

Going green in modern education

by Peter Fedor
Comenius University in Bratislava, Slovakia



If universities are the highest institutions for education, then education itself should be or could be the most important field for going green



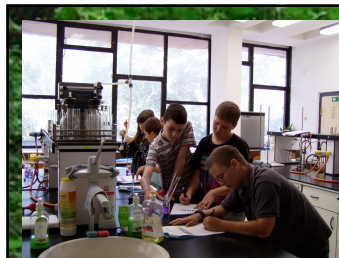
Going green refers to many branches of science and activities including:

- Waste separation and recycling programs,
- Preferring saving energy technologies,
- Reducing water use
- Applying “Think before you buy” philosophy
- Lobbying in your local government to increase spending on sidewalks and bike lanes

...going green with...

At Comenius University going green in education refers to organized efforts to teach about how natural environments function and particularly, how human beings can manage their behavior and ecosystems in order to live sustainably. The main philosophy must be applied as a complex, within the whole school system, that means at all age levels from elementary and secondary schools to third age education

Going green:
with elementary school children
with secondary school students and their teachers
with foreign universities
with older generations

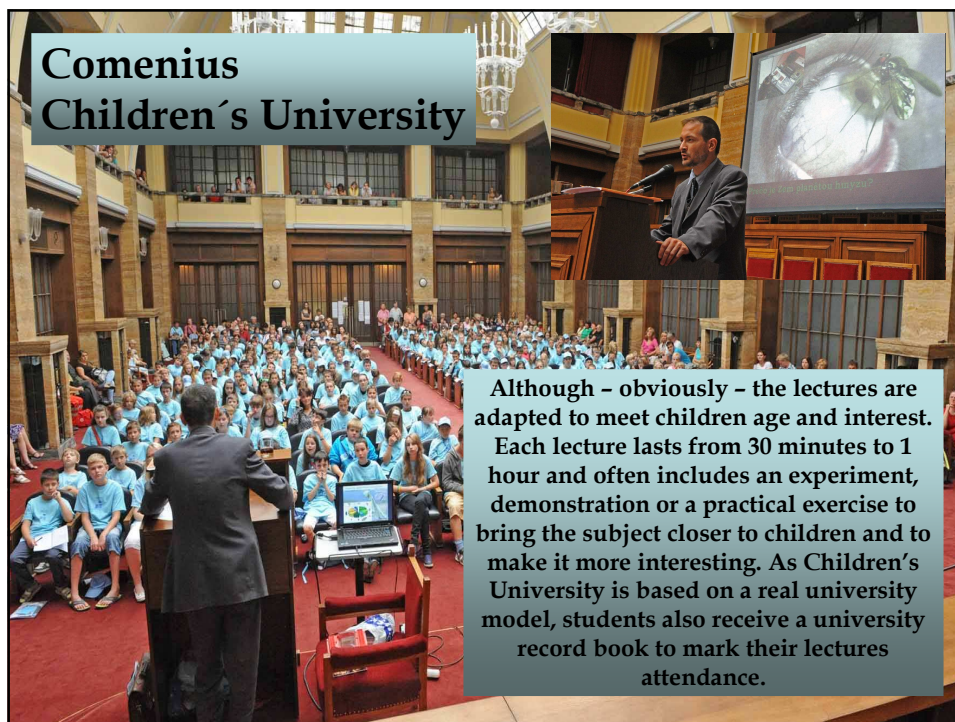


Going green with children



Environmental education has been considered an additional or elective subject in many of elementary schools and can take the form of:

*science enrichment curriculum,
natural history field trips, community
service projects,
participation in outdoor science
schools.*




Out-of-class secondary school environmental education

At secondary schools environmental curriculum can be a focused subject within the sciences or is a part of student interest groups or clubs.

There are numerous ways students can learn about the environment in which they live and even their teachers may upgrade their knowledge in this field. The environment can be a topic which is readily and easily accessible for instance when our university arranges professional fieldworks promoting a holistic approach in ecosystem analyses.

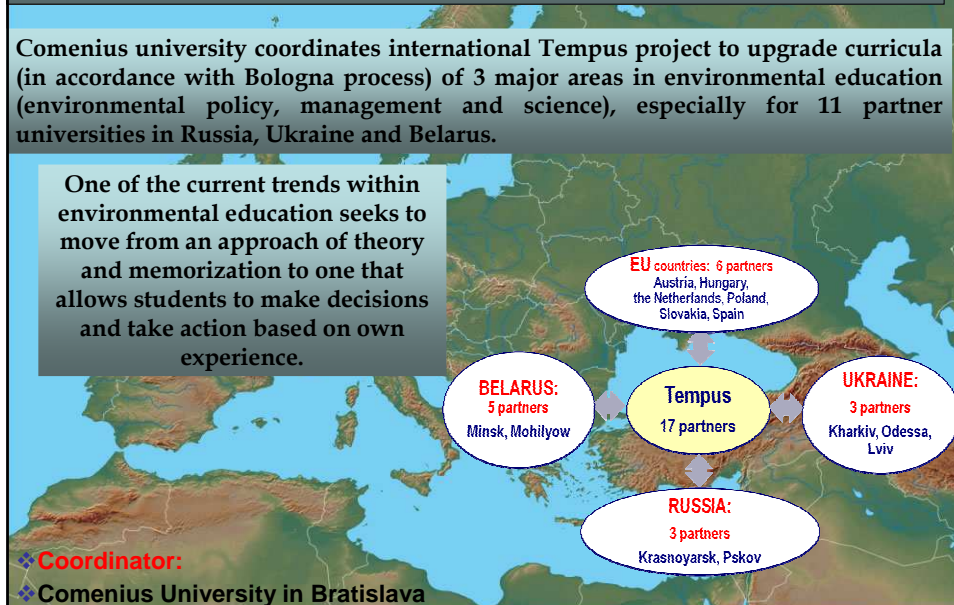


TEMPUS 511390 – Environmental Governance for Environmental Curricula



Comenius university coordinates international Tempus project to upgrade curricula (in accordance with Bologna process) of 3 major areas in environmental education (environmental policy, management and science), especially for 11 partner universities in Russia, Ukraine and Belarus.

