

Unit 9. Educations and communication

Program “Monte vivo”



Source: *Consellería de medio rural*

Description

This project will contribute to the implementation of the EU Forest Action Plan, namely Key Action 9, with the aim of improving the protection of EU forests, focusing on the main population groups that have a direct and frequent relationship with forests or with the students, due to the great potential of acting as multipliers of the information received.

The objective of the program “Monte Vivo” is to encourage the active and responsible participation of schoolchildren in the protection of the natural environment against forest fires, allowing them to become aware of the values of forests, of their sustainable use and of the contribution to the biodiversity protection. The program will focus on raising awareness about forest fires and their influence on the ecological balance, the losses that represent a decrease in biodiversity, the productive capacity of the forest and the quality of water, leisure... The objective is to reduce the frequency of forest fires in Galicia and their concentration in certain periods and areas. In more than 90% of cases, fires are caused by man's hand, either intentionally or because of negligent behavior.

This program is organized by “Consellería del Medio Rural” and is aimed at thirteen schools. The students who can participate include primary and secondary.

The selection criteria of the schools are: Equitable territorial distribution in accordance with the organization of forest districts; Educational centers in rural areas; Educational centers in High Fire Risk Zones (ZAR); The program will prioritize projects that achieve the goal of increasing the population's awareness of fires. The duration corresponds to a school year.

At least two teachers from each center must participate in the program. One of them will be the coordinator.

The centers will carry out a series of activities and will have the support of the staff of the Forestry Districts to hold talks and visits.

Goals

The objective of the project is to promote a correct and safe use of the forest, increasing knowledge about its values and changing the behaviour of citizens regarding it, with in order to contribute to a reduction in the number of man-made forest fires, whether by will or by neglect.

Activities

- Learning activities. Different learning materials have been created for use by schools in their different activities.
 - Laboratory practices
 - Letter soup
 - Coloring pages
 - Proposals for documents to read and comment http://onosomonte.mediorural.xunta.es/2/1/1/2/ga/actividades_e_materiais_complementarios.html
- Lectures on forest fires given by experts from the Forest service.
- Visits to forests to raise awareness of their importance.



A managed plantation with recreational use
Source: *Consellería de Medio Rural*.

Impact

- Recognition of the importance of the forest
- Change of mentality to prevent forest fires in Galicia
- Raising awareness of the multiple benefits of forests and explaining the negative effects of forest fires, i.e. the loss of biological diversity that they cause

Social Media

<http://www.edu.xunta.gal/portal/node/9604>