



PRESS RELEASE – March 2022

The global pandemic COVID-19 shows once again how vulnerable our planet can be, depending on the way we live, act, and behave. It becomes imperative that we redefine our relationship with nature and consider the sustainability of the planet via our human footprint. Schools, at this particular and difficult time, can play a key role in the need to continue to fight to keep our home alive. It is very important that through continuous education we can continue to be together, because together; is not just a word, but a parameter that can change a lot, and above all, it can be the strength to continue our common struggle for a better future. Through careful planning of activist actions on climate change, we can help shape the consciences of our students with the ultimate goal of forming tomorrow's European citizens who will respect and at the same time claim a better future for our planet. The basis of the design of our activist actions was to create a pleasant, attractive and interactive environment to provide a solid basis for their sustainability.

Our students were given the opportunity to design the actions themselves through a week-long brainstorming session. Their enthusiasm was evident, because they understood from the start that they would choose the actions themselves. Many of their suggestions were ones they were already implementing in their daily practice. Prior familiarity was an important constant of success. In addition, their imagination in finding original ideas surprised us. Once the actions were now selected by the children, the teachers with mainly older pupils took over the detailed organization of the activities to exclude the possibility of failure. The assistance of the PTA was requested, primarily to make them part of our vision and secondarily to provide greater security for our pupils, as some of the actions would take place outside the school.

The period of taking measures against covid-19 was mainly a time barrier to the plans' realization. We redesigned our activities, but none of this was able to weaken our effort and will to change things. With the reopening of the school, through the activist activities that took place outside the school environment, the contact with the mayor of the city, with the local radio station, with citizens passing by, with local businesses, etc., especially for the young students were unprecedented positive experiences. If something has become clear to our students, it is that to address the causes of global crises, such as climate change in our case, drastic measures, and partnerships between citizens, local leaders, businesses, and social actors are needed. The major environmental challenges we face, such as the climate crisis, the mass extinction of species, the plastic pollution of our seas, are all parts of a domino effect that we must stop.

Through our personal example, we have gained respect and we hope that tomorrow's citizens, our students, will contribute to improving environmental legislation. We have made a start with a vision of stopping the climate crisis!

