

GREEN SCHOOLS PROGRAM IN 120 SCHOOLS IN SOUTHERN AND EASTERN SERBIA



BOR 2004: Green Schools class-practice on dinosaurs



BEOGRAD 2003: Green schools competition for the best poster-finalists

Green schools is an educational program accredited by the Ministry of Education and Sport in the Government of Serbia. It concentrated on environmental protection through rational use of energy. This program is intended for students of the first and the fourth grade in primary schools, their teachers, their parents and for their community. It has multicultural bilingual characteristic (it is successfully conducted in both Serbian and Albanian language).

Green schools program is part of CRDA program (Community Revitalization through Democratic Action), that in Serbia is funded by the people of United States of America through USAID and CHF. This program is a result of cooperation between CHF International/Srbija and Alliance to Save Energy. Green schools were made in cooperation with the Ministrz of Education of Republic of Serbia, based on pilot project from December 2001, in which participated 100 primary schools in Serbia with 100,000 students.

The idea of Green schools was created in California in the year 2000. The initiative for conducting this idea in Serbia came from problems that our country was facing in the field of energetic in 2000-2001. Since September 2002, Green schools became program for primary schools accredited by the Ministry of Education. The program includes about 120 schools and more than 10,000 students from Southern and Eastern Serbia.

Green schools help schools reduce energetic costs and make them realize the importance of environmental protection. This program helps schools to implement their projects and take part in domestic and international competitions. During last school year Green schools from Razanj and Babusnica took highest places prestigious international competition-Earth Apple Awards.

Within the Green Schools Program teachers get opportunity of improve themselves professionally by participating in accredited program implemented with principals of interactive teaching. In South-East Serbia, during school year 2002/2003, 140 teachers were educated by Green School Program, and during school year 2003/2004, 190 teachers. In 2004 Green Schools included 25 schools in Montenegro, in Kolasin, Mojkovac and Bijelo Polje municipalities (in cooperation with CHF Montenegro). Within the scope of this pilot project, around 76 teachers were educated and around 2.500 pupils were engaged in the program.

Once a week pupils are getting acquainted with the context of the program, adopting new behavioral models, transmitting the influence to their families and communities or expressing their creativity through art competitions and celebrations. Within the competition for the best poster of the Green School Program, 12 pupils won three-day excursion to Belgrade and valuable rewards for their schools given by Philips, Phyrogenis and Gorenje.