

Workshop “Youth’s participation in Climate Change mitigation within SGP projects in Belarus, Ukraine and Moldova – experience exchange in terms of the South – South cooperation initiative”.

in hybrid format - online and
offline

On November 16-17, a two-day seminar was carried out in a hybrid format.

Four countries - Belarus, Moldova, Ukraine and the USA - took part in the seminar

“Youth’s participation in Climate Change mitigation within SGP projects in Belarus,

Ukraine and Moldova – experience exchange in terms of the South – South cooperation

initiative”. The GEF/UNDP SGP, together with a team of experts, representatives of

NGOs, business and the state authorities prepared a number of presentations on SGP

projects dedicated to youth, as well as a wonderful video on this topic.

The seminar started with welcoming words from Yuri Solovyov, National Coordinator of

the GEF SGP in Belarus: “I am glad to welcome everyone to the seminar dedicated to

youth. This is a very significant event for us. We hope that in the future we will be able to

visit your countries in person and wait for you to visit. As part of our event, we are going

to share our experience of including youth in projects in the GEF SGP in Belarus,

Moldova and Ukraine. On our part, we would like to thank the municipality of Slavgorod

and the Slavgorod region for the kind provision of the opportunity to hold this event on

their land. I hope that our discussion will be bright, active and very useful. ”



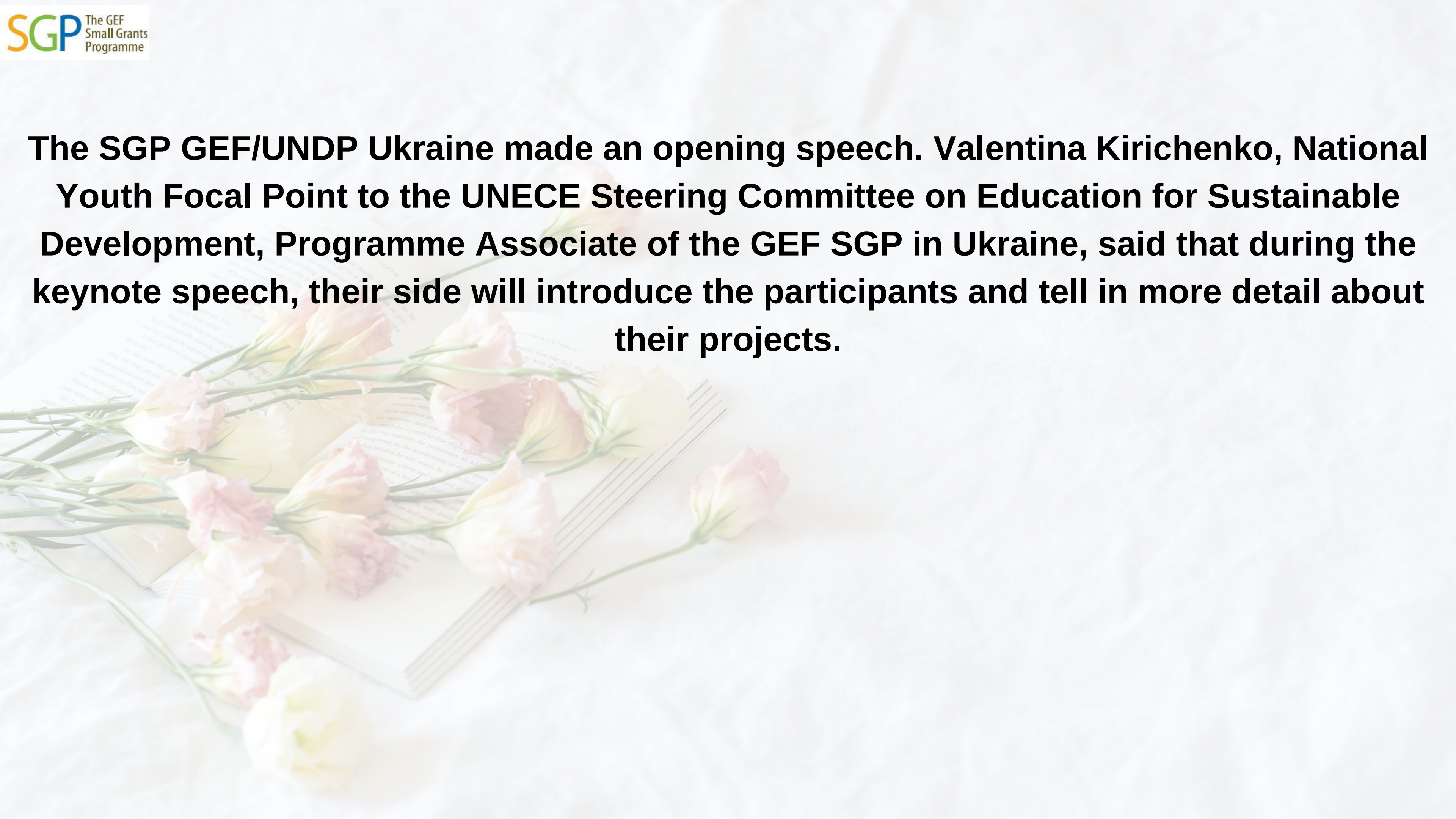
«Создание Эко-Движения GREEN HOME в
Тараклийском районе».



