

SEES – Student Engagement in the Environment and Science

Conference Plan 2013

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1. Introduction

1.1 What are the United World Colleges?

United World Colleges is an educational movement comprising of 12 international colleges located all around the world. Each college has its' own unique qualities, but all conform to the same UWC values and mission statement; "UWC makes education a force to unite people, nations and cultures for peace and a sustainable future."

Students study the rigorous IB (International Baccalaureate) diploma programme and strive to be active, involved and educated citizens through their undertaking of CAS (Creative, Action, Service), which is an IB requirement.

The UWC movement aims to create students whose attitude towards cultural understanding, mutual respect and community service will be a powerful catalyst for change in the future.

The United World College of the Adriatic (UWCAd) is situated in Duino, a small village located near the city of Trieste on the Italian/Slovene border. The location gives students an insight into the Austrian, Italian and Slovene cultures of the local area.

1.2 What is the Environmental Action Group?

The Environmental Action Group is a student run creative activity at UWCAd. Weekly meetings are held to discuss, plan and organize the matters at hand. Our motivation is:

- ⇒ To raise awareness and the understanding of environmental and sustainability issues within our college.
- ⇒ To actively make a change to the environmental and sustainability issues within our college.
- ⇒ To actively make a change to the environmental and sustainability issues in the local area.
- ⇒ To raise awareness and the understanding of global environmental and sustainability issues in our college.

⇒ To inform students as to how we can all make a change to global environmental and sustainability issues.

1.2.1 Achievements

The EAG has been an active unit in the UWCAAd community to fulfill their motivational aims. Past actions have involved:

- The environmental group of generation 2012' created a 10 year plan as to how UWCAAd can reduce it's green house gas emissions by 50% by 2021. Measures have been put in place to accompany this plan, and development of actions to take on the ideas presented continues.
- A sustainability afternoon was held in October 2012 to raise awareness of important environmental and sustainability issues globally, in the local area and within our college. The whole school participated in workshops run by students.
- Sustainability workshops were held in introductory week for first years, teaching them how to recycle and be sustainable within their residences.
- Presentations on the concerns of climate change and sustainability (explaining complex meaning of this word and putting it into context within our community) have been given.
- Continued work on our Bio-Plot – growing our own produce and making compost. The plants are grown in an effort to increase our knowledge of the complex processes involved to help the food reach our plate. All materials from our bio plot are organic.
- Sustainability competitions have run throughout each term. The competition measures the decrease in the use of water and electricity in each residence, as well as the quality of their recycling and other sustainable measures in place. Each competition lasts for about one month with a prize to the winning residence.
- Compost and recycling bins have been placed outside the canteen to enforce the need to recycle and compost anything left over from our meals.

1.2.3 Aims

The EAG hopes to continue and improve the practices in place. The development of all of the mentioned concerns is of deep importance to us, in order to continue efforts to improve the environmentally friendly and sustainable attitudes of all members of the college. Ideas for future steps include:

- Holding a whole college sustainability day, instead of solely an afternoon.
- Improving the composting and recycling in the canteen – e.g. Placing bins in the canteen so that students can actively carry out the recycling and composting of their waste.
- The Environmental Action Group will become an official core creative activity contributing to CAS for all members.
- Holding a two-day conference based on sustainability and environmental issues.
- Improving the correspondence with the local citizens of the community relating to sustainability and environmental issues.
- Reducing the energy used with our college buildings, such as residences, the school building and the canteen, through awareness and new infrastructure.

2. Conference Plan

2.1 Aims

By holding an environmental and science educational conference we hope to:

- Raise the awareness of the importance of the environment and environmental policies.
- Improve the mutual understanding of sustainability and environmental problems between different nationalities.
- Improve the relationship between the Environmental Action Group (UWCAd) and the local community.
- Collect ideas and develop a long-running project between UWC students and the local student community concerning environmental issues.
- Develop relations with local environmental and science organisations. Since UWC is a non-profit organization, outside funds will need to be found to fund the conference and future projects.

- To create an enjoyable, interesting and informative conference from which everyone can learn.

2.2 Description

The conference will focus on the many areas of the environment and involve activities such as: Workshops, 'clean ups', speakers, a global issues exhibition and many more. We aim to keep activities and discussion topics original to create a motivating atmosphere that will engage participants to question topics further, inspire them to learn more and take what they have learnt with them, in the hope that they will become active members in their communities revolving around these topics.

2.2.1 Date

Friday 27th September – Sunday 29th September

2.2.2 Location and Accommodation

The conference will be held in UWC of the Adriatic –

The United World College of the Adriatic,

Via Trieste (29),

Duino (TS) 34011,

Italy

Accommodation for non-UWCAd UWC participants –

Camping Village Mare Pineta Baia Sistiana

Sistiana 60/D

34019 Sistiana - Duino Aurisina (TS)

Further information about accommodation –

www.camping.it/friuli/marepinetabaiaisistiana

More accommodation can be found near the college in Duino. Please contact us at the email address below if you have any questions.

2.2.3 Participants

The conference will involve members of UWCA, students invited from European UWCs and students from local colleges.

