

## NGO Ecoclub – Green Housewife Environmental Guidance Center

### Report on 2017 EU-China NGO Twinning Program

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

NGO Ecoclub and NGO Green Housewife both works in their communities on common issues: sustainable development and women's engagement. The purposes of exchange were:

- to understand what civil activists in China and Europe are working on and what challenges they face;
- to share best practices and success stories in environment protection and energy saving;
- to find new partners for further cooperation;
- to expand personal and organizations horizons and capabilities.

#### **Inna Muliavka, NGO Ecoclub, Rivne, Ukraine**

23<sup>rd</sup> of September-13<sup>th</sup> of October, Shanghai, Green Housewife Environmental Guidance Center

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

China is a fast-growing country. Many innovative technologies which for the other countries are still far ahead already have been implemented here. Superfast trains, electric cars, impressive skyscrapers, mobile payment usage everywhere, opportunity to control physical devices via Internet, 'forest cities' - this list can be continued with many others examples.

So for me this exchange was search for new approaches, ideas and technologies for projects to protect the environment. I expected to know how to attract green investments; to communicate environmental topics more understandable to target audiences; to learn by doing simple things that make everyday life more environmentally friendly; and how to attract people, especially women, to green activism.

#### ***Activities***

**25<sup>th</sup> Sept. - Meeting with representatives of Shanghai Jiao Tong University Technology Park, presenting their activities in Shanghai.**

During the meeting we discussed energy saving innovative technologies and how startups become tools for environmental preservation. I presented EU-China Exchange Twinning Program. They are interested in ideas for startups and innovative green solutions, so we exchanged contacts and agreed on news sharing and cooperation via online platforms.

**26<sup>th</sup> Sept. - Meeting with artists and politicians in Wei Dao Garden, Shanghai.**

China implements several programs of intercultural exchanges with European countries. During the meeting officials, businessmen and artists discussed one of the programs that will be implemented in 2018. I presented the EU-China Twinning program, its history and goals. Everyone agreed that such exchanges are very important for the sake of maintaining the environment, as they help to understand the problems of the local and national level including from the cultural section.

**27<sup>th</sup> Sept. - Workshop on making an organic soap.**

Green Housewife take care and volunteer in 32 residential areas of Shanghai. Each week they provide several workshops in some of them. Preferably, this is a workshop for elderly women. Most workshops on ecological issues - they teach how to make living more environmentally friendly, for example, how to sort garbage or make detergents or cosmetics from natural ingredients. For example, a liquid for washing clothes from vegetables, lip balm from wax and oils, natural soap.

**28<sup>th</sup> Sept. - Awarding Ceremony of the most effective and successful NGOs of Shanghai.**

Each year the Shanghai authorities reward the best volunteer organizations in the city. Green Housewife are one of this list. During the ceremony there was an exhibition of public organizations, where each presented itself and its activities. We met with everyone and talked about the exchange program, exchanged contacts with those with whom we work on common problems: energy conservation, green energy development in the communities.

**1<sup>st</sup> Oct. - Visit to History Museum in Shanghai.**

I came to Shanghai during the celebration of the Days of the Nation, so I had the opportunity to get to know one of the oldest and richest cultures in the world by visiting cultural institutions and places.

**4<sup>th</sup> Oct. - Visit to Zhenru Temple.**

**7<sup>th</sup> Oct. - Travel to Hángzhōu, Visit to National Museum of Tea.**

**9<sup>th</sup> Oct. - Workshop on how to repurpose old glass.**

**10<sup>th</sup> Oct. - Workshop on making organic lip balm.**

**12<sup>th</sup> Oct. - Meeting with other participants of Twinning exchange from Poland and Slovenia.**

**12<sup>th</sup> Oct. - Workshop on seed planting.**

Shanghai is a very green city with well-groomed green vegetations. I visited the workshop and realized that this is merit not only of the authorities, but also of the inhabitants of the communities who are very fond of plants. The partners organization taught all those who wished to plant seeds about its appearance and features of care.

**13<sup>th</sup> Oct. - Public partnership Day.**

10 initiatives that volunteer in the communities of Shanghai, organized an exhibition in the park near the Green Housewife office. During the event, they showed people what they are doing, how people can join activities and raise funds for charity.