Denis Parea, National Coordinator of the SGP GEF/UNDP in Moldova, spoke: "I greet all the participants of this workshop. We have been waiting for this event for a long time, although, unfortunately, we could not organize it in person, but only in Zoom. I am sure that the experience of our countries will be useful for everyone, and I am confident in further cooperation. We wish you all success! "

From the side of the Head Office of the GEF/UNDP SGP (USA), Angelica Shamerina, SGP Climate Change Program Advisor, made an opening speech. Angelica performed from New York, despite her early time in the United States - at 6-30 am: **"Good day to all! I would like to welcome everyone to this seminar, which is the first such initiative in the region. Not all programs invest in the South-South initiative, although I consider it one of the most important, since the exchange of knowledge and technologies between countries that are far away does not always lead to the successful assimilation of these technologies due to the difference in mentality and regional aspects of these countries. Therefore, our philosophy is to invest in the exchange of experiences and opinions between NGOs and communities. Although I supervise Latin America and the Francophone countries of North Africa, there is also a very large exchange of experience and knowledge. We see how useful this is for subsequent work, for new projects and ideas that are taken from neighbors and suit exactly the local mentality. I hope you will have a productive job these days, and also soon have the opportunity to meet in reality. Youth is one of our priority groups, like women and indigenous peoples. Youth is important all over the world. Especially in the context of the climate. We invest money separately in work in the context of the climate, but not only, but also in other areas, namely in youth, because we must prepare young people to work not in the old economy, but in blue and green. We have put aside dedicated resources for youth and climate programs, and to be honest, very interesting results are coming out on this topic. I think we can incorporate the results of this event into our December publication on youth. I hope you enjoy this time. "**

The SGP GEF/UNDP Ukraine made an opening speech. Valentina Kirichenko, National Youth Focal Point to the UNECE Steering Committee on Education for Sustainable Development, Programme Associate of the GEF SGP in Ukraine, said that during the keynote speech, their side will introduce the participants and tell in more detail about their projects.



Project name: Promoting adaptation measures to climate change with emphasis on the Raut river basin

Dates of implementation: 28.01.2020 - 28.02.2021



Grantee name: National Environmental Center

Description and main results:

The overall objective of the project was improving the capacities of people in rural areas regarding climate resilience by planning, applying and testing adaptation measures, based on natural ecosystems, and thus reducing the economic losses of people.

The 1st objective, Increasing the awareness of some key players regarding climate change and reducing surface water pollution through training and practical activities, has been achieved by the following results:

- 600 teachers across the country were trained in 13 information sessions on the subject of climate change, through the implementation of the educational support "Climate box", developed by UNDP.**
- 40 journalists trained in 2 training sessions for journalists from the Republic of Moldova dedicated to climate change and challenges in the Republic of Moldova and around the world. As a result, journalists had discussed environmental problems from Moldova in their press materials, one of them being the Ichel river pollution.**
- 40 people were involved in discussions on the protection measures and information campaigns regarding the value of the planted area.**

To apply some adaptation measures to climate change and improve the hydrological regime of surface waters at the level of hydrographic sub-basins, rehabilitation activities of the protection strips and springs were developed. Thus, the area was studied and a map of the springs in the Rădăuți Mare region was created. Also a Study on the volume of water in the basin of the Răut river was developed.

And the ultimate goal to promote the principles of innovative agroecology in the context of climate change was aimed by Rehabilitation of the mapped area, by replanting 20 hectares of land with native trees and shrubs to revitalize the habitat and save rare species of plants and birds. And also it was achieved by the restoration of cca 2 hectares of the riparian strip for the protection of the waters of the Răut river in the Mitoc village, Orhei district. Such difficulty as the impossibility to organize physical training events was solved by the online training that allowed teachers to attend such events in a greater number than it was initially set.

Project name: Creation of technological, social, educational tools for the purpose of environmental restoration, based on the consolidation of intersectoral participation of stakeholders: local and civil society, public authorities, and youth

Dates of implementation: 1.01.2021 - 31.12.2021

Grantee name: ECOU XXI

Description and main results:

- 1. Popularization of the environmental protection policy through the solution of urgent environmental problems of the local community;**
- 2. Creation of a Pilot Educational Technological Mini-Nursery in Taraclia;**
- 3. Strengthening the infrastructural ecological potential: design and creation of a scientific dendrological park and a tourist facility in the city of Taraclia on the territory of the Monastery;**

4. Creation of the Green Home Volunteer Eco-Movement promoting the elimination of gender equality and the participation of women with representatives in 15 settlements of the Taraclia region with the prospect of scaling up to the Cahul and Ceadir Lunga districts.

Project Results:

A scientific dendrological park was created - a tourist object in the city of Taraclia on the territory of the Monastery;

An increase in the proportion of schoolchildren and young people involved in the field of environmental protection, the formation of an ecological culture, which manifests itself in an emotionally positive attitude towards nature and the surrounding world. More than 1000 participants

An Educational Technological mini-nursery was created for growing, breeding valuable tree species adapted to local climate conditions, using green technologies; new technologies have been introduced: hydroponics, drip irrigation, etc.

