

Composting activities in schools

FOODRUS

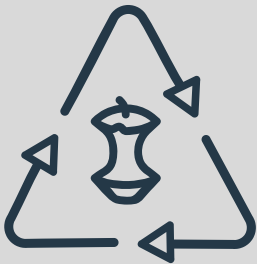
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PRACTICE ABSTRACT NO.11

#composting
#school
#recycling
#raisingawareness



Consortio EDER has carried out with the technical assistance of ELKARKIDE (composting experts) a complete composting project with the schools of Peralta and Corella in Navarra (Spain).

The project started in April 2023.

In Corella a day was held at the school with a talk on what composting is and how and what is composted, followed by a workshop in the school garden where the 5th grade students brought things from home to compost. Composters were installed at school provided by the local waste manager. It was a very productive day where the children learned the technique and got involved in a process that has been going on for several months. After that first day, at the school in Corella and with the collaboration of Elkarkide, composting has been carried out with the remains from the dining room until December 2023, when a second day was also held at the school where the results of Elkarkide's work were seen, the finished compost and the pupils were able to plant lettuces in the vegetable garden. In this way, the children were made aware of the vital circle of food and the circularity of the process.

On the same dates, a day was held in Peralta at the local waste manager where composters are installed. The children brought leftovers from their lunches and were able to practice preparing compost on site, as well as a guided tour of the waste manager facilities to make them aware of the large amount of waste generated in their homes.

An introductory day to composting was also held at the school on the same day prior to the visit to the waste manager, where the 5th year primary school pupils were able to become aware of what composting is and how it is carried out. After this day, Elkarkide has been in charge of working the compost throughout the summer in order to be able to make the return session in December 2023. This day was held at the school and each child was given a pot and some seeds so that they could take home a plant grown with the compost that came out of the leftovers from their lunches, and that they themselves deposited in the composters months before.



The FOODRUS project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement N°101000617.

The monitoring of professional composters has been essential for the activity to transfer reliable information. When planning deadlines, holiday periods have to be taken into account as the compost has to be taken care of during this time. It is important to include a practical activity with the resulting compost. Depending on the type of waste used to start the compost, a longer or shorter decomposition time is required. Teacher assistance is recommended to control the behaviour of the students during the sessions. Explanations with cartoon videos capture the attention of schoolchildren more easily than spoken theoretical explanations. A language that is not too technical makes it easier to understand the explanations. For an overall view of the activity, in the last session it is very interesting to make a review of how it all started, i.e. from the first session when they prepared the compost that they are going to take care of for months and what has happened during the whole time of the process. For a greater impact of the activity it is advisable to carry it out in schools that have shown an interest in continuing the activity on their own.

About

Coordinated by the University of Deusto and comprising 27 partners from 10 different European countries, the EU-funded FOODRUS project aims to limit food losses and waste, and to promote resource efficiency across all stages of the agri-food value chain. FOODRUS is working to tackle the food waste and losses by creating resilient food systems across nine European regions. To achieve this, the project will test 23 circular solutions through diverse forms of collaborative innovation.

Consortium



www.foodrus.eu



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