



Interdisciplinary approach in international schools network of The Park Škocjan Caves

V. Debevec Gerjevic

Park Škocjanske jame, Slovenia, Department for Research and Development, Divaca, Slovenia (vanja.debevec@psj.gov.si)

As UNESCO World Heritage Site, Ramsar Site and Biosphere Reserve the Park Škocjan Caves strongly believes in development of quality educational programme in order to fulfill the guidelines of international conventions and also provide for awareness and development in the future.

Our efforts have been devoted to a special approach to environmental education. With an aim to achieve long-term goals, special attention is being paid to the young. The most important issues here are nature-oriented education; encouraging participation in politics and economy; stimulating tolerance and respect, responsible behavior and capacity to make best use out of one's knowledge

In 2008 we will celebrate fifth anniversary of establishment of our schools network, where we join in research education programmes five elementary schools from Slovenia and two from Italy. They are all located beside the surface and underground flow of the Reka River. With teachers help we promote science studies but also encourage children to do social projects in order to keep intergeneration connections and gain knowledge of past experience and life from our grandparents. These activities provide us with useful optional indicators that include also social elements in performing Biosphere Reserve Integrated Monitoring programme.

The changing man – nature relationship influences the values that people have with regard to nature. The goals that foresee nature control and the presumed nature improvement seem less important than the goals of reunification and co-operation with nature. The concept of nature and the environment expresses the cultural identities of the world. This concept must provide people with an adequate explanation of the natural phenomena in order to help people to understand, foresee and change typical environmental environment.

In five years work we developed a special model of training the teachers and educating the children. Together we have accomplished two international projects, two national project and several research projects dealing with The Reka river and karst phenomena. Fifteen teachers and more than hundred children are involved in educational programme every year.

Our work in the schools network enables us to bring science to society in a comprehensive way.

Presented projects in the paper will bring forward the complexity of sustainable development and underline the importance of pedagogic knowledge that should act as key factor in forming the proper concept of society development and monitoring the impacts in presenting the solutions for proper adaptations in modern society.