Increasing the intellectual potential of schoolchildren, youth, economic agents and other specialists: new knowledge, skills and competencies, increasing the level of awareness in relation to environmental protection and climate change. More than 500 schoolchildren

The Ecological Portal was created in the field of ecology, environmental protection;

The GREENHOME Volunteer Movement was created, more than 1000 participants

Project name: GreenTech Rangers - accelerator for sustainable start-ups

Dates of implementation: October 2019 - March 2021

Grantee name: Moldovan Environmental Governance Academy (MEGA)

Description and main results:

GreenTech Rangers (www.greentechrangers.com) was a startup pre-acceleration programme designed to improve the social entrepreneurial ecosystem in Moldova. The programme integrated various social startup initiatives, namely inspirational meetups, preparation workshops, Eco-hackathons, bootcamps, coaching and mentoring meetings, study visits, and the ClimateLaunchpad Moldova (www.climatelaunchpad.org/countries/moldova) competition of green business ideas, to create a valuable learning and development journey for young talents and prospective entrepreneurs in Moldova with the scope to improve the natural environment in the country.

The main innovation and current product of GreenTech Rangers is the learning-and-community-building online platform (<https://greentechrangers.online>). This is a web tool that allows the participants to benefit from online learning, networking, and collaboration throughout the duration of the programme and beyond. After “graduation” from GreenTech Rangers, the startup teams are able to use the platform as a “launch pad” to transform their social / environmental initiatives into viable and profitable startups and then to manage their social ventures online.

For the 2019 nad 2020 editions of GreenTech Rangers the key deliverables and outcomes were the following:

- **93 events (meetups, workshops, study visits, etc.) organised;**
- **200+ people educated on different aspects of social / environmental entrepreneurship;**
- **40 applications for Eco-hackathon and 45 applications for ClimateLaunchpad received;**
- **17 startup ideas selected and were provided educational and coaching assistance throughout the programme;**
- **10 startup teams advanced to the ClimateLaunchpad National Final with 5 teams winning it;**
- **5 startup teams represented Moldova at ClimateLaunchpad Global Grand Final;**
- **5 environmental initiatives from the GreenTech Rangers community showcased and awarded;**
- **4 startup teams from the 2019 edition and 3 startup teams from the 2020 edition continue development of their ideas beyond the programme;**
- **The launch of GreenTech Rangers online-learning platform, which now both entrepreneurs and managers of startup-oriented programs can use.**

Project name: Smart Energy Solutions for the Ecotown

Grantee name: Alliance for Energy Efficiency and Renewables (AEER)

Description and main results:

The global goal of the project is to contribute to the achievement and implementation of more sustainable local energy policies and actions included in the SEAP

The specific goals of this project are:

- 1) Reducing CO2 emissions in the city of Cantemir by installing innovative solar and biomass systems in public buildings;**
- (2). Demonstrate innovative solutions for the use of renewable energy sources and smart energy management;**
- (3). Raising public awareness and promoting the use of renewable energy sources in the local community.**

The essence and main results https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_MwSnmQDMp0:

- 4 solar photovoltaic plants with an electricity metering system installed in 4 public buildings (2 kindergartens and 2 schools);**
- 2 solar collector systems for hot water preparation (2 kindergartens);**
- Purchase of educational kits for energy management lessons for high school students and demonstration subjects in the field of EE / RES for exhibitions, Energy Days and other events.**
- Designed, assembled and installed a "solar tree" in the park near the City Hall. The structure of the "tree" allows you to sit comfortably on a bench, take shelter from bad weather under a roof, charge 10 gadgets at the same time, and provide lighting for the area near the "tree". The main components of the "tree":**
 - 2 solar PV panels 330 W; • Wind turbine 400 W ; • Battery 110 Ah**
 - LED lighting system**
 - 10 USB 5 V inputs for charging gadgets <https://www.facebook.com/AEERmd/videos/279484670627122>**
- Energy management system, including: smart meters, energy management software and visualization equipment;**
- Biomass boiler house with the necessary infrastructure (co-financing);**

Project name: AGROECOLOGY - opportunities and perspectives for rural communities

Dates of implementation: 09.09.2019 - 28.02.2021

Grantee name: Women's Association for Environmental Protection and Sustainable Development

Description and main results:

Within the project "AGROECOLOGY - opportunities and perspectives for rural communities", implemented mainly on the territory of the Camenca River Basin, a tributary of the Prut River, AFPMDD aims to:

<https://www.facebook.com/GEFagroecologiaAFPMDD>

- promoting agroecology and rational exploitation of natural resources, in order to adapt and mitigate the effects of climate change;**
- promoting improved conditions for the marketing and use of plant protection products in order to reduce the impact on users, consumers and aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems;**
- involvement of communities, economic agents in the sustainable development of this region.**

In order to achieve the objectives proposed in the project, the AFPMDD team carried out following activities:

G.A.1. Activities related to the promotion of agroecology principles at the Camenca River Basin.

