

3. ECOCAMP Vlasina

The Ecocamp took place between the period from 15 July until 19 July 2013. The Camp was a unique possibility for young people to realize their ideas on the environmental protection in the creative workshops. The camp subject is biology. It was organized by 40 young educators from Serbia and Bulgaria, 10 facilitators and volunteers.

On the first day of Eco camp, after the arrival of the participants and Ecocamp opening, a plan containing the activities to be realized during the camp was provided. Young educators were introduced to experts and volunteers who were going to spend time with them during the Ecocamp. The introductory lectures were related to getting the participants familiar with the place of the camp, Vlasina, Vlasina Lake and its surroundings.

By the legal regulative Vlasina Lake is protected as a unique natural area in the country and it is categorized as a natural wealth with the specific characteristics.

“The region of extraordinary features Vlasina” is protected due to its abundant flora and fauna, there are 850 plant species and 180 kinds of vertebrates, especially endemic kinds of wild species, mammals, reptiles and amphibians, as well as the diversity of fish. The quality of water, air, soil and other natural resources must be improved in order to facilitate education, science, culture, recreation, tourism and agriculture. After lecturing on Vlasina, the workshop ‘Life in nature’ was organized. The aim of this workshop is the recognition and picking herbs, wild plants, mushrooms and the guidance how to use them.



Wild herbs picking

During the second day, after the afternoon lectures on the subject of waste and the reuse of the secondary materials, the participants had a chance of attending the short course where they learn how to make jewelry, footwear, clothes out of waste material, cones, twigs etc. After the short education, the participants were able to make jewelry, clothes and they presented their work crafts.



Making the bags out of plastic bags by crocheting

During the third day, the participants had a chance to attend the lecture on the subject 'The protection of the natural surroundings in the process of producing and using the materials'. During the activity 'Green Market' young educators talked to sellers and buyers about the use of plastic bags, their disadvantages and possibilities of using paper bags. Young educators undertake a survey of the local people and tourists.



Replacing the plastic bags by paper bags

During the fourth day of the Ecocamp, in the morning, the young educators were given a lecture on the subject 'The forest arboretum on Vlasina Lake slopes and the fish species in Vlasina Lake'. The young educators were able to fish and make the fishing equipment out of the material which they gathered in nature. After catching the fish, the young educators returned it to the lake.



Eco fishing

During the fifth day, the educators discussed about: the acquired knowledge skills on the nature and its preservation, the waste and how to dispose it, and about the recycling and the importance of flora and fauna. The discussion with tourists about the importance of nature and the collecting of waste in nature were the last activities which were realized during the Ecocamp. The camp gave a chance to young people to achieve the knowledge in the field of ecology and natural environment as well as the talking to people in person about different problems such as the possibility of facilitation, the recognition of the ecological problems in the natural area etc.