

Create your Green Job!



Youth in Action



Education and Culture DG

'Youth in Action' Programme

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Introduction

This booklet is developed within the framework of the 'Coast Alert' project funded by the European Union 'Youth in Action' Programme. It provides ideas generated from the youth involved in the particular project, for employment opportunities for young people in the field of coastal conservation and environment in general.

The 'Coast Alert' project targets to educate the youth on coastal conservation and management through innovative coastal activities. It helps youth to understand the coastal ecosystem, the importance of integrated coastal zone management in the Mediterranean region and the impact of our lifestyle, choices and activities on the local and surrounding environment.

What is a 'Green Job' ?

A green job is according to the United Nations Environment Program, "work in agricultural, manufacturing, research and development, administrative, and service activities that contribute substantially to preserving or restoring environmental quality. Specifically, but not exclusively, this includes jobs that help to protect ecosystems and biodiversity, reduce energy, materials, and water consumption through high efficiency strategies, de-carbonize the economy, and minimize or altogether avoid generation of all forms of waste and pollution."

REFER: www.unep.org/PDF/UNEPGreenjobs_report08.pdf



Why green jobs are important?

- ✓ As a newly formed concept, Green jobs can generate ground for innovative ideas and experimentation for young people.
- ✓ It is an evolving and expanding field which has the potential to provide job positions for a lot of people and especially young persons as they have the capacity and energy to learn and be up to date!
- ✓ This field is open to volunteerism and this can provide youth with significant experience that will enrich their knowledge and knowhow for future employment.
- ✓ A green economy is an economy that values nature as well as people and creates decent well-paying jobs!
- ✓ Green jobs workers are in position to achieve something beneficial for the society, the environment and themselves.

Experimenting with ideas to generate green jobs!

Green jobs span a wide array of skills, educational backgrounds, and occupational profiles.

✓ Setting up a team which follows the protocol for cleaning the sea-side can be a small but significant act. It can also generate income if a team is trained to teach and is able to take students or give presentations to institutions to educate citizens about sea pollution and what can be done about this issue.

✓ Eco tourism is an evolving business and it can be utilised to reverse the negative impacts of mainstream tourism and protect nature. Eco tourism resorts can develop activities to be run by young people. This could involve informing the visitors on subjects about the local environment (flora and fauna, nature, protected sites, endangered species etc), workshops on building eco-friendly lodges, trips to nature paths or discovering new paths and local natural spots. Additionally, through these activities the local craftsmanship and traditions can be promoted which would also generate employment for the locals and connect the tourists with the locals.

✓ Fishing is becoming obsolete and it mostly draws the interest of older people. If the concept of apprenticeship returns, old fishermen will be able to pass their knowledge to the new generation that is more adaptive and is in position to gain knowledge and skills that match today's needs and condition. Young fishermen can also set up hands on training workshops for the public interested in sustainable fishing methods or scuba diving trainings for people interested in endangered species and marine nature in general.

✓ Our habitation patterns will need to change and adapt to the changing climate, decreasing resources and increasing population. Being an instructor specialised on using waste materials, can generate income while also spreading the skills for creating environmental resource efficient houses.

✓ Non Governmental Organisations play an essential role in promoting environmental sustainability, tackling environmental issues and other similar subjects. These are institutions open to new ideas and usually welcome young volunteers with fresh ideas and external collaborations. Furthermore, NGOs encourage non-formal education by providing field trips, courses, trainings and lectures that can be evolved into employment.

✓ Traditional professions can easily be incorporated into “greener” jobs and give individuals the opportunity to explore new territories. Traditional professions from architects to lawyers can revolutionise their orientation and focus on environmental issues. For example architects can be trained for bioclimatic architecture, passive cooling etc. Lawyers on the other hand can focus on environmental law and subjects around coastal conservation, community annoyance and protection of species, biotopes, etc..

For more information on the ‘Coast Alert’ project please visit
www.akti.org.cy and www.diogenesyouthclub.tr.gg

The ‘Coast Alert’ Youth
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