



3rd Pan-European Days of Environmental Education for Sustainability – Barcelona, 1-2 October 2015

Roundtable session:

Climate Change and Education Toward Sustainability

Chairperson:

Salvador Samitier, Head of the Catalan Office for Climate Change.

Panellists:

Javier Martín-Vide, Head of Physical Geography at the Universitat de Barcelona

Núria Parpal, Barcelona Provincial Council, Coordinator of the European project Euronet 50/50

Valentina Bergero, from the Fondazione Lombardia per l'Ambiente

Michelle Jouhaneau, Senior Officer for Education, Training and Youth and Sustainable Development, French Ministry for Ecology, Sustainable Development and Energy

Anne Mercier, Special Advisor for Environmental Education and Sustainable Development, French Ministry of Ecology, Sustainable Development and Energy

1. Climate Change and Education Toward Sustainability: Javier Martín-Vide

He explained that many students enrolled in geography and environmental science degrees are unaware of the physical confines of the planet (40,000 km in circumference and 7.3 billion people).

To explain climate change to the public:

- It is necessary to take a systemic approach to climate.
- The considerable inertia of the climate system requires urgent action.
- Not everything is related to climate change.
- The importance of data concerning climate change.
- The sea level is rising by 3 mm per year. It is essential to be aware of time scales.

- The temperature is rising by 0.85°C every 100 years.
- Knowledge is channelled through the media, which creates uncertainty.
- Anthropogenic sources have a major influence on climate change.

Climate change and education:

- Must have a global perspective.
- Must be true.
- Must call for action.
- Must be positive.
- Must respect and promote sustainability.

2. Euronet 50/50 Max: Núria Parpal

She explained that this is a three-year European project that started on 18 April 2013 and will end on 18 April 2016. It involves 16 European partners, 500 schools and some public buildings such as sports centres and libraries. Barcelona Provincial Council provides the methodology.

One of the project's key objectives is to take action and look for ways to mitigate climate change. In the case of schools, it involves the students and teachers, and in the case of sports centres and libraries, it involves the staff and users.

The goal is to find out how energy is used in the building, how it is managed and what can be done to improve energy consumption habits and reduce energy bills. Half the savings are then passed on to the school, sports centre or library.

Steps to follow in a school:

1. Create an energy team.
2. Examine energy use.
3. Acquire knowledge.
4. Collect data.
5. Inspect the power circuit.
6. Develop an energy plan for the school.
7. Publicize the results on the radio.
8. Produce a report on the measures that require investment.
9. Use the money saved and explain what was done.

This project has resulted in savings of around €3,200 per school per year. The anticipated goal has already been achieved, with half a year to go until the project ends.

3. Environmental Education and Climate Change: An Opportunity to Increase Awareness of the Environment and Protection of Nature

She explained that the Fondazione Lombardia per l'Ambiente is a non-profit organization that runs two environmental education programmes:

1. Eco-Nautilus Training Week

A European experience for young people aged 16 to 25. It aims to raise environmental awareness among young people with regard to climate change, biodiversity, water and waste, within a context of formal and non-formal education. It took place in Poland and 29 young people from four European countries participated.

It promoted proactive attitudes among students, who debated the natural and man-made factors that cause climate change and looked for solutions.

2. Meravigliosambiente

An educational resource for primary-school students. It consists of a series of booklets on a range of environmental subjects aimed at children aged between six and 11.

The booklets contain around 25 pages and include explanations concerning the environment, activities, what you can do to help and suggestions for places to visit.

They have been available as eBooks and iPad apps since 2014.

4. Climate Change, What's That? Michelle Jouhaneau and Anne Mercier

They explained that a survey of 10,000 people was conducted in France regarding the different approaches to reducing greenhouse gas levels, and 77.81% replied that the general public should be provided with educational programmes on climate change. This indicates a major shift in France, where families have a positive attitude and are committed to the climate.

They presented the project Together for the Climate and Energy Transition to prepare the 2015 Paris Climate Change Conference. The main objective of this project is to show how local actors from all over France produce changes.

It consists of two initiatives, one aimed at the general public and the other for schools, in parallel with the 2015 Paris Climate Change Conference.