



PARTNERS' ACTIVITIES

ACTIVITY NO.5 – Monitoring of the Trancão River

START DATE (DD-MM-YYYY) – 29 April 2014

DURATION (DAYS): ½ day

BRIEF DESCRIPTION:

Members from ASPEA and volunteers joined in a monitoring activity of Trancão river.

In order to try to understand if those measures had a real impact in this river's environment, the team followed the river from its mouth towards the interior, observing the river banks and also taking water samples and observing the biodiversity and human made impacts in three different spots.

ACTIVITY TYPE:

Cultural events		Dissemination	X	Teaching	x
Events: conferences and seminars		Exchange of ideas and good practice	X	Training course	
Debate		Public awareness campaigns	X	Workshop	
OTHER	X	Tree planting			

ACTORS INVOLVED:

ASPEA members and volunteers

TOPICS

Active citizenship		Environment / sustainable development	X	European citizenship and European dimension	
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KEY COMPETENCES

Social and civic competences	X	Communication in foreign languages		Sense of initiative and entrepreneurship	
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TARGET GROUP(S)/POTENTIAL BENEFICIARIES:

Members from local NGOs, inhabitants in the vicinity of the river, general public

NUMBER OF LEARNERS INVOLVED:

Type	Gender	Nº of Pupils/ Learners/ Trainees	Out of which nº of pupils/ Learners / trainees with special needs	Nº of teachers/ staff	Out of which nº of teachers/ staff with special needs	Nº of accompanying persons
Local Activities	Male	1		1		
	Female	4		2		

AGE RANGES

Age range	< 16 years	16 – 19 years	20 – 26 years	27 – 65 years	65 years +
Nº of Pupils/ Learners/ Trainees			5	3	0



DISSEMINATION

Dissemination through the media	Dissemination within own organisation	Dissemination with other local schools and organisations	other
X	X		

ACTIVITY STAFF FEEDBACK

PLEASE TICK THE RELEVANT ANSWERS:

1. To what extent do you think learners will have gained facts and information on rivers from the activity?

Very likely	Quite likely	Neither	Quite unlikely	Very unlikely
X				

2. To what extent do you think the activity will have enabled learners to feel more positive about rivers?

Very likely	Quite likely	Neither	Quite unlikely	Very unlikely
	X			

3. What do you think the learners most enjoyed about the activity or found inspiring?

Walking along the river, observing wildlife, knowing about monitoring technics

4. Was there anything you think they were disappointed or bored by?

There were few participants

5. Do you have any further comment?



The Trancão river, located in the eastern part of Lisbon, was formerly considered as one of the most polluted rivers in Europe, since previously, household and industrial waste was sent into the river without treatment. As

this area was requalified for the 1998 World Fair a sewage treatment plant was built, and many of the industrial facilities that once existed in the river banks were scrapped.

In order to try to understand if those measures had a real impact in this river's environment, the team followed the river from its mouth towards the interior, observing the river banks and also taking water samples in three different spots.

To analyze in a simple manner the water samples, to identify the animals and plants, and also to describe the river, the "Projecto Rios" - River Project - kit was employed.

The first observation point was in the river mouth, where the Trancão River meets the Tagus River. Here the water is still brackish, and one can observe animal and plant species well adjusted to this estuarine environment: cormorants, herons, gulls, and wade birds such as the black winged stilts and Kentish plovers. Fish, bivalve molluscs, and crustaceans, such as crab were also observed.

Several plant species were also identified. *Salicornia ramosissima* was the most interesting one, it is an halophytic fleshy plant, that is more and more used in gourmet salads because of its nice salty flavor. Following the river upstream, the plant and animal species changed, reflecting the fact that the water was not brackish anymore.

Although the water samples, showed a near neutral pH, they also showed high levels of nitrates and nitrites, which can be a possible indication that some sewage is still being dumped upstream. Although, for a river that was previously in such a bad shape, and that still is located in such a densely populated area, a great deal of biodiversity was observed and the river banks and bed were apparently clean, further monitoring activities will be necessary to try to gather more information about the water quality, and if needed to identify the sources of pollution to try, with the help of the local authorities, to intervene.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR FEEDBACK!

Please return this form to ASPEA.