



BLUE FLAG

2011 EDITION

**ENVIRONMENTAL
EDUCATION ACTIVITIES BOOK**

**FOUNDATION FOR
ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION**



The Blue Flag is a programme from the Foundation for Environmental Education

The Blue Flag Programme is sponsored internationally by:



Corona Extra

<http://www.coronasavethebeach.org>



Beach-Tech

<http://www.beach-tech.com>



Shipmate

<http://www.shipmate.nl>

Foundation for Environmental Education (FEE) is an international organisation that has been promoting environmental education for sustainable development since 1981. FEE is an umbrella organisation with member organisations in around 60 countries around the world. (www.fee-international.org)

FEE is active in environmental education mainly through five programmes:

- Blue Flag (www.blueflag.org)
- Eco-Schools (www.eco-schools.org)
- Young Reporters for the Environment (www.youngreporters.org)
- Learning about Forests (www.leaf-international.org)
- Green Key (www.green-key.org)

Through formal school education, training of staff, and awareness raising, FEE's programmes involve people of all ages and nationalities.



WELCOME TO THE FIRST BLUE FLAG ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION ACTIVITY GUIDE

Why this brochure?

This brochure has been created for two main purposes: to help beach and marina managers to organise environmental education activities which fit with their goals and capacities; and to share good ideas throughout the Blue Flag network.

What kind of Environmental Education?

Environmental Education offers a broad framework that encompasses a number of different ideas and approaches to learning in, for or about the environment, in pursuit of sustainable development. The purpose of this guide is not to debate the different definitions, but to encourage a shared acceptance of the diversity of learning approaches. This introduction, therefore, offers a brief description of environmental education approaches and offers a simple classification to help users to navigate their way through the different activities and worksheets.

One way of understanding environmental education is to see it as education that engages learners with nature, encourages them to ask questions about the environment, and engage with environmental change. This means that environmental education is not just concerned with spreading messages about the environment, but it also provides opportunities to enhance learner understandings, question environmental problems and take action for environmental change in pursuit of a sustainable development.

Therefore, the classification we offer is tentative and open to change.

- Information-seeking or enquiry:

Learners are encouraged to ask questions about the environment and gather information or materials. This might be through surveys, counting, collecting, or measuring different parts of the beach, for example.

- Awareness-raising:

Awareness-raising is an educational activity focused on raising a learner's awareness about environmental problems, in the HOPE that they will do something as a response. An example might be an information campaign.

- Action-oriented:

Action-oriented learning is an approach based on environmental change and improvement. The learners take action on a particular environmental problem and try out one or more solutions with the aim of achieving a better environment for all. A typical example is a litter pick.

- Contact with nature / experiential / exploratory

Experiential approaches to environmental education are often based outside, in the particular environment in question, and seek to inspire learners to care for the environment by encouraging contact with nature and exploration, usually around a particular theme, such as 'the sea shore'.

How is this brochure organised?

As you will see, the different categories overlap and are not mutually-exclusive, hence a learning sequence might actually address all four types of environmental education activity in pursuit of a sustainable development.

The same tagging system is used throughout the document, each activity answering the same questions: target group, theme, method, communication, tips, etc.

The activity sheets are organised by theme: *Biodiversity, Marine World, Marina, Special Events, and Waste*. It must be noted that although a specific "Marina" category has been included, the activities under other categories may easily be adapted for a marina.

Where to find this brochure?

You can download this brochure (fully or by theme) on the Blue Flag international website:
www.blueflag.org

Designing a cloth shopping bag

Target group: Children

Type: Action Oriented

Duration: One week for preparation

Country: Greece

- **METHOD:** As introduction to the activity, you may show a picture of a person carrying his/her shopping in plastic bags. Discuss about the children's viewpoints concerning the use of plastic bags. Explain why plastic bags should not be used. Focus on the fact that they constitute a serious threat for the marine creatures, as they quite often lose their life, because of the floating plastic bags in the sea.

Invite the children to join a discussion afterwards about the need to "Reduce, Re-use, Recycle".

