



## **World as The Biggest Clasroom. Travel as The Best Lesson. Independent Scientific School Expeditions.**

Ireneusz Oleksik (1), Grzegorz Lorek (2), and Katarzyna Dacy-Ignatiuk (3)

(1) Ireneusz Oleksik, ZS nr 1 Tychy, Poland (ptachutychy@onet.eu), (2) Grzegorz Lorek, I LO Leszno, Poland (lorman@leszno.edu.pl), (3) Katarzyna Dacy-Ignatiuk, ZS nr 1 Tychy, Poland (dacy.ignatiuk@op.pl)

We are a group of teachers from Poland who think that classroom lessons are not enough for our pupils to understand the world. We had a dream to take our students and show them the most beautiful places and phenomena on the Earth. But how to do it? Though today's travelling is so easy as never before, there are still some problems for young Poles – not only funding but also philosophy of travelling. It looks that we found a solution a few years ago - why not to organise quite independent school scientific expeditions? Without travel agencies and agents we can reduce costs of travelling 2-3 times! And we did it! We buy cheap flight tickets, fly to our destination and then... we must manage with all problems ourselves. We sleep in tents or budget hostels, use local means of transport and eat food from cheap markets or street eating places. Our motto is: "To see as much as possible for the minimum money". There are many more advantages - we decide where to go and how much time we spend in one area, we can change our route in every moment if something appears worth seeing. Our small groups are very mobile, sometimes local people invite us to visit their houses (like in Iran or Morocco). Expeditions allow students to watch, feel, touch, taste and smell phenomena, places and organisms which they could only read about in a classroom and to understand people from other cultures and religions. The list of nature and culture jewels that we have already seen is still growing - sands and oasis of Sahara, snow peaks of Himalayas, salt waters of Caspian Sea in Iran, geysers, volcanoes and glaciers of Iceland, the biggest sea birds colonies and whales in the North Atlantic, ancient cities - Fez, Marrakesh, Esfahan, Varanasi and Yazd.