

# **Green Liberty and Roots & Shoots Chengdu office**

## **Report on 2016 EU-China NGO Twinning Program**

Zanda Skuja, Green Liberty, Riga, Latvia

Wei Wei, Roots & Shoots Chengdu office, Chengdu, China

### ***Brief description of exchange purpose/projects.. (max 100 words)***

Both of our organizations share the concern about the impacts of waste on environment, carbon footprint in particular, and also on society and economics. We encourage and facilitate both government and the public to take action and participate in improvements of how we deal with waste. We share the vision of low-carbon and zero-waste future of circular economy, therefore we did this exchange on topics of climate change and waste management conjoined issues to learn the best practices from both sides of the partnership. We jointly searched for other best practices and found common techniques that can be widely applicable and developed for further cooperation and used individually. We strengthened the work with local community activities during the exchange, as our shared purpose of exchange was to increase the reach of our work throughout Latvian and Chinese societies.

## **Zanda Skuja, Green Liberty, Riga, Latvia**

Dates and location of exchange in China

23.07.2016.-23.08.2016., based in Chengdu.

### ***Introduction (Objectives, expectations)***

My objectives were to learn about community work techniques of raising awareness on climate change and waste reduction and recycling issues with Chinese societies; information distribution techniques; NGO management and organizational practices; understanding of crosscultural working peculiarities and overcoming cultural differences in order to exchange ideas and find common solutions in our work with local societies during the exchange and after back in home country.

### ***Challenges (Cultural contrasts)***

The most challenging part was how the work agenda was organized and time needed to receive response to questions or feedback so I could continue my work. For example, I had to arrange time to ask questions, instead of asking them straight away, etc. That remained throughout the exchange, but I found my way of overcoming it by getting involved in several tasks simultaneously, so whenever there was a pause in one for awaiting the feedback, I

could work on another. Language was a major challenge, only one person spoke English (my partner), and it was little practiced before my arrival, so it took some time to get used to communication. Help when needed was not always provided to get around the area (for transports etc) easier, but my getting around ended up quite fine in the end.

### ***Activities***

Article writing, presentation building, presenting, community volunteer work organization, community game activity setting up, reporting.

### ***Outcome and Impact***

- Article
- Presentations built
- Live presentation given in Eco-Fair
- Activity days organized in communities
- Photo reports from community activities
- Overall backup research for partner organisation's staff

### ***Future Plans and Sustainability of the Partnership***

Follow up project has not been planned, due to the differences of the main focus (where our organization was more focused on climate change aspects and future visions of low-carbon or zero-waste, whilst Chinese organization was focusing much stronger on waste issues only), however, we plan to keep communicating about our common work methods (game activities).

**Please add your 3 favourite pictures/media coverage of your work**





# **Wei Wei, Roots and Shoots Chengdu office, Chengdu, China**

Oct.27-Dec.6 2016 Latvia

## ***Introduction (Objectives, expectations)***

- Expand my horizon
- Network with other NGOs
- Understand how NGOs work in Europe

## ***Challenges (Cultural contrasts)***

- The official language in Latvia is Latvian. A language I never heard before. My twinning partner and her colleagues speak English well, but public events and activities are in Latvian, which was a big challenge for me to understand.
- During the exchange in Europe, I also did work for my organisation in China, which was very tiring with the time difference.

## ***Activities***

### **“Environmental enzymes workshop”**

Schools and teenagers are also the target group of my exchange organization. They usually use interactive ways to carry out their program in schools.

Next to the workshop on Environmental enzymes that I give, I also had a mini-tour around the school. The school sorts garbage, plants ecological fruit and vegetables on their own farm. The farm's products are eaten by the teachers and students. The kitchen waste is composted for fertilizer in order to reduce the organic waste. To lower carbon emissions, the school teachers and students eat vegetarian at school, through a reasonable diet to ensure the nutrition balance.

It was a very good example of how an ECO-School can operate. And it showed how important the management of the school is to get everyone to follow this vision.

### **ECO-HOMOS visiting**

The organization is a well-known local environmental non-profit organization, which has made remarkable achievements in public advocacy, especially in promoting youth participation.

I presented how my organisation tries to promote young people to participate in waste management, together with how waste management works in Chengdu and what challenges there are. Through the exchange, I found that we all face the same problem, how to encourage young people to continue to participate in the topic and how to design attractive activities.

Due to the different social environment, the HOMO have more freedom to carry out the public activities and social media.

### **NO-BUYING DAY**

The event is mainly hosted by Green liberty, combined with different nonprofit organizations. This year is the ninth year of the event. As the annual environmental activities, "NO BUYING DAY" are arranged before Christmas, mainly advocate the public to take reasonable consumer behavior in holiday consumption. This year's event was divided into three parts, one of environmental product designer sharing, then the DIY workshop and the "Minimalist life" movie night.

### **Latvian Waste Management Association**

The association mainly work on coordinating the agencies and departments related to waste management. It also functions as an environmental advice enterprise. During the visit, they introduced their views on the waste management, showcased the cost of transportation of waste and some waste collection facilities. Waste management issues are coming up as global environmental problem, more and more countries, and various organizations are working on the issue. As we all know, the mixed waste disposed by landfill and incineration cause problems, and it receives more and more attention in the world.

### ***Outcome and Impact***

(What were the concrete results and accomplishments of the exchange? What "products" came out of your twinning? E.g. reports, events, studies, work models, conferences,...)

- EU-China NGO Twinning reports
- Sharing in Roots&Shoots Chengdu
- Exchange of work methods

### ***Future Plans and Sustainability of the Partnership***

The EU-China NGO Twinning program provides me with a very valuable opportunitie to know what others are doing, establishe contacts with other organizations, and enable me to recognize the importance of our work, especially work in local community, and to find a effective method on waste management.

**Please add your 3 favorite pictures/media coverage of your work**





