

Waste management and aware citizenship at Traversetolo (Italy): the project ECO-WAS

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The Municipality of Traversetolo (Italy), together with other European Municipalities (Abegondo - Spain, Hasselt - Belgium, Molndal - Sweden, Sosnowiec and Lublin - Poland) has promoted the project ECO-WAS (*ECOLOGic-WASte*), funded by the Europe for Citizens Program of the European Union. The project sustains a network between communities related to the promotion of common values and strategies in waste management. In more detail, it aims to increase eco-friendly behaviours in recycling and reuse throughout interaction and participation among the European citizens.

In this global context, the Municipality of Traversetolo was involved in a network both global (at European level) and local. In fact, it has supported and promoted the growth of relations among the different parts of its local community (eg. schools, University, NGOs, multiutilities), finalized to the development of a shared culture of sustainability and based on attention and awareness towards the environment and its management.

The school is considered the key subject for the involvement of the community; so, the local partners of the project have stimulated the collaboration of all the different schools in the territory of Traversetolo (from kindergarten to high school). This wide cooperation, at first, has an innovative connotation, because these schools are not used to work all together. In addition, it will become an opportunity to experiment an intercultural dimension (thanks both to the European partners and to the different members of the local community) and an intergenerational dialogue, fundamental to the development of responsible and sustainable behaviours.

A questionnaire elaborated and submitted by students to citizens about the daily waste management and other specific activities that involves the schools in relation to the different students' age, will give form to this experience of cooperation within schools and between school and its community, at the basis of new practices for a sustainable community.