

THINK OUTSIDE THE TRASH!

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Project Budget:

\$18,000

Abstract:

Kosovo is a small country in the Balkan region, standing on the edge of Southeastern Europe. Known for its hospitality, it also features one of the youngest populations in Europe. Of its less than two million citizens, more than 50% are under the age of 25. It is also a new country, having only gained independence fifteen years ago. A new country with no sustainable recycling process at all.

The goal of this project is to develop, with the collaboration of various experts, a portfolio/guidebook; to provide an educational outline for creative hands-on activities in order to raise students' awareness and expand their knowledge of the recycling process. This guidebook will be distributed as part of the "Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle" workshop, a training conference for 70 public high school teachers in Kosovo's capital city, Prishtine. The workshop will provide demonstrations of how recycling and environmental curriculum can be incorporated into a variety of subjects. The emphasis will be on improving Kosovo's environment through educating the youngest generations. Teaching these young leaders to advocate for these changes now and empowering them to make improvements in their families and communities.

Project:

September 17th, World Cleanup Day; is the only day when Kosovo citizens pay attention to how their actions' impact the environment. Doesn't this strike you as odd? This inattention during the other 364 days of the year is mostly due to a lack of understanding of the recycling process.

Currently, there is no sustainable recycling process in Kosovo. As a result, we have overflowing landfills everywhere, some of which are near residential areas. But this lack of recycling is not for lack of caring. Our young people do care about the environment, but they rarely learn about the recycling process and the impact of landfills.

"Think Outside the Trash" is a recycling educational program geared towards our younger generations, specifically teenagers in high school. A school recycling project will bring awareness to these students about where all their trash goes and that it doesn't just disappear. It's important to educate students because our youngest citizens are often the strongest agents of real change and the ones who are going to live with the consequences.

Aside from the struggle that Kosovo is experiencing, the focus of this project is recycling, with the goal being to implement recycling bins in public high schools in Pristina. The emphasis will be on improving Kosovo's environment through education for the education youngest generations.

The three main goals of this recycling project are;

1. To compile detailed portfolio/guidebook with creative hands-on activities in order to raise students' awareness/expand their knowledge of the recycling process.
2. To make this project self-sustainable by implementing a new recycling and environmental curriculum that can be incorporated into various subjects' areas for the youngest generation.
3. Teach these young leaders to advocate for these changes now and empower them to make improvements in their families and communities.

This project will be rolled out in three steps. First; the goal of this project is to develop a portfolio/guidebook by different experts in the field; to compile detailed instructions for creative hands-on activities in order to raise students' awareness/expand their knowledge of the recycling process. This guidebook will be created with contributions and input from experts in ecology, recycling, environmental science and social entrepreneurship fields; it will be implemented in the curriculum of each high school for one year and then repeated for each successive class. The guidebook lessons will be applicable to all areas of study; including mathematics, art, biology, science, social studies, and environmental studies. It will include engaging activities for students; such as games, creative activities, quizzes, and recycling competitions between schools. There will also be plans and recommendations for field trips to tour local recycling intuitions, like observation tours for students to raise awareness and demonstrate the benefits of the recycling process.

Second; the "Reduce, Reuse, Recycle" workshop will be held one week before the start of the school year, as a week-long training session for teachers. The new guidebook will provide detailed instructions for creative activities to raise students' awareness/expand their knowledge. This will give teachers an opportunity to be more familiar with the workbook instructions and creative activities. It will also provide them with guidance on how recycling and environmental curriculum can be incorporated into various subjects. Also, I; myself, will be on-site to conduct the workshop/recycling project in partnership with the local government; the one that leads and supervises public high schools and cleaning institutions in Kosovo's capital city, Pristine.

Third; this is where the students finally get to dive into their new recycling program! The program will be introduced by teachers in 14 public high schools in Pristina. In collaboration with the local government, we will be providing recycling bins so students can start practicing their recycling right away. And under the guidance of their teachers, high schoolers will partake in hands-on activities re-using materials that would otherwise wind up in a landfill, upcycling materials for projects. Hands-on activities, such as upcycling to make birdhouses, jewelry, and planters; and academic connections, such as calculating the individual impact of recycling, etc. Hands-on recycling activities are a great opportunity to engage students in learning life skills and to help them to reshape their habits. In the process, students will have to use their math skills, as well as their science, social studies, and communication skills. It's a great way to build teamwork and problem-solving skills while increasing awareness of the recycling process.

Listed here is the budget I will need to get this essential program funded. Covering all supplies, equipment, and expenses, I am asking you to support "Think Outside the Trash" with a total of \$18,000. For the youth of Kosovo, this investment would pay off in great abundance in the decades to come, helping to improve air quality, reduce waste, and work toward a society that responsibly stewards its land.

Project Budget Amount: \$18,000

Personnel/ Project coordinator	\$3000
Travel to Kosovo	\$1500
Portfolio/Guidebook	\$2500
Equipment/Recycling bins	\$7000
Materials/Workshop/Supplies/Others	\$4000