2.3 Schedule of Conference

2.3.1 Friday 27th September 2013

TIME	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	Cost per person
9:00-9:30	Opening Ceremony	Auditorium / Fore Lawn	n/a
9:45-11:00	1 st speaker – Environment and Society	Auditorium	n/a
11:00-12:30	Workshops	<i>Workshop dependant</i>	-
12:30-14:30	Lunch	Mensa	€7/person
14:30-15:30	2 nd speaker – Air and Water Pollution	Auditorium	n/a
15:30-17:30	Workshops	<i>Workshop dependant</i>	-
17:30-18:45	3 rd speaker – Energy Management	Auditorium	n/a
18:45 - 20:00	Dinner	Mensa / Fore Lawn	€7/person

2.3.2 Saturday 28th September

TIME	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	Cost per person
9:30-10:30	4 th speaker – Climate and the Environment	Auditorium	n/a
10:30-12:00	Workshops	<i>Workshop dependant</i>	-
12:00-13:30	Lunch	Mensa	€7/person
13:30-14:30	Closing ceremony – ‘Trashion Show’	Auditorium	n/a
14:30-16:00	Short visit to the surrounding area	optional	
14:30-18:45	Long visit to the surrounding area	optional	

2.4 Workshops

Descriptions of each of the workshops can be found below. Location details will be provided on the weekend of the conference.

- **Name:** High Trashion
- ⤴ **Aim:** To be creative, innovative and original in utilising the available resources around you to create the next fashion trend with that special something added.
- ⤴ **Description:** Students will be given sets of different material/resources to use in order to create clothing or accessory items. The materials used should be recycled or reused, and comply with to a general theme given by the workshop leaders. The pieces created should have a deeper meaning as to the environmental concern they are related to. Research should be done that can be read aloud during the ‘Trashion Show’ which will held in the Closing Ceremony to showcase the creations.
- ⤴ **Leaders:** Victoria Lau & Jamila Versi

opinions according to their environmental problems. Afterwards, these will be compared, so that a discussion and conclusion can be made.

NOTE – the video needs to be created prior to the conference. It will be shown during the workshop, after which discussions will take place about possible solutions

- ⤴ Number of Participants: In the video – short interviews from as many as possible. In the Discussion: Maximum 15
 - **Name:** 'Clean Up'
- ⤴ **Aim:** To clean up one of the local areas.
- ⤴ **Description:** Litter often dirties the surrounding beauty of Duino. It is important that we maintain a clean environment and do all we can to be active citizens in the local community.
- ⤴ Leader: *To be specified*
- ⤴ Number of Participants: 15 - 20
 - **Name:** Science Labs
- ⤴ **Aim:** To further develop or knowledge of how science and the environment go together.
- ⤴ **Description:** *To be specified*
- ⤴ Leader: Dimitrina Guertcheva
- ⤴ Number of Participants: 15 – 20

2.4 Local Area Visits

- **Name:** Exploration of the Grotta Gigante Cave
- ⤴ **Location:** Situated about 30 minutes from the college at:
Borgo Grotta Gigante 42/a,
località Borgo Grotta Gigante,
comune Sgonico,
provincia Trieste
- ⤴ **Description:** Antonio Federico Lindner was the first to explore the cave in 1840, whilst he was searching for the water of the underground river *Timavo* to be used for the Trieste Waterworks. The cave is 8,50 metres high, 76,30 metres wide and 167,60 metres long, and the ceilings and floors and filled with stalactites and stalagmites.

⤴ Time: 14.00 – 18.00

- **Name:** Exploring the local Cernizza

⤴ **Location:** Walking distance from the college.

⤴ **Description:** This aim of the trip will be to get a feel of the importance of maintaining our natural surrounding areas. We will explore and learn about the development of the 'Carso' area surrounding Duino that is full of Mediterranean plant life.

⤴ Time: 14.00 – 16.30

3. Advertising

3.1 European UWC Students

Each European UWC will be invited and receive all relevant information about the upcoming conference. Information will be similar to the content found in this plan, with more detailed further information being given regarding workshops, speakers and practicalities of the conference closer to the time.

3.2 Local Students

Local students of similar ages (16 – 18) will be invited to the conference. Leaflets aimed to appeal to students and present the ideas and aims of the conference are being created by the E.A.G. These will be distributed in order to publicise the event. Most correspondence with the local citizens shall be in English (particularly the students intending to attend) as the language of the conference is English.

3.3 UWCAAd Students

Students from UWCAAd will not only be involved in the organisation before and at the time of the event, but encouraged to attend the conference along with the other students. Leaflets will also be distributed among UWCAAd students.

4. Cost

Item	Cost per person	Total
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Food	€7	<i>Student dependant</i>
Accommodation	€5.8	<i>Student dependant</i>
Long visit trip	€5	Maximum - €100 ¹

5. Contact Details

5.1 Address

Collegio Del Mondo Unito Dell'Adriatico
Via Trieste, 29
34011 Duino (TS)
Italy

5.2 Internet

General website for UWCAd: www.uwcad.it

5.3 Email

Organisers

Victoria Lau – ad12vlau2@uwcad.it

Magda Michalska – ad12mmic@uwcad.it

Jamila Versi – ad12jver@uwcad.it

¹ The cost for the long visit trip includes only the price of entry to the cave, with a minimum of 15 students needed.