***Outcome and Impact***

- Common understanding of activities, management and organisation of the respective NGO.
- List of the best practice ideas that can be implemented in communities after completion of the exchange.

- Collection of interesting DIY for workshops to raise ecological issues and promote environmental lifestyles in communities.
- Jointly compiled report on the activities, learnings and experiences during this exchange.
- Photo reports from exchange activities

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

I am glad to be a member of the EU-China Twinning Program and to get acquainted with the work experience of Green Housewife. Staying in their office which located in one of the most famous low-carbon communities in Shanghai and meeting with volunteers of organization inspire me. In the future I plan to keep in contact with Green Housewife and share Ecoclub successes and learn about their new implementation through online platforms.

## **Wanghan, Green Housewife, Shanghai, China**

Dates and location of exchange in China

14<sup>rd</sup> of June-23<sup>th</sup> of July, Munich, Women Engage for a Common Future (WECF) e.V.Germany

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

1. Experience exchange on management, organization and needed skills of environmental NGOs in EU and China
2. Explore and develop gender-sensitive business model for citizen's energy towards decentralized, renewable and safe energy. So-called Prosumers are producers of energy (with PV, combined heat-power-plants, wind, etc.) and consumers.
3. Awareness raising and trainings on the Sustainable Energy Goals (SDGs) of the Agenda2030 for stakeholders, municipalities, students, etc.

Organization of a round table with politicians and experts on decentralized renewable energy and or SDGs. Press releases or maybe a film on SDGs and citizen's energy

### ***Activities***

(Which activities did the exchange fellow participate in?)

### **Work in Munich office / Assistance in following projects and topics:**

- Experience exchange on management, organization and needed skills of environmental NGOs in EU and China
- Awareness raising and trainings on the Sustainable Energy Goals (SDGs) of the Agenda2030 for stakeholders, municipalities, students, etc.: Preparing an event on implementation of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as part of an event series on SDGs by WECF
- Assisting with compiling a comparative study on Energy cooperatives in Eastern Europe and Western Balkan countries and bringing in the perspective of public participation in China

### **Prepare cooperation WECF / Green Women**

- Organization of a round table (in Munich) with politicians and experts on decentralized renewable energy and or SDGs. Press releases a film on SDGs and citizen's energy
- Explore and develop gender-sensitive business model for citizen's energy towards decentralized, renewable and safe energy considering local conditions in EU and China
- Adapting existing training tools for establishing Gender sensitive energy cooperatives for requirements in China

### **Conferences:**

- Travel to Exchange Seminar in Hamburg (14 June-19 June)
- Travel to the European Sustainable Energy Week (19 June– 25 June), an event by the European Commission in Brussels, Belgium; attend conferences, events and networking activities; get an impression of the Energy and Climate situation and politics in Europe
- Travel to two conferences in Berlin(27 June-29 June). The first one was titled “New energy for Africa – cooperative, decentralized, renewable, organized by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development in cooperation with the German Association for cooperatives (DGRV)
- Travel to conference ‘Work in progress: Energy transition’ organized by Heinrich Boell Foundation in Berlin (29 June); presenting preliminary results of the comparative study on Energy cooperatives in Eastern Europe and Western Balkan countries

### **Outcome and Impact**

(What were the concrete results and accomplishments of the exchange?)

1. Mutual understanding of activities, management and organisation of the respective NGO
2. Jointly compiled report on the activities, learnings and experiences during this exchange
3. Press release on the exchange available on WECF and Green Housewife homepage

Communication plan for (digital) communication after the Twinning

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

(Please describe the joint follow-up project if one has been planned and reflect on the sustainability of the collaboration.)

I feel so lucky to have opportunities to join this program and get to know activities, management and organisation of the respective NGO in EU.No matter WECF or Ecoclub, they are excellent with a long history and rich experience. There are many common topics among of us, to build future synergies after the exchange period, we can use digital means of communication like emails and clouds/sharing platforms for knowledge exchange.

**For more information, please contact contact Stiftung Asienhaus-China Program and request access to in-depth twinning reports.**