- Were organized 3 seminars / workshops for farmers with the themes:

- a) Correct use of fertilizers;**
- b) Conservation and rational use of soil moisture;**
- c) Promoting ecological methods in soil planning, etc.**

- Was conducted a survey of the population;

- An educational program, "Schools for a green future", was conducted The program was conducted in 9 educational institutions from the basins of the rivers Glodeanca and Căldărușa, tributaries of the river Camenca;

- Ecological classes were organized and held with the participation of young people from schools involved in the project, also were organized meetings to summarize the activities.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/2290549481243043>

G.A.2. Activities related to enhanced basin co-operation for the ecological rehabilitation of Camenca HB in order to promote agroecology, principles of land-use conservation and good management of water resources.

- 13 ha of riparian strip of small rivers in Camenca RB were afforested/planted;

- Communities were mobilized in the implementation of local development initiatives (greening of banks, sanitation of the banks of the tributary Glodeanca, over a distance of 30 km, etc.)

G.A.3. Activities related to increasing the awareness and information of the local community and the authorities regarding the promotion and application of environment friendly production technologies, ecological products, application of adaptation and mitigation of the effects of climate change on agricultural production, proper management of aquatic resources and the need to preserve the terrestrial landscape.

- Meeting to totalize the project activities, announce the results and continue the development of this region.

- It was carried out a campaign to publicize and disseminate information and project results:

a) Elaboration and editing:

- Guide for farmers "Agroecology, adaptation and mitigation of climate change";

- Leaflet on the preparation of compost at home and its use;

- Brochure - Activities and results of the project;

b) Articles in local and national media;

Placing the information on the medium.md website and the pages on social networks.

The information was shared on the website mediu.md and social media pages.

RESULTS:

Over 500 mayors, small and medium farmers, stakeholders, population were informed about the practice of agroecology and the application of alternative methods.

The young participants were trained and involved in composting activities from biodegradable waste (vegetables, managers, etc.) and creating demonstration fields by organizing and conducting the educational program "Schools for a Green Future". Young people from schools in 9 villages located in the Glodeanca river basin participated in the educational program "Schools for a green future". Within this program, young people passionate about Nature learned "How to prepare compost - a simple and nutritious fertilizer for your garden". In each school the young people created facilities for composting vegetable waste and obtained compost that is used for flowers in the school hall, or for plants in the school garden. Around 150 young people and 20 teachers-program coordinators from each school participated in this program.

7 installations were created for the preparation of compost from vegetable waste.

Consolidated basin cooperation for the ecological rehabilitation of Camenca RB. AFPMDD, in partnership with the city halls of Danu, Cobani, Balatina, Hîjdieni and Viișoara communes in Glodeni district, planted about 13 ha of riparian strip of Glodeanca and Camenca rivers. Thus, in accordance with European norms, the foundations have been laid for an ecological corridor that will protect waters against evaporation and will make a connection with the “Padurea Domneasca” reservation, forming a local ecological network.

Communities were mobilized to implement local development initiatives. Within the implemented projects, the young people passionate about nature, together with the population from the villages, and LPA participated in the sanitation of the river banks, of the water basins.

It has increased the awareness and information of the local community, as well as of the authorities, regarding the promotion and application of environment friendly production technologies, etc. It has also increased the visibility of the importance of the practice and development of agroecology, the need to conserve the landscape, the good management of aquatic resources and biodegradable waste, in the context of sustainable development of rural communities by editing educational materials.

The next were colleagues from Ukraine, starting with an informative video showing:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-ILmxKSFROw&list=PLM0mxfQkabckDJDO-Gqrel9vRjJHI76AX&index=6>

Project name: “Youth for Climate Action! Capacity and partnerships development for meaningful youth participation”

Dates of implementation: 17.06.2020 - 17.06.2021

Grantee name: Center for Civic Education”

Description and main results:

The project is aimed at awareness raising, youth skills and capacities development to lead climate action at the local, national, regional and global levels. Moreover, the project was focused on partnerships development, youth movements, associations and networks in Ukraine to ensure their right to actively participate in the development, implementation, monitoring and introduction changes in policy to ensure the Sustainable Development Goals and, in particular, Goal No. 13.

The project was developed and implemented by youth activists from different regions of Ukraine in close cooperation with a number of public organizations, youth associations, educational institutions and centers in partnership with the Network “Education for the interests of sustainable development in Ukraine”, numbering more than 700 CSOs, educational and scientific institutions. The leadership of young people and their widespread involvement through strong and diverse partnerships ensured effective implementation of the project. The initiative was aimed primarily at attracting young people from remote cities and villages, as well as exchange of experience between young people from different regions of Ukraine and even between activists from Ukraine and other countries (Germany, Belgium, Cyprus). In addition, both young experts and experts with extensive experience were involved in the project.

