



Climate Friendly Management in European Schools

Climate change represents one of the greatest environmental, social and economic threats facing the planet. The project CLIMES is funded by the European Commission to introduce the topic of climate change and climate adaptation in European schools by developing and implementing a functioning climate-friendly management system. The vision and hope related to the implementation of the CLIMES management system is that the whole school community will be induced to behave in a climate-friendly way, i.e. to mitigate damages for the climate, and to adapt to the expected changes in climate.

CLIMES main elements

CLIMES has four main elements that form the basis of all project activities. These are:

CLIMATE FRIENDLY MANAGEMENT IN EUROPEAN SCHOOLS



CLIMES management system
focusing on climate change mitigation and adaptation in European schools



CLIMES action plan
to reduce the carbon footprint in European schools



CLIMES web based guidelines
for introducing climate change issues in European schools



CLIMES European award 2012
„Our way to a climate-friendly school“

CLIMES management system:

The kernel of the CLIMES management system is the regular check of schools' carbon footprint and the introduction of measures to reduce it. The elements of the CLIMES management systems are components of the Deming circle (plan-do-check-act). Partner schools are about to complete the "check" phase, in which they identify those operations that influence climate change significantly, such as energy use, traffic induced by school, school meals, water use, and waste disposal to calculate their carbon footprint.

CLIMES action plan

Based on the results of the "check" phase, schools establish an action plan to reduce the carbon footprint (mitigation measures) or to adapt to the climate change (adaptation measures). This means to define the climate relevant objectives and targets for the school to be reached within a specified period and to specify a climate change programme with activities, responsibilities as well as necessary resources. In the "do" phase these activities are implemented accordingly. The climate change group has to check regularly on their effectiveness and efficiency and, if need be, redefine them.

CLIMES web based guidelines

The partner schools are given support by an environmental expert who provides not only information and support during the partner meetings or in bilateral talks but also by means of web based guidelines. Each component of the management system is thoroughly explained on the CLIMES e-learning platform which can be accessed by all partners.

CLIMES European award 2012

Apart from the exchange activities among the partner schools that are being promoted through diverse web tools the CLIMES team will organise a large scale conference for European students at the end of the project. The aim of the conference is on the one hand to foster exchange and collaboration among the involved schools and to disseminate project results and, on the other hand, to attract new partner school potentially interested to implement the CLIMES management system. For this purpose a European-wide



competition will be launched in early 2012. Schools in all over Europe will be invited to submit their ideas and projects in the field of climate mitigation and adaptation. The motto will be "Our way to a climate-friendly school". The competition will be targeted towards pupils at the age between 14 and 19 years. The best project ideas will be chosen by an international jury and the winners will be invited to an award ceremony in one of the European partner cities. For the winning teams an event around the award ceremony will be organised (including games and other actions). The winners of the award will receive a certificate and their idea will be published in newsletters and articles.

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