

Best Practices in Teaching EU Matters

1. Basic Information

- Title/Name of the Best Practice: Ec(h)o Quest, Crafting a sustainable experience;
- Country/Region of Origin: Italy;
- Institution/Organization Implementing the Practice: ENGIM Emilia-Romagna, AECA, Comune di Comacchio, Cooperativa Le Tracce;
- Kind of activity: Group activity, digital and open air activity;
- Target Audience: students, citizenship;
- Duration of the activity: 2 days;
- Accessibility: Free;
- Year of Implementation: 2024;
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2. Description of the Practice

- **Objective:**

We have decided to organize a sustainable traveling event that took place on two different days between Comacchio and Ravenna to promote an area of Italy, the Po Delta, and above all to raise awareness among students and the community through a day where they can learn or refresh some sustainable practices that should increasingly become part of our good habits.
- **Description of Activities:**

The activity was structured into three distinct phases, focusing on sustainability, awareness, and practical application. It began with a bike tour in the Comacchio Valleys, organized by Cooperative Le Tracce, promoting sustainable tourism. Sponsored by the municipality of Comacchio, the excursion included a stop in a natural area heavily impacted by human activity, where students collected waste, creating a "plastic-free" moment. This hands-on experience underscored the importance of individual responsibility in preserving natural spaces.

Upon returning to Comacchio, the group moved to the school, where students led an awareness session for external participants. They showcased a sustainability-focused video game developed by IT students. This interactive quiz-like game educated players on environmentally conscious choices in grocery shopping and cooking.

The second phase took place the next day at the "Ex Azienda Agricola Marani" in Ravenna, where Restaurant Operator students demonstrated their culinary skills. Under teacher supervision, they prepared dishes using seasonal, locally sourced ingredients, including fruits, vegetables, eggs, and chicken from the school's farm. Sustainability principles extended to the use of reusable dishware and water-efficient cleaning practices.

The final segment returned to the Ravenna headquarters, where participants planted aromatic herbs and vegetables in the school garden, reinforcing the importance of sustainable living practices. This multifaceted initiative combined education, hands-on activities, and practical demonstrations, fostering environmental awareness and sustainable habits among students and the community.

- **EU Citizenship Focus Areas:**
Civic participation, , Sustainable Development and Green EU, Social Inclusion and Equal Rights,

Strong points	Weak points
Holistic learning experience	Limited reach
Emphasis on sustainability	Logistical challenges
Community engagement	

3. Pedagogical Details (if these data are available)

- **Teaching Methodology:**
Hands-on activities, Gamification, Practical demonstrations, Peer-to-Peer learning, Problem-Solving and Project-Based learning
- **Resources and Tools Used:**
Technological tools, Natural resources, Catering equipment, Educational materials
- **Innovative Aspects:**
Integration of gamification: the development and presentation of an interactive video game linked sustainability education to digital skills, engaging participants in a novel way.
Cross-disciplinary approach: the event combined multiple disciplines (IT, hospitality, environmental education), showcasing an interdisciplinary teaching model.
Real-world application: activities like cooking with seasonal ingredients and collecting waste turned abstract sustainability concepts into tangible practices.

NETWORKS

- **Adaptability to VET Settings:**

The event aligns with VET curricula that prioritize environmental awareness and sustainable practices, preparing students for green jobs. Practical tasks, such as waste collection, gardening, and cooking, align well with VET's emphasis on applied learning and industry-relevant skills.

4. Outcomes and Impact (if these data are available)

- **Measured Outcomes:**

Participants gained a deeper understanding of sustainability through hands-on activities, students enhanced practical skills relevant to their vocational training. The event successfully involved the local community, fostering a sense of shared responsibility for environmental stewardship and promoting sustainable tourism in the Comacchio Valleys.

- **Student/Teacher Feedback:**

External participants appreciated the blend of education, engagement, and nature-focused activities

- **Evidence of Success:**

We made a Portfolio in which we described the activity and we won the first prize in a EfVET challenge on tourism.

5. Inclusivity and Accessibility (if these data are available)

- **How Inclusive is the Practice?**

NA

- **Accessibility of Resources:**

NA

6. Alignment with EU Citizenship Education Goals (if these data are available)

- **Relevance to EU Citizenship Topics:**

Sustainability and environmental awareness: the activity aligns with the EU's focus on environmental protection and sustainability as outlined in the European Green Deal. By promoting sustainable tourism, waste reduction, and the use of local resources, it supports the EU's commitment to a greener future.

Active citizenship: participants engaged in hands-on actions like waste collection and community gardening, fostering a sense of responsibility and active participation in societal well-being—key elements of EU citizenship education.

Intercultural and social understanding: the event encouraged collaboration among diverse groups, promoting respect for shared spaces and cultural heritage, which are integral to the EU's goal of fostering unity in diversity.

Focus on sustainable development goals (SDGs): the initiative addressed multiple SDGs, including responsible consumption and production, life on land, and quality education, which are priorities for the EU.

- **Policy Alignment:**

The event reflects the priorities of Italy's education policies that emphasize environmental education and vocational training.

It aligns with the National Strategy for Sustainable Development, which encourages education initiatives focusing on sustainable practices and local community involvement.

By integrating sustainability, civic engagement, and practical vocational training, the practice effectively supports EU and national educational goals, promoting active, informed, and environmentally conscious citizenship.

7. Additional Notes or Recommendations

- **Challenges in Implementation:** The event could be extended to more people
- **Suggestions for Improvement:** It need to be presented very in advance to better involve citizenship
- **Additional Resources (if applicable):** NA