SIVE GERMANY MEETING PRESENTATION SUMMARY

BIODIVERSITY IN SCHOOLS

School Forest Program is an initiative that is part of the LEAF (Learning about forests) program. It is carried out by K12 schools and managed bythe Turkish Ministry of Education in cooperation with International Foundation for Environmental Education) and TURCEV (Turkish Environmental Education Association). Its main target group is the students with the primary aim being teaching them about the forests and forest cycles in their local surroundings. As part of this initiatives, different trees are planted and mini forests are formed in school gardens.

Eco Schools Project is carried out in Turkey by partner schools since 2005. It includes all levels of education. The main aim is to teach students about biodiversity, composting, water, environment, pollution, habitats and the local fauna and flora. As part of this project, different action plans are formed by different schools in line with the annual target of the project. For example, the annual target of 2022 is composting and all schools prepare action plans and carry out activities in the field of composting. Although composting is a new initiative in Turkey, with the help of the project, many schools have prepared composting stations in the school canteens where students throw their compostable waste. These compostable wastes are collected by the local government periodically and taken to the local compost facilities. In addition to the action plans, schools prepare field trips and take part in the local and national activities.

School pets project has been initiated by the Ministry of Education in 2018. With this project, all schools are encouraged to take pets to their schools, preferably from their local shelters. The students are responsible for the care of the pets and it helps them learn about responsibility and boosts bonds with animals.

SUSTAINABLE TRAVE

Address based enrollment system has been introduced by the Ministry of Education 4 years ago. Previously, parents had the right to choose the school for their children, but with this system, all students in all levels of education are automatically enrolled to the school with the easiest access to their homes. In each district, school areas are formed with minimizing travel being the first concern.

Students are always encouraged to come to school by bicycles or public transport if necessary although before this system, there were queues of school buses in every school garden.

Teachers have car sharing arrangements to provide sustainable travel and school trips are mostly done by public transport.