The main results of the project:

- 1. Effective mechanisms of youth attraction and communication have been introduced;**
- 2. Trainings were conducted among more than 100 youth activists on the UN Sustainable Development Goals until 2030, the global problem of climate change, ways to overcome it and the place of youth in climate action at the local, national, regional and global levels;**
- 3. Training courses for more than 50 young specialists on low-carbon energy, resource conservation and sustainable production for young specialists were organized, their professional knowledge and skills were increased with the support of the State Ecological Academy of Postgraduate Education and Management and the Bavarian Environmental Protection Agency;**

- 4. Created and disseminated a video on the best youth climate solutions and actions, including green and social youth entrepreneurship;**
- 5. Provided expert, informational and partner support for the creation of a youth network, local youth associations, movements and groups on climate action and education for sustainable development;**
- 6. Support was provided to involve youth, youth networks, movements and alliances in national, regional and global processes and networks to combat climate change and achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.**

Project name: Youth Climate Center: capacity development and new learning opportunities for rural youth

Dates of implementation: 17.06.2020 - 17.05.2021

Grantee name: “Chernihiv regional division of Ukrainian Union for Nature Protection”

Description and main results:

The main goal of the project is to expand opportunities, develop the potential of rural youth, including those with disabilities, for climate action through training, awareness-raising, practical projects. The main results of the project:

- 1. Installation of a modular house of the Youth Climate Center on the basis of the Agrobiological Station of the Chernihiv Regional Pedagogical Lyceum for gifted rural youth;**
- 2. The premises of the Center were restored, equipment together with furniture and educational stands were installed;**
- 3. The Library of the Center was created with the involvement of youth, scientists, representatives of national parks;**

- 4. Partnerships have been created with 10 educational institutions of Chernihiv and Zhytomyr regions, including institutions for children with special needs;**
- 5. A technology for the production of biohumus through organic waste vermicomposting has been developed;**
- 6. Purchased and installed composting equipment in 10 partner institutions;**
- 7. Developed and published guidelines for the theory and practice of vermicomposting organic waste;**
- 8. Organized 2 trainings to empower and involve youth in climate action;**
- 9. Carried out 1 National Forum to empower and engage youth in climate action;**
- 10. Self-organization groups of rural women and youth produced produced and transferred to public institutions PPE against coronavirus infection;**
- 11. An information campaign was carried out in the media about the possibilities of a youth climate center introduced by the youth movement for composting organic waste.**

Project name: Innovative agro-ecological solutions for sustainable agriculture and land rehabilitation on Polissya landscape

Dates of implementation: 12.10.2020 – 12.09.2021

Grantee name: NGO Zelena Zhytomyrshchyna

Description and main results:

The implementation of the project consists in the development and implementation of industrial technologies for the

cultivation of medicinal and niche crops in the degraded areas of the Polesie zone, which makes it possible to reduce the chemical load on the soil and minimize the application of mineral fertilizers with their gradual replacement with organic fertilizers.

The adaptation of the proposed technological methods involves the coverage of several mutually regulating factors: on the one hand, it is an improvement in the ecological and agroecological state of the territories, and on the other hand, an increase in the economic efficiency of a given territory and an improvement in the social development of communities.

Given the difficult situation with COVID-19, within the framework of the project, a technology was created and tested for the cultivation of such medicinal plants that could be used to create herbal teas and would help improve human immunity.

Ecotechnology of growing medicinal plants, as an element of restoration of degraded land in agricultural areas, was tested on the territory of the KNS "Kmitovskaya special boarding school" of the Zhytomyr Regional Council and in the direction of the "Green Recovery" movement was supported by children with special needs of this institution in resisting the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic , by restoring an obsolete garden and greenhouse facilities.

Project results:

- 1. Development and substantiation of ecotechnology for growing medicinal and niche crops, taking into account the characteristics of the landscape of Zhytomyr Polesie;**
- 2. Introduction of ecotechnology of medicinal and niche crops on 2 demonstration plots (5.06 ha);**
- 3. Development of ecotechnology for growing vegetables and grain crops at 1 demonstration site (1.3 hectares);**

- 4. Renovation of a garden with an area of 0.05 hectares and 2 greenhouses, each measuring 35 m², as part of the Green Recovery movement for children with special needs during the COVID-19 pandemic;**
- 5. Conducting practical classes, open-type seminars, field days for students, scientists, representatives of local communities, producers of various forms of ownership to disseminate the experience of growing medicinal and niche crops in Polesie;**
- 6. Strengthening the capabilities of the Association of Farmers of the Zhytomyr region to ensure the sustainability of the project and disseminate the results on an ongoing basis among members and all interested agricultural producers;**
- 7. Conducting an awareness-raising campaign, disseminating information in the media and on the Internet;**
- 8. Development and printing of information materials about the peculiarities of growing medicinal and niche crops on the degraded lands of the Polesie region.**

Project name: Sustainable agro-ecological initiatives for green recovery and broad local communities engagement on Polissya landscape

Dates of implementation: 24.05.2021 - 24.05.2022

Grantee name: NGO Youth and Community

Description and main results: Development and implementation of environmentally friendly technology "Green Recovery" of medicinal and niche plants in the agricultural landscape of Polesie, counteraction to climate change and support of small farms, land owners by disseminating on an ongoing basis the best landscape approach

practices in solving the problem of land degradation, the possibility of developing agritourism to support the most vulnerable populations, rural women, youth, communities during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Project results:

