

Reaching Out to Over 10,000 Schools in Ukraine



The international SPARE sustainable-energy education program has an aim to reach out with education on energy and climate to all pupils at least once during their schooling years. This ambitious aim in Ukraine targets more than 14,000 secondary schools.

The SPARE Ukrainian National Coordinator, the Eremurus eco-club, is gradually reaching out to the majority of these many schools.

This is how they are doing it:

SPARE-Ukraine collaborates closely with the Ukrainian Ministry of Education and Sciences. The Ministry supports SPARE training sessions for teachers as well as the national round of the international SPARE competition for youth, "Energy and environment". Once the SPARE textbook had been translated and adapted to Ukraine, it began to be used in many schools.

Since 2004, the SPARE book and program materials for teachers have been approved by the Ministry for use in schools as optional texts. During this time Eremurus disseminated more than 18,000 SPARE books with the support of Friends of the Earth Norway, Norwegian Embassy in Ukraine, and UNDP.

Based on teachers' experiences with the first two editions, a third, improved edition is now ready for publication. In addition, the SPARE programme has produced materials for teachers. Thus, the necessary high-quality educational materials are now available in Ukrainian. The third edition of the textbook has already been approved. Approval of the entire line of SPARE teaching materials is expected by the end of 2009. Then the materials can be used in schools.

To reach out beyond the especially interested teachers, there must be training of all teachers. Eremurus has entered into collaboration with the national institute of teacher training and together they are organising seminars for trainers from the 27 regional teacher training institutes, one for each region in Ukraine.

These trainers will then train other trainers in the educational departments in districts and municipalities; they, in turn, will train the teachers.

Targeting 100,000 pupils

For the programme to succeed, the pupils, too, must have the new textbook. Eremurus continuously upgrades the textbook including recommendations from teachers who tested them. The third version will be released in the end of 2009.

With over 100,000 pupils in the target group, just the printing and distribution of the textbooks is beyond what is possible with grant money to NGOs.

In cooperation with a publisher, Eremurus will have the textbooks printed for less than 2 € per book, a low price, which beats the best price possible in Ukraine for large-volume printing, even for these colourful publications. This arrangement allows the publisher to sell the books to the schools at a moderate price that the schools can afford. The price is actually less than half the price of similar materials sold via normal commercial channels.

Thus, the books will reach the pupils.

The teacher-training materials, on the other hand, are being distributed on CD ROMs.

The price is low enough to allow these large compilations of information to reach the thousands of teachers.

In addition, the materials will be available on the project web-site.

While about 2000 schools already have used the SPARE materials in some way or another, usage should spread within the next few years to the majority of the secondary schools in Ukraine, reaching out to as many as 10,000 schools.

After-school Education:

After-school education or "out of school education" is an established option for supplementary education. Eremurus has been working through the 100 regional centres of a national ecological-naturalistic arm of the Ukrainian Ministry of Science and Education that is the largest centre for ecological "out of school" education, and has introduced SPARE into this additional educational system. As a result of this, in 16 regions, an estimated 2000 schools offer after-school SPARE courses. Typically they take place after the normal classes in the afternoon.

National Competition

The SPARE competition started in Ukraine in 2003. Every year there are prizes for energy efficiency at school as well as for use of renewable energy at school and in the local area, both as plans and as realised, best teaching proposals. In 2009, 600 proposals were made. Some cities hold a competition locally and only send the winners on to the national competition. Eremurus asks to see all proposals that are submitted to the local competitions.

Radio Program: 10-15 Millions Listening



In "Shcholyada", a morning radio programme for school pupils, Eremurus has 10 minutes every second week in which they talk

about energy and the environment based on the SPARE programme. An estimated 10-15 million people listen to the programme.

It is conducting a national radio competition, "We can stop climate change". The radio competition airs in prime time on National radio channel UR-1 in the educational program "Schooljada". The main goal of this radio competition is to improve the awareness of school children and of their parents in questions of climate change, energy-saving, and energy efficiency.

SPARE: www.spareworld.org
Eremurus: <http://eremurus.org>