

Chickens, sense of adventure.

### **Web Links**

Egg map: [www.incredible-edible-todmorden.co.uk/resources/todmorden-egg-map](http://www.incredible-edible-todmorden.co.uk/resources/todmorden-egg-map)  
<http://www.resilientcommunities.com/the-egg-map-how-to-accelerate-local-food-abundance/>  
<http://www.incredible-edible-todmorden.co.uk/resources/eggcellent-advice>  
<http://www.incredible-edible-todmorden.co.uk/blogs/spring-festival-incredible-photo-gallery>



## Denmark

**Danish case study to inspire local projects or interventions in the SfR programme.**

### Project Title

Buy local food in Denmark



### Description

In this project all the farm shops in Denmark has been registered on a homepage so the costumer easy can find a place where they can buy local produced vegetables and meet. The homepage is marketed on social medias as Facebook, Instagram and Twitter. The customers can receive a newsletter with information's about special offers or events in their local area.

### Outcome

It should be easier to the customer's to buy local produced food and there by live in a more sustainable way



**Resources Needed**

A computer, apps to the smartphone

**Web Link:** [www.ditlandkoeb.dk](http://www.ditlandkoeb.dk)

