

4-th newsletter,
October 2019

Newsletter of the MARLENA project

Common borders. Common solutions.

MARLENA: Marine and River Litter Elimination
New Approach, BSB – 139



ECO CAMPS AND ECO ACTIONS implemented by MARLENA partners in the SUMMER of 2019



MARLENA aims to strengthen community awareness and engage local populations in the promotion and implementation of cross-border campaigns to clean coastal and riverine waters in the Black Sea basin and to share good practices in this area to reduce and eliminate pollution. Activities to raise public awareness implemented in the summer and autumn of 2019 included a broad awareness campaign in the Black Sea Basin countries, including events and information campaigns for coastal cleaning, eco-actions and eco-camps for enhancing the ecological culture of youth and local community.



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Eco-camps held in Strandzha Mountains Bulgaria

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From 31 May to 1 of June, the first tent eco-camp for children was organized as part of the Green Strandja NGO activities under the project MARLENA. The project envisages 5 local camps and one camp with international participation to be held on the territory of Strandzha Nature Park, Bulgaria.

About 50 children took part in sports and educational games among nature, gained new knowledge about nature parks and protected areas in Strandzha, conservation of biodiversity, history of the region and mountaineering.

During the camp, children participated in sports and educational games in the nature, learned how to use a compass, how many and what were the reserves in Strandzha, learned about the trash from the river to the Black Sea, visited the historical museum. MARLENA platform was also presented.

During the tours children participated in an eco-campaign and collected waste along the way to the Veleka river, which flows into the Black Sea. Among the most important lessons learned from the camp according to the children was: In the nature the only place of our garbage is in the backpack!



31 May – 1 June, 2019

30 July- 31 July, 2019

1 August- 2 August, 2019

27-28 August, 2019

29-30 August, 2019



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International Eco-Camp in Kiten, Bulgaria from 6-8th of August, 2019

From 6th to 8th of August at the Kiten campsite was organized an international eco-camp Kiten 2019. 14 children from Bulgaria, Turkey, Romania, Moldova and Ukraine were staying in tents at the Kiten campsite, near some of the most picturesque places on the Bulgarian Black Sea coast.

During the three days of the camp, the children forgot about their phones and got involved in sports and educational games in nature; they also got acquainted with the biodiversity in Strandzha Nature Park, discussed topics on nature conservation and how they alone could contribute to reducing the waste around us and especially in the seas and rivers, which is one of the aims of the project. During the organized hike, they feel the sacraments of Beglik Tash, the magic of the fjords and the seal cave in Maslen Nos area. The children showed activeness and responsibility towards the nature during an eco-action for cleaning the inaccessible places in the area of waste that the sea brought. The most attractive thing for the children was the cleaning of the mouth of Karaagach River - it was done with kayaks. After a lot of laughter and good mood during the camp, the children will take to their countries not only memories from the beautiful places, the warm sea in Bulgaria and good friendships, but also messages to their relatives and friends to be more active in reducing the waste around us, for a cleaner sea and a cleaner world!



Eco-camps for children organized in Turkey



On 27 and 28 August 2019 children from Demirkoy participated at the local eco-camps in Igneada, Turkey. The camp included theoretical part held in the Visit Center of Igneada Longoz Forestry Nature Park and a waste cleaning campaign of the protected area Mert Lake and at the costs of the Black sea. During the event the project team presented and shared the guide Responsible Citizen prepared by the CCE Cahul - Moldova which contains useful information for children for protection of nature.



Eco camps in Zaton- Galati, Romania 28.09.2019

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Eco-camps for children organized in Orhei National Park, Moldova



Over 20 children from the localities of Orhei National Park participated in an ecological and spiritual education camp, organized by the Ecological Movement of Moldova and Curchi Monastery, between July 21-28, 2019. The activity was carried out with the blessing of PS Siluan, Bishop of Orhei, Metropolitan Vicar, Egumen of Curchi Monastery.

At the camp were invited the winners of the contest "Cultural and natural heritage of the Old Orhei Reservation", held by the Ecological Movement of Moldova in the spring of this year and children from the megiești villages of the Curchi-Donici forest tourism trail. The camp was organized in order to inspire children to love the beautiful, to be creative and to strive for new heights, to know their lands, to defend it and to promote it. Thus, the participants took part in outdoor lessons on nature and spiritual discussions, hiking, recognition and signaling activities of the Curchi-Donici forest tourist route. In order to develop their knowledge and skills of interpreting nature, adolescents were involved in developing a model of the relief from the cultural-natural reserve Orheiul Vechi. They also had guided tours of A. Donici and at the Plaiul Fagului Reservation, where they took examples of interpretation of the natural and cultural heritage, the games and the camp carpet were part of the program.

Eco camps in Ukraine

On 27th and 28th of August 2019 project staff of Ukraine organized one-day eco camps in Ukraine. During these 2 days participants had a possibility to ride a boat, to attend the lecture "Trash: Who is Who?", lecture "Marine and River Litter Elimination New Approach".

Also there were ecological expedition of camp participants across the Black Sea Basin and practical lessons on separate garbage collection.

At the end there was Round table - Discussion of environmental problems and analysis of environmental quality studies.



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Eco actions held in Bulgaria

More than 50 volunteers participated in 2 eco-actions to clean up the areas around protected area “Mouth of the Izvorska River” and protected area “Chengene Skele”, Burgas region on 13 and 14 of September. 75 sacks with garbage or about 900 kg were collected only in a matter of hours. Among them are predominant plastics, cans, cigarette ends, fishing nets and accessories, household waste.

Vladimir Dimitrov - the chairman of NGO Green Strandzha, organizer of the eco-actions, said that the regular cleaning actions organized by the association and other organizations are more educational. In order to eliminate pollution, it is essential to prevent discharges into the environment and to limit the consumption of certain disposable goods, mainly plastic. All of this waste either decomposes very slowly or breaks down into microparticles, such as microplastics, but all of them once in nature poison the soil, water and living organisms differently, causing this poison to return and harm humans as well.



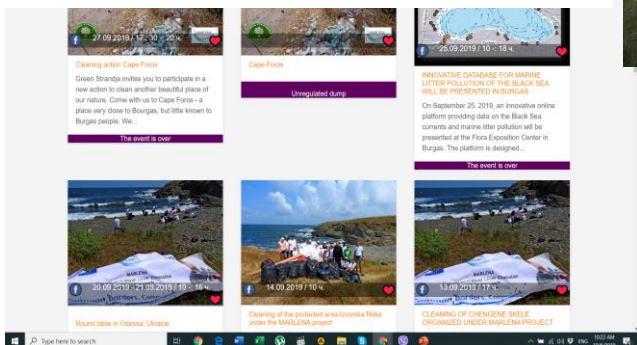
*Eco-action held around protected area
“Mouth of the Izvorska River”, Burgas region*



The platform is a tool for motivation and organization of people to work together against marine litter.



IMPEER Ukraine organized meeting with youth and education sphere representatives. Project staff introduced to stakeholders MARLENA project, talked about river pollution, cleaned the shore of plastic.



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