One of the current trends within environmental education seeks to move from an approach of theory and memorization to one that allows students to make decisions and take action based on own experience.



EU countries: 6 partners
Austria, Hungary, the Netherlands, Poland, Slovakia, Spain

TEMPUS
17 partners

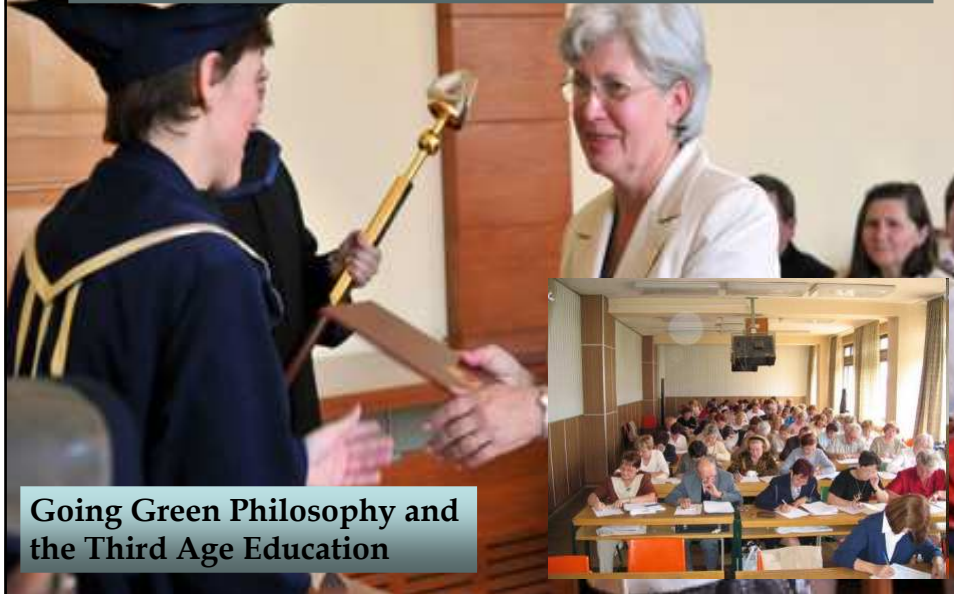
UKRAINE:
3 partners
Kharkiv, Odessa, Lviv

RUSSIA:
3 partners
Krasnoyarsk, Pskov

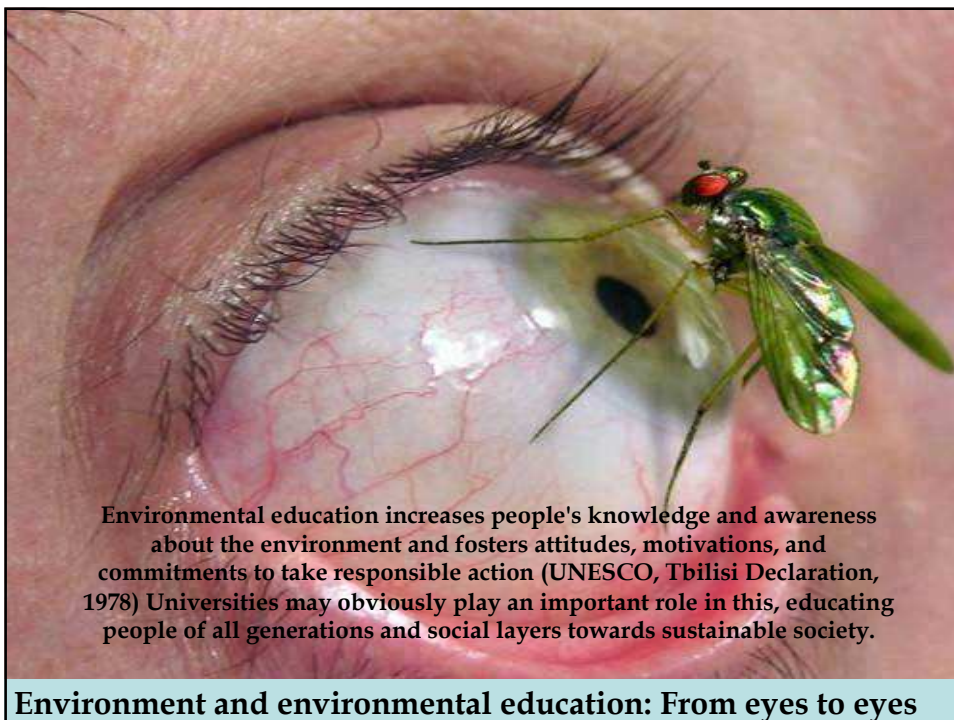
BELARUS:
5 partners
Minsk, Mohilyow

Coordinator:
Comenius University in Bratislava

"...the third age is the time of life to concentrate on "becoming" at your speed and guided by your interests — to go where you have never gone before, but wanted to go. With no exams it is designed for enjoyment, intellectual stimulation, and active discussion of varied interests and issues of the day..."



Going Green Philosophy and the Third Age Education



Environmental education increases people's knowledge and awareness about the environment and fosters attitudes, motivations, and commitments to take responsible action (UNESCO, Tbilisi Declaration, 1978) Universities may obviously play an important role in this, educating people of all generations and social layers towards sustainable society.

Environment and environmental education: From eyes to eyes