- 1. Adaptive environmentally friendly technologies of "green recovery" were developed and implemented by growing medicinal and niche plants in the agricultural landscape of Zhytomyr Polesie to counteract climate change and improve soil fertility;**
- 2. Work was carried out to form the environmental consciousness of the Zhytomyr region community, in particular, young people from rural areas, to disseminate the experience and best practices of the project in farms of different forms of ownership, to improve the living standards of the population;**
- 3. On the site with an area of 5 hectares, which is located in the village Velyka Gorbasha of Chernyakhov district of Zhytomyr region on the Experimental field of Polesie National University, medicinal plants were grown: medicinal chamomile, calendula, lemon balm, black cumin, milk thistle, amaranth. Technological aspects related to the cultivation of medicinal crops were developed;**
- 4. A competition of social school entrepreneurship was held with the aim of shaping the environmental awareness of youth and environmental protection by involving them in the Green Recovery movement;**
- 5. To support small farmers in the Zhytomyr region during the global crisis, the Fair of Agricultural Products was organized, which contributed to economic support for farmers, the opportunity to recommend their own economy, the region, the development of "agritourism" and provide the population of Zhytomyr with ecologically quality products to overcome the problems of hunger in certain regions and security food products.**

The project addresses not only local problems: employment of the population, the development of agritourism, effective use of the site, increasing economic efficiency per unit area, but also global issues of reducing degradation processes, improving soil fertility, counteracting climate change, reducing the anthropogenic load on the agricultural landscape of Polesie, increasing microbiological activities and optimization of the parameters of the ecosystem as a whole.

Project name: Implementation of green recovery, social inclusion and COVID-19 response best practices for the benefit of local communities

Dates of implementation: 24.05.2021 - 24.03.2022

Grantee name: NGO Ecological future

Description and main results:

The main goal of the project is to demonstrate the best practices of garden therapy and green recovery in COVID-19 conditions for rural communities, including people with special needs. Project results:

1. The methodological framework has been developed and improved regarding the features of social work with people with special needs and the advantages of using garden therapy methods, which will help specialists working with people with special needs, local authorities and ordinary citizens to better understand the needs of people with special needs in modern society;

- 2. A demonstration inclusive object - phyto-zone "Garden therapy - a garden for people with special needs" was created to expand the opportunities, knowledge and skills of people with special needs using garden therapy methods, which is located on 0.25 hectares of land. The phyto-zone will demonstrate that people with special needs can get involved in caring for plants on an equal footing with ordinary people, which will contribute to the development of social friendship and mutual assistance, and the use of self-grown plants, medicinal herbs and herbs will save money, which will affect the overall increase standard of living.**
- 3. For the dissemination of experience, raising the environmental awareness of communities on social inclusion and the use of garden therapy practices, environmental educational events were held: a training seminar, a study visit to exchange experience and disseminate educational and methodological materials.**

Project name: "Developing the capacity of local governments in Donetsk and Luhansk regions and support from the Community Development Hub for the implementation of the concept of green renewal and local governance focused on sustainable development of society"

Dates of implementation: 24.05.2021 - 24.05.2022

Grantee name: NGO Development and Partnership

Description and main results:

The implementation of the project is aimed at expanding the capacity and knowledge of communities, representatives of local government, civil society organizations about global environmental projects,

the development and implementation of local community development plans, taking into account the Sustainable Development Goals, the concept of green recovery, clarification of new approaches, mechanisms and tools to involve communities in solving environmental problems, both at the local and national levels.

Within the framework of the project, a series of trainings is planned for representatives of local self-government bodies, representatives of civil society organizations.

Organization of 1 study trip to one of the cities/societies of Ukraine to exchange experience, study the best practices of introducing plans for sustainable development of communities, adaptation, eco-socialization of internally displaced persons in communities and other issues of socio-economic and environmental development. In order to ensure the continuity of the project, a Community Development Hub will be created, where information and educational, methodological, scientific and analytical, presentation and other materials will be posted.

Project results:

- 1. A methodological approach was developed and the content of a series of trainings was systematized, goals and expected results were defined.**
- 2. Based on the results, a program was developed and materials (presentations, videos, practical exercises, environmental games, etc.) were prepared for conducting trainings.**
- 3. Organized 6 trainings for representatives of Donetsk and Lugansk regions. Awareness of over 140 people was raised.**
- 4. Started the work on the creation of a virtual Community Development Center, a technical task was agreed, design and content were determined.**

Project name: Youth capacity development for Leadership and Climate Action

Dates of implementation: 17.06.2020 - 17.06.2021

Grantee name: NGO Green Growth

Description and main results:

The project is to develop the ability, skills and abilities of youth regarding leadership in climate action at the local, national and international levels, namely youth from rural areas of Zhytomyr, Chernihiv, Donetsk and other regions, including youth with special needs.

Expanding opportunities to promote youth initiatives at the national and international level; the beginning of a youth volunteer network of participants and partners of the innovation program through coordination of activities and cooperation with teams, participants and partners of other projects of the Initiative.

