

WETLANDS EDUCATION FOR THE YOUNG PEOPLE OF PERU

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The project has been developed taking into account the millennium Development Goals which the UN considers as universal primary education for children, enhancing awareness of environmental risks to public health to ensure a healthy environment for living beings.

It includes 4 components:

1. Scientific. (MARIA LUISA) 3 labs will be equipped with tools and materials necessary for measuring water quality with the following 4 tests that have been positively validated by the project AQUAtox 2006 as evidence of easy understanding in the school:
 - The root-growth of onion bulbs (*Allium cepa*), measures the rate of water toxicity.
 - Germination of lettuce seeds (*Lactuca sativa*), measures the rate of water toxicity.
 - Toxic effects on the freshwater hydra (*Hydra* sp) measures the rate of water pollution.
 - Test-Hydrogen Sulfide (H₂S), measures the microbiological contamination.
2. Technician (ROSA). It will design the ideal material for teaching and demonstrating the systems that allow students to discover basic concepts of treatment and use of wastewater. The proposed treatment is based on the use of natural systems for purifying wastewater (constructed wetlands). These systems have been investigated and successfully applied by the project consortium www.play-with-water.ch. The pilot plant will be designed with low cost materials, easy to construct and will give the opportunity to children participation and fun. These systems serve as motivational tools to make arguments and questions about the nature, to experiment with ecosystems, measurements and interpretation of data and thereby explore the natural processes and with a degree of motivation to spark the interest of the student's investigation. The results of the experiments in class are applicable in other subjects. It also will train students and teachers in the use and mobility within a virtual community, taking as a reference the project websites AQUAtox and www.play-with-water.ch.
3. Education. Transfer knowledge through training courses and training to achieve the socialization of knowledge and practical training in the use of testing and management of pilot plants. These activities will be conducted with training materials for the project and the projects AQUAtox and Play With Water. There will also be workshops in schools on water quality and its evaluation using commercial laboratory tests kits.
4. As dissemination of the results achieved it will be carried out awareness campaigns in local councils, non governmental (NGOs) and local partnerships to promote a new water culture. Additionally, in Spain, there will be talks and lectures to raise awareness to spread the progresses, the results and the impact on organizations and schools associated with UNESCO Catalunya.