**SOS4Love Project**

**Final Action Plan Report**

**School/Country:** B΄Trachoni Primary School, Limassol Cyprus

**Teacher/Facilitator: Name & Last Name-Subject taught in class:** Thalia Anastasiou Neofytou, teacher of Key Stage 2 students. Subjects taught: Greek language, Maths, environmental and health education.

**1a)**.**The challenge that inspired us to take action.**

One of the actions organised by our school during the European week of Sport was: ‘walking around the school’s area’. The aim we set was to emphasize the importance of physical activity in people’s lives and to show simple ways of going to places which have been left behind such as walking which contributes to the reduction of vehicles and pollution.

During the way, the children noticed serious problems that pollute the environment and hinder moving in the community streets. In particular, they noticed rubbish thrown in the streets, dog fouling that hindered walking and broken pavements which created safety problems to the pedestrians.

**1b).** **Steps of our SOS4Love Action Plan:**

The school’s environmental team focused on the 12th objective: ‘Responsible consumption and production . Emphasis was placed on the following sub objectives:

12.4 Achieving good practice waste management throughout their lives.

12.5 Reducing waste through prevention, reduction, recycling and reuse.

The children decided to take action to clean and improve the school’s surrounding area in order to help students coming to school to move with safety as well as the other citizens staying in the area to enjoy walking without barriers hindering this physical activity.

The following steps were taken by the school’s environmental team in order to achieve the change.

Step1: A careful field study was carried out during which the main problems were indicated, photographed and recorded.

Step 2: Suggestions about tackling the problem were heard during classroom discussions

Step 3: A letter with our claims was written asking for help from the local community council about the following:

* Placing waste and recycling bins on the pavements around the school
* Placing bins for dog fouling.
* Placing warning signs.
* Restoring old streets and pavements.
* Better street lights.
* Frequent checks of the area from the employees of the Local Council.
* Penalties for those who exhibit illegal behavior.

Step 4: Students met the president of the Local Council. They discussed the topic and gave a demand letter to the president.

Step 5: A campaign was organized in order to clean the area around the school. The parents’ association supported the effort.

Step 6: Posters will be created and placed on the school’s walls in order to sensitize the students.

Step 7: A leaflet will be developed and distributed to the community by the children.

Step 8: Frequent meetings with the Parents’ Association and the president of the local council.

**Difficulties:**

This action is time consuming and requires the coordination of many carriers in order to be achieved. The resources are limited and the local authority doesn’t set as a priority the area around the school. Sensitizing citizens of the community cannot be achieved in short term.

Τhe area we chose to clean is outside school so we cannot check whether it can be kept clean. Nearby there is a middle school and a football court where young people throw rubbish. Due to the fact that the local council doesn’t assign any fines, people with illegal behavior continue acting the same.

**2α). Results:**

Students’ involvement in this action had positive results concerning their attitude towards the environment. Students realised that people’s actions have led to the ecologic destruction, however, their concern about saving the environment led them to organise and participate in relevant actions.

Parents were sensitized and this raised the effort for reducing littering through recycling and less consumption. Children reported positive comments such as: “It’s better to reduce littering and keep the area clean instead of throwing littering and then living together with them or picking them up”.

**2b). Feelings and reflections on our experience throughout the SOS4Love project:**

Participating in programs of universal application reduces the distances between people and gives the opportunity for interaction and exchanging ideas. The students realize that despite the differences between the people of various nationalities, they have the same needs and concerns. Moreover, showing their work made the students proud because they felt that they contributed towards protection of the environment.

The teacher had the opportunity to attract students’ interest in environmental matters and have many supporters in the effort to implement the school’s environmental policy.