Project results:

- 1. .Methodological recommendations for youth and CSOs were developed on the topic “Project video proposal: step-by-step instruction oriented towards results”;**
- 2. Based on the project's own intellectual product - guidelines for the preparation of video proposals, a series of project management trainings were held for representatives of youth and CSOs**
- 3. The Contest of Youth Climate Initiatives was held. 8 youth projects were supported, which made it possible to obtain practical skills and results from training activities in project management and to create, implement a project, analyze and monitor implementation by their own project team;**

- 4. The GEF SGP Knowledge Fair was held to exchange experience;**
- 5. The results of the activities of all projects within the framework of the Innovative Program of the SGP “Youth and Climate Change” are highlighted in a separate study (Case Study) on the effectiveness and efficiency of the Initiative in Ukraine;**
- 6. The project supports self-organization groups of rural women and youth with the aim of manufacturing protective equipment to prevent the coronavirus epidemic.**

The experience of Belarus was first presented in a short video - <http://www.sgp-gef.by/ru/video/youth.html>

Then the following projects were presented:

Project name: The introduction of energy-efficient technologies in the SOS-children's village Marjina Gorka and building the capacity of socially vulnerable families in the Pukhovichi region to increase socio-economic stability

Dates of implementation: 2020-2021

Grantee name: SOS-children's village «Marjina gorka»

Description and main results:

For the first time on the territory of Marjina Gorka and Pukhovichi district as a whole, technologies of an energy efficient house and a wind generator will be applied in an educational institution for orphans and children left without parental care. The organization of diagnostic, correctional and developmental services for children with psychophysical disabilities on the basis of the SOS-Children's Village will expand the coverage of these services and improve access to services for children with MPD.

The organization of training for socially vulnerable adults (with a focus on female audience) entrepreneurship in the field of environmentally friendly agro business in household plots is a new direction for the region. This will enhance the ability of vulnerable people living in remote communities to ensure socio-economic resilience.

Results:

- Two new energy efficient technologies (wind generator and integrated photovoltaic panels) have been introduced and are successfully operating with an annual energy output of at least 11,000 kWh.**

- **CO2 emissions into the atmosphere have been reduced by at least 10% due to the use of energy-saving technologies to ensure the operation of the SOS Children's Village Marjina Gorka.**
- **Money savings will amount to at least 27% annually on the amount of electricity costs, which will improve the quality and variety of services for socially vulnerable groups of the population, provided by SOS Children's Village Marjina Gorka**
- **The center for diagnostics and correctional and developmental assistance for children with MPD is functioning and support has been provided to 1,000 children and their parents.**
- **At least 20% of families saved the family budget due to the harvest on their own household plots, doing business and energy saving skills in everyday life.**
- **The level of awareness of the local community and specialists of institutions and organizations of the Pukhovichi region in the field of resources and energy conservation has been increased.**
- **Disseminated information on the results of the GEF project and activities in the field of climate conservation and the use of renewable energy sources at the local, national and international levels.**

Project name: Establishment of an electronic information system on the issues of POPs and chemicals

Dates of implementation: 2017-2018

Grantee name: Advisory and educational institution for environmental protection “Ecoenvironment”

Description and main results:

- 1. Development and implementation of an electronic information and educational program on the basics of safety when handling POPs and other hazardous chemicals in educational institutions of the south-eastern region of the Mogilev region.**
- 2. Informing the public of the project region on the implementation of the provisions of international conventions and initiatives in the field of chemicals and waste management, in the implementation of which the Republic of Belarus participates.**
- 3. Creation of a sustainable mechanism for public education in the field of handling POPs and hazardous chemicals in the project region, ensuring the participation in this activity of educational institutions, local authorities and self-government, as well as civil society organizations.**

Results:

- informing about POPs and other hazardous chemicals (outdated fertilizers, household chemicals, batteries, used plastic containers for storing chemicals, automotive oils, mercury-containing devices, etc.), as well as safety measures when handling them, one of the most mass and vulnerable categories of the population - children and youth under the age of 18 years of Klimovichi, Kostyukovich, Krasnopolje, Slavgorod, Cherikov and Khotimsk districts of the Mogilev region;

- teachers of the Klimovich, Kostyukovich, Krasnopolje, Slavgorod, Cherikov and Khotimsk districts are involved in information work on the management of POPs and chemicals as one of the most active and authoritative categories of the population;
- the country's first electronic educational program in the field of safety in handling POPs and other hazardous chemicals was developed; The electronic information system developed within the framework of the project on the handling of POPs and chemicals is posted on the Internet portal "YAKLASS" (www.yaklass.by) - the largest specialized educational resource for schools and secondary specialized educational institutions in the Republic of Belarus, which is developing and functioning permanently.
- in six districts of the southeastern region of the Mogilev oblast, an electronic educational program in the field of safety when handling POPs and other hazardous chemicals was introduced, access to which is free of charge for any interested person.

Project name: Microregions Development Workshop – I and II (2 projects)

Dates of implementation: 2017-2022

Grantee name: Local Fund for Rural Development

Description and main results:

The implementation of the projects is aimed at strengthening and disseminating the experience of the public platform Regional Council for Sustainable Development (hereinafter the Regional Council), which supports local communities, non-profit organizations, entrepreneurs and local authorities in the development and implementation of local initiatives.

The Regional Council was established in 2018 with the support of the GEF SGP project “Workshop of Local Environmental Initiatives for the Development of Microregions” (2017-2018). During the period of its work, the council has provided support in the development and implementation of more than 100 local initiatives, of which at least 50% directly contribute to solving environmental problems at the local level, 100% of the initiatives necessarily include measures to protect the environment and improve the environment, reduce the ecological footprint as a result of human activity.

