



# TOOLBOX NATURE PROTECTION





Supported by the council of Europe through the European Youth Foundation.





# **TOOLBOX** NATURE PROTECTION

Welcome to this Toolbox full of ideas for nature protection activities for youth groups!

This Toolbox is designed to inspire and empower young people to actively participate in the protection of our natural environment. It offers you a variety of hands-on projects that encourage youths to connect with nature, understand environmental challenges, and take meaningful action. Whether you are a teacher, youth leader, or environmental enthusiast, we hope that this collection of ideas will inspire you to take action yourself.

Let's work together and protect our environment!





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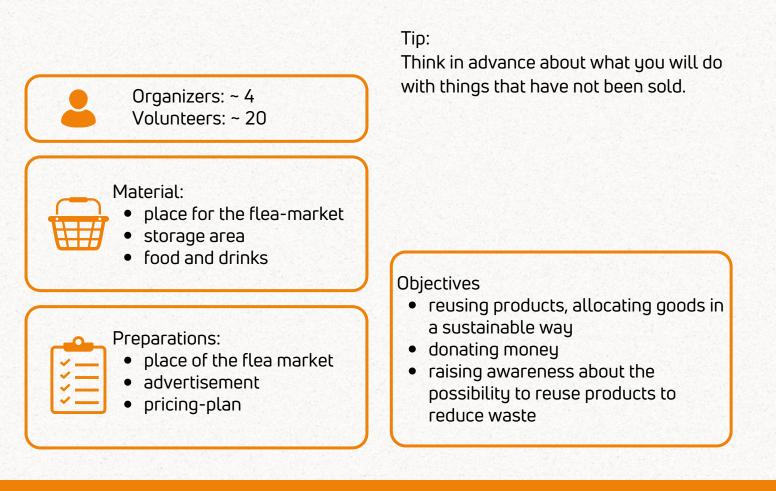




# GARAGE SALE

- Youth group members collect unused utensils at home (eg. clothes, toys, kitchen material, etc. ).
- These products are sold either at an already existing flea marked, or via a self organized garage sale.
- Additional idea: You can choose a specific topic for the market (e.g. toys for christmas, only summer clothes, etc.)
- The income of the garage sale can be donated.











# **PLANT TREES**

- Find a place where you are allowed to plant something. This can be in the garden of the youth center, in a public park,...
- Find out which plants can help to increase biodiversity at the venue and will be able to grow there.
- Speak about the importance of trees.
- Gather with your youth group to buy little trees and then plant them at the venue.
- Don't forget to take good care of the trees for them to survive.





Ideas:

- Work together with the local gardener to get advice on the choice of venue and trees.
- If you have the capacities you can also plan a bigger planting event.

- raising awareness for the importance of trees
- make the city a bit more livable
- gain gardening skills







# SAVE FOOD

- Find out where food is wasted (markets, shops, restaurants, bakeries, schools, canteens,...)
- Try to find a cooperation partner who is willing to give their leftovers to you.
- The youth group members will go to the cooperation partner and collect the leftover food that would have been wasted.
- Share the food with others:
  - connect through Social Media with people
  - give the food to friends and family
  - find organizations that collect food for charity.

4-5 persons
Material:

bags
plastic gloves

Preparations:

cooperation partners for saving the food and for sharing it



You do not always have to reinvent the wheel. You can also get in touch with already existing associations who work on this topic.

Also make young people aware of initiatives around this topic. e.g. foodsharing, to good to go, ...

- raise awareness of how much food is wasted
- save some food
- help people who have difficulties to afford their meals.







# CIGARETTE BUTT AWARENESS

- Form smaller groups and go through the city to pick up cigarette butts.
- Collect all the cigarette butts and fill them in some kind of vase to display, how many cigerette butts are lying around.
- Display the vase in a public space and add some information about the project to it.





### Idea:

You can add to this project to think of fun ways to tell people to not throw away their cigarette butts, print those sayings to plates and distribute them through the city.

### Objectives

• raise awarness to not throw cigarett butts to the streets







# COLLECT WASTE FOR RECYCLING

- Find out about companies that recycle certain material.
- Speak with your youth group about recycling and agree on a collection phase.
- After this you gather the collected material and bring it to the company.
- Maybe you also want to buy one of their products to see a direct output.

### Example:

An example of such a company would be one in Hungary who turns plastic bottle caps into furniture.

	1 - 30persons
	Material: • Jars for collecting
P V V V V V V V V V V V V V V V V V V V	<ul> <li>Preparations:</li> <li>Cooperation with a recycling company</li> <li>Transportation of the material</li> </ul>



- raise awareness
- recycle plastic







# LANDSCAPE MAINTENANCE

- Find a cooperaton partner who has some land that needs maintenance to protect ecosystems.
- Learn how you and your group can help.



