



Water-life miracle; "Think green, go green!" campaign

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The poster presents actions and results achieved by students of National College "Titu Maiorescu" from Aiud, Romania, who have been involved in two projects: 1 – a scientific communication session and 2 – a pan-European energy saving contest.

1. Starting from the undeniable importance of water to human health and the substantial mass-media information about tap water contaminated with a diverse nature of contaminants which convinced millions of people that the healthiest water is bottled water, I coordinated two students in realizing a scientific project having the theme "Water – life miracle". The paper was presented at the national scientific communication session for high school students called "Chemistry – friend or enemy?" in May 2011 where it received an award. In the chemical research three water samples from different sources were used: the Aiud water network, spring water and PET bottled water. Using the procedures of the laboratory in which the drinking water in town is analysed, the values of the ten most important water quality parameters (anions, cations, hardness, oxidisability, pH, turbidity) have been determined.

The results obtained highlight the fact that the water from the city network is within normal parameters, the spring water has a nitrate content exceeding the allowed limit and the PET bottled water we chose is a very soft one with an increased acidity (pH=5,35).

Dissemination of working methods and results was performed in classes during the chemistry lessons.

2. An interesting experience for me and for five high school students was the involvement in a pan-European contest (www.U4energy.eu) organized by the European Commission, a contest focused on energy education during January – April 2011.

The "Think green, go green!" campaign had as objectives highlighting the education, behaviour and information degree concerning energetic efficiency, increasing the level of consciousness regarding reducing energy consumption and saving up energy instead. The planned activities followed the proposed objectives in our attempt to accomplish the targets. Fifty high school students have been questioned, and the results have shown that the students generally have little knowledge in the field of saving up energy and often use inappropriate energy behaviour. Our targets have been met completely: making the campaign popular, as well as our attempt to change behaviour and attitude especially among high school students and henceforth changing the attitude of the members of the community we live in. We have achieved this by installing panels, information boards, printing flyers, online advertising, posting up in classrooms the campaign activities and organizing the "Bulb off day" and the "Play smartly" activities. We have also succeeded in involving 70% of the school students (350) in the collecting and recycling paper campaign. Thirty students and four teachers have participated in the "Solutions for energetic effectiveness" seminar, debating and presenting papers with an energetic effectiveness message, having a strong impact on the audience.