Based on the results of the first phase:

Local communities have formed and submitted to the competition at least 40 applications from development microregions;

Supported by the project 20 local initiatives for the implementation of pilot demonstration events (actions), corresponding to the priorities of the GEF SGP and the priorities of microregional development;

All initiatives supported have contributed to:

achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, especially SDGs 4, 5, 7, 11, 12, 13, 15;

compliance with the strategic initiatives of the SGP OP7;

alignment with national, provincial, district and local strategic approaches;

assistance in improving the well-being of the population in local communities;

providing support for social inclusion, especially gender, youth and people with disabilities.

Contributed to the solution of local problems related to the preservation of biodiversity, prevention of land degradation and water pollution, with an increase in energy efficiency and resource conservation;

At least 2,000 people took part, directly and indirectly, in the development and implementation of environmental initiatives at various levels;

At least 5,000 people have experienced the results from the implementation of environmental initiatives of various levels;

At least 30 people noted an improvement in the conditions for self-employment and employment;

The share of women in project management, development and implementation of microregional development plans and initiatives is higher than that of men;

At least 25% of initiatives are aimed at supporting rural youth. At least 200 young people noted and described the conditions for improving their life in the region;

At least 20% of the support provided will be directed to support initiatives announced by women's organizations and / or women's initiative groups, whose actions are aimed at increasing their potential for participation in local development and self-realization;

At least 50% of the support provided will be directed to support initiatives announced by initiative groups, in which the share of women is at least 50% of the payroll of the group (protocol for creating an initiative group);

At least 15 local authorities got acquainted and were able to implement their administrative territory of the initiative in accordance with the priorities of the GEF SGP.

Phase II will end in 2022.

Project name: Green Garden economy – reinvesting in the development of the village

Dates of implementation: 2016-2019

Grantee name: Local development fund “Start-Vostok”

Description and main results:

- 1. A regional center for the "Green economy of the garden" was created and fully equipped with office equipment in the school of the agricultural town of Pochepy, Krasnopolje district, Mogilev region.**
- 2. A regional green reinvestment mechanism has been created to support local initiatives.**
- 3. The regional network "Green economy of the garden for the development of the village" has been created and is functioning steadily.**
- 3. More than 90 people were trained in home gardening and took the first steps in the construction of local gardens. Four educational institutions in the project region implemented the project activities.**
- 4. Two new districts (Cherikov and Klimovich) joined the regional network "Green economy of a garden for rural development", in each of these districts there is one educational institution, on the basis of which nurseries of fruit and berry crops have been created and training for the local population has begun.**
- 5. The experience of the project implementation continues to spread to other districts of the Mogilev region.**

Project name: Mitigating negative climate effects by abating the consequences of the bark beetle epidemics in Krasnapollie District of Mahiliou Region.

Dates of implementation: 2018-2020

Grantee name: Belarusian Ecological Movement

Description and main results:

The lands damaged by the epidemic of the bark beetle have been restored. Volunteers contributed to mitigating the negative impact of climate change through planting forests:

Environmental results - more than 160 hectares (instead of the planned 45 hectares) of land affected by the bark beetle have been restored. More than 1 million forest crops have been planted. Reduced greenhouse gas emissions due to increased forest cover. The land has been returned to economic use and is used in an environmentally sustainable manner.

The result of the project implementation for local communities is the restoration of the forest area affected by the bark beetle.

A monitoring system for the bark beetle has been formed using pheromone traps and a UAV, which is able to determine the infection in real time at the earliest stages, thereby preventing the deforestation of a large area of the forest in the future.

A nursery has been created for growing seedlings of tree species for sustainable reforestation of lands affected by the bark beetle. Purchased 98.76 kg of mixed forest seeds (instead of the planned 15 kg) for the cultivation of 3.292.000 pcs. seedlings that are not susceptible to infection by the bark beetle.

A wide information campaign was carried out on the territory of the Krasnopoje district of the Mogilev region.

A training seminar was held for schoolchildren using non-formal education methods. School-age children have a motivation to maintain an environmentally friendly lifestyle and safety in the forest (50 people).

PR-actions were carried out. In practice, measures have been taken to involve the public in work on the restoration of lands affected by the bark beetle (300 people).

Together with the NGO “Belarusian Federation of Unmanned Aviation, the experience gained during the implementation of the project initiative was disseminated among local authorities (30 people). The capabilities of unmanned aerial vehicles (quadrocopters) for the timely detection of the bark beetle have been demonstrated.

After the completion of the online part of the event, a quiz was held among young participants for the best project idea for the GEF/UNDP SGP to involve young people in activities to tackle climate change. In total, 12 new ideas were received, among which the most interesting were “Development of an online platform for green volunteers throughout the country”, “Mobile school camp for planting trees”, “Youth teach each other”.

On November 17, the participants of the event summed up the results of the seminar, and then went on an excursion to the projects of the GEF/ UNDP SGP in Belarus in the Slavgorod region.

Within a few days after the seminar, the participants created a common group on Facebook to exchange experience and project results, as well as for subsequent interaction. In the future, it is planned to hold such seminars twice a year, as well as travel to the participating countries to exchange experience and create new project ideas.