### Example:

Mow grass to have a bigger biodiversity on swampy land.

# 2-30 persons Material: • depending on the activity Preparations: • form a cooperation

- raise awareness about biodiversity
- maintain a natural habitat
- increase biodiversity
- form cooperations







# PLANTS For Hedgehogs

- Find a place where you are allowed to plant something. This can be in the garden of the youth center, in a public park,...
- Find out what plants can help hedgehogs and other small animals to find shelter.
- Gather with your youth group to plant different bushes.
- Don't forget to take good care of the bushes for them to survive.





### Tip:

• Work together with the local gardener to give you advise on the choice of venue and plants.

- raise awareness for biodiversity
- increase the population of hedgehogs







# COMMUNITY BIKE REPAIR

- Do a workshop on how to repair bikes.
- Work on your own bikes to increase your skills.
- Organize a day where you bring your knew knowledge, tools and material for repairing and invite people to join to repair their own bike.





### Tip:

It might be handy to also have a professional help you on the day of the bike repairs to help you with tricky cases.

- safer cyling
- promote sustainable mobility
- volunteers get experience in fixing bikes







## URBAN GARDENING WORKSHOP

- Organize a Workshop to introduce urban gardening and teach people practical skills.
- Build little urban gardens with plastic bottles or other upcycling material.

### Tip:

Do this Workshop in spring so the participants can directly use their new gained knowledge.





### 5-10 persons

### Material:

- Workshop material
- Gardening tools
- Material to do an upcycling garden.

### Preparations:

- Find a Workshop guide
- Collect bottles etc.

- introduce the idea of urban gardening
- people learn practical skills
- reuse plastic bottles







# SEEDLING EXCHANGE PARTY

- Organize an event for people to exchange their seedlings.
- It can also be a good way for people to share experiences and knowledge about gardening.

This can also be part of a bigger event e.g. a Workshop about gardening with a seedling exchange at the end.



Team: 4-5 Participants: 5-20

### Material:

- some seedlings already prepared
- bags etc for taking seedlings home
- snacks and drinks

**Preparations:** 

- seedlings
- advertisement
- venue

- increase biodiversity in gardens
- exchange of knowledge about plants and gardening







# PLANTING KITS

- Collect seeds from common vegetables and fruits.
   e.g. take out the seeds of tomatoes and bell peppers
- Dry the seeds.
- Put the seeds in little bags, label them and add instructions on how to use them.
- Then you can give the selfmade planting kits away for free or sell them for donations.



1-10 persons
Material: • vegetables with seeds • small bags • short instuction paper
Preparations: • learn about what vegetables you can use

### Tip:

Not all seeds will start to grow, as some plants are modified. If you stick to organic products the seeds will be more likely to grow.

- teach people how to use food scraps to grow new plants
- promote the idea of growing plants at home







# REPAIR CAFÈ

- Find experts who know how to repair different things. (e.g. clothes, electronic devices,...)
- Organize a day where people can come with their broken things and learn together with the expert how to repair them.





- repairing and reusing old things
- teach practical skills
- raise awareness for the possibility to repair broken things



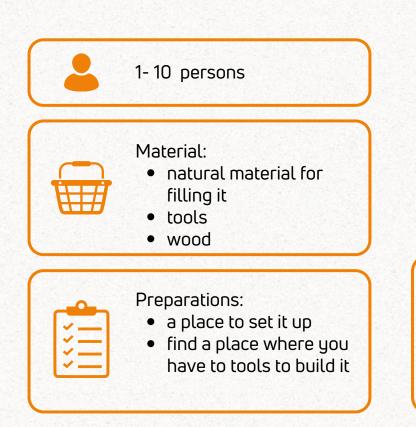




# INSECT HOTELS

- Research on how to properly build an insect hotel.
- Collect and dry natural material with your group.
- Build an insect hotel and fill it with the material.
- Find a propper place to set up the insect hotel.
- Observe at a later time which insects now use the hotel to live in it.





- protecting insects
- raising awareness about decreasing insect populations
- teaching practical skills







# BUILD BAT BOARDS

- Research on how to properly build bat boards.
- Gather the material and tools you need for building bat boards.
- Build bat boards.
- Find a propper place to set up the bat boards.
- Observe at a later time whether bats already moved into the house. This can take from a few weeks up to several years.





Tip: In the internet you will find instructions for bat boards and bat houses. We recommend doing bat boards because houses tend to not be used by bats, but mainly by other animals.

- creating shelters for bats
- raising awareness about the decreasing bat populations
- teaching practical skills