

Awareness-raising among high school students, 15 to 18 years old, with respect to regional biodiversity

Contact name

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Institution name

ENRx

Region & country

Hauts-de-France region



Summary

The teaching programme “Biodiver_lycees” (which can be translated into english as “Biodiver-high schools”) developed by ENRx proposes the study of regional ecosystems from the point of view of history, geography and biology and examines the environmental, economic, and social roles of these environment. The programme is divided in workshops and each workshop is composed of a set of students and professors. The workshops seek to mobilise and involve high school students in the territory where they live.



High school students involved in "Biodiver-lycees". Photo by Olivier Delvaux.

Background of the project

The programme "Biodiver_lycees" was set up to compensate the lack of existing biodiversity programmes in the high schools of the region. This approach helps high school students to learn about nature and act in favour of the protection of the environment.

ENRx is capable to support 14 establishments per school and year on the basis of a commitment charter with financing from the partner association for an amount of 2500 euros.

The main needs identified were to establish a relationship between young urban people and nature, as the knowledge that this sector of the population has about nature is pretty limited. The project also aims to link people and nature through actions carried out in work places and facilities in the terrain.

Solution and actions taken

ENRx sets up specialised structures in Environmental Education and Sustainable Development to teach high school students of the region. To do so, ENRx uses an original methodology of its own creation.

A significant part of the teaching tools are designed by ENRx and consist in packages of thematic cards (forests, wetlands, urban nature), catalogues of nature trips and technical information and documentation provided via a dedicated website for project partners.

Each project has 4 phases:

- 1 – classroom and field work about regional biodiversity;
- 2 – knowledge acquisition;

- 3 – participation in one or more action;
- 4 – student action in a local project (nature-work sites, ponds creation, hedges plantation, invasive species removal).

During the project and at its conclusion, professors and young students communicate with other classes, the press, etc. to inform them about the project... A especial media event is organised to target regional actors.

Other institutions or parties involved

- Academic inspectors and representatives of the Ministry of National Education (professors and administrative and technical departments).
- 10 associations engaged in sustainable development.

Results

So far, since this initiative was first implemented, 9 assessment reports have been produced . They are available at <http://www.enrx.fr/Objectif-Biodiv/Programme-Biodiver-lycees>.

Furthermore, 9 new groups were selected to commence on September 27th 2017.

Challenges

Participation of the professors in the “Biodiver_lycees.” programme requires a significant investment in preparation, follow-up and also a high degree of commitment. It’s the reason why there are only 9 centres participating out of 14 potential ones. Each year we are trying to contact different centres for its involvement in the programme, as the professors trained in the approach often continue with it after the project ends.

Lessons learned

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Website(s)

<http://www.enrx.fr>