

# ***Young Reporters for the Environment***

## ***Malta***

### **Newsletter 1**

#### **Welcome!**

Welcome to the new scholastic year! Now that things have settled down many are asking about YRE for this year. The programme will see some changes – some drastic and some mild. This year marks the 10th anniversary of EkoSkola in Malta, and the 5th anniversary of YRE, together with the introduction of the third FEE programme for schools – LEAF (Larning about Forests).

As from this year, NTM has integrated all three programmes in one application and with one fee, making it more feasible for schools. A copy of the application has already been sent – simply tick the programmes you are interested in.

The kickstart for this year are the National Seminar and the Awards Seminar in November 2011. All 3 FEE programmes will be integrated in the same seminar, while the awards seminar will highlight the achievements in the same

programmes. More details will be given in due course.

During the scholastic year 2010-2011, YRE Malta reached quite a high standard and managed to acquire the most prestigious award – The Super Award – together with 3 other awards: best article on agriculture, best article on water and 3rd prize in best photo. All entries can be viewed on the national website. Well done to the winners – we hope that this year will be just as successful!



## Changes in YRE structure

As already mentioned last year, the YRE international board has now changed and the new board – together with national operators have discussed ways and means in which the YRE programme can be more successful. Kindly note the following changes, as some are quite drastic and need to be given due attention from the beginning of the projects.



National operators' meeting April 2011

## New International YRE website

The international YRE website, which is currently under construction, will feature the **YRE connect**, where schools may log in and register their projects. This will be a very useful tool to network with other countries and work on joint projects, as well as feature the local investigations. More information will be given as soon as the website is launched.

## Video entries

The international competition will, as from this year, feature the video competition. Last year we introduced this category on a local level, and had a local winner. As from this year the winning video will be sent to compete on an international level. A few other countries, together with Malta, had piloted this section, and due to a general request, FEE decided to integrate it with the photo and article categories. The video must not be longer than **3 minutes** and feature a local investigation.



St Ignatius College – winners of Video Category – on Educ 22 TV programme

## **Age categories**

As from this year, the entries will no longer differ by theme, but will have a different age category.

There will be one winning article, photo and video in each of these 3 age categories:

**12-15 years**

**16-18 years**

**19-21 years**

Since the programme has an outreach of post secondary schools as well, it has often been noted that it is not fair for a 20 year old to compete with a 12 year old – and thus the competition has been divided into categories. There will be a total of 9 local winners – 3 from the first age group (1 article, 1 photo and 1 video), 3 from the second age group and 3 from the third age group. Themes will no longer be highlighted when entering the competition, though the focus is always environmental.

## **Missions**

Another focus for this year is the practice of MISSIONS for YRE. Some of the schools have already embarked - successfully – on such ventures. Instead of

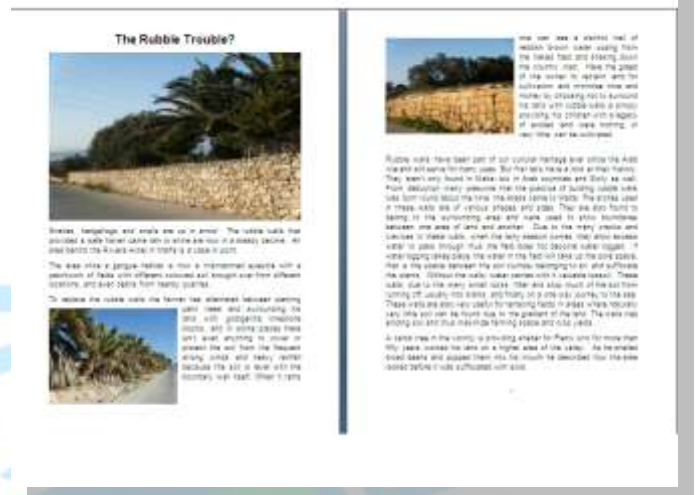
having students choose their own topics to write on, a school **MAY** decide to go on a “mission” and after that the investigation is done as a school, the students, either individually or in groups, choose a category and focus on it. The mission may address various themes: the school decides what it wants to focus on and the students may divide themselves to conduct a proper investigation. As an example, a school may decide to investigate the environmental impact of a local industry / factory. Thus, they conduct the necessary research, conduct interviews, check on resources, etc. The students may decide to tackle the same investigation from different perspectives, but a proper investigation would have been conducted anyway.

Another example may be investigating the water situation in Malta – starting off with research and ending with proposed solutions, including proper investigations in between.

The themes that can be tackled are endless. As usual, integrating the programme with current curriculum projects is highly recommended but not necessary.



A school during a Mission



The Rubble Trouble? – (San Anton School) Super award winner for 2010-2011

**Connecting through facebook**

Another venture for this year is creating a “YRE group” on facebook and encourage YRE participating students to network through this medium. It will be a closed group, totally voluntary, and closely monitored. The international website will also feature an international facebook page – and the two will be interconnected, enabling networking and joint projects. More information will be given as soon as the pages are launched.



70,000,000 litres of rain water – should they be wasted? - (St Margaret College Boys' Secondary School, Verdala) Agriculture award

**Seminar 2011 - 2012**

During the upcoming seminar on the 15 November 2011 I will be giving more information on the criteria of this year's entries, together with other logistical details. Should you need further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

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