After having made them realize how important this message is, ask them to try to express themselves artistically by making a cloth shopping bag, which will be decorated by useless items, serving as decorative items to be used for the bag. Allocate time for its production and organize an Exhibition for the cloth bags that will have been produced. Possibly you can set a Competition for the nicest bag which will be awarded a prize. You could reproduce the nicest one.



- **MATERIAL:** Old useless cloth and useless items children may find at home.
- **POTENTIAL PARTNERS:** Local handcraft shop can give you glue.
- **COMMUNICATION:** Advertise on the information board, in the local press, local TV Channels.
- **TIPS:** Remember that Trash Art has become quite popular among young people. You could organise another Trash Art Exhibition with objects made from useless items.

Drama and Plays 1

Target group: Children/Youngsters/Teachers

Type: Action Oriented

Duration: 6 hours

Country: Greece

SPECIAL
EVENTS

- **METHOD:** *As you want to make children and youngsters appreciate nature and struggle for the protection of the environment, as an introduction to the activity, you may generate a discussion about the environment, the gifts it offers, the threats it faces, the initiatives and action to be undertaken and the measures to be taken for its protection.*

You categorize the issues to be tackled and you ask the children to split into groups, each of which is assigned an issue to investigate. (i.e. VALUES, ENVIRONMENT & QUALITY IN LIFE, THREATS, INITIATIVES/ACTION, MEASURES etc). A spokesperson is assigned in each group to keep records on what is being said in the group. When the time allocated for the investigation/discussion finishes, the spokespersons of the groups put forward their findings in a round table discussion.

Ask the children / youngsters to split into groups of five, ask them to close their eyes and visualize whatever you will be asking them to visualize while you will be playing a piece of instrumental music. (Choose a musical piece, generating feelings of relaxation in the beginning, turned into fear and threat in the continuation and turned again into optimistic ones at the end). While you will be playing the music and the children / youngsters will be having their eyes closed, ask them to visualize, “a BEAUTIFUL PLACE BY THE SEA or IN THE WOODS, an ENVIRONMENTAL THREAT, YOURSELF, INITIATIVE & ACTION YOU TAKE, MEASURES YOU PROPOSE”. Stop the music and ask the children / youngsters to open their eyes, work in their groups and try to build a story they will turn into a sketch afterwards. Ask the members of each group to act out the play they have created for the rest of the groups. Organise a performance day for the public.

Drama and Plays 1

Alternatively:

Organise a playwright competition. Set the issues to be tackled in it. Ask children / youngsters to write a play in order to enter the competition. Award with a prize the three best plays and ask the awarded playwrights to organise with their classmates a performance, with the help of their teacher.

Organise a performance day on which all three plays will be acted for the public.



- **MATERIAL:** Paper, paints, paint-brushes, paper and pens.
- **POTENTIAL PARTNERS:** Local book-shops can give you the paper, the paints and paint-brushes for free or with a discount.
- **COMMUNICATION:** Advertise on the information board, in the schools.
- **TIPS:** Contact the teachers of your local schools and ask for their help. Provide them with any materials they need to create the stage setting for the performance.

Drama and Plays 2

Target group: Children/Youngsters/Teachers

Type: Action Oriented

Duration: 5 hours

Country: Greece

- **METHOD:** As you want to make children and youngsters appreciate the natural riches and the gifts they offer to people try to make them experience the beauty of nature, by creating the magic setting needed for such experiences. Choose a romantic and relaxing musical piece and play it for the children / youngsters. Ask them to visualize the story this musical piece illustrates. Ask them to feel strongly the feelings the events of the story cause. Ask the children / youngsters to split into groups of 4-5 and cooperate in order to create a romance story. The teacher should monitor the activity, so as the cooperation would be as effective as possible. When the story is completed by each group (within the allocated time), each group are asked to act out by miming for the rest of the groups the story they have created. The audience (the rest children or youngsters) are asked to describe what they have watched. The group who created the story act out in loud voice the story exactly as they created it, so as the audience could compare the original story with the one they guessed.

Alternatively: You can ask the children (if they are quite young) to work in groups and create a fairy tale they will act out for the rest of the children.

Organise a performance day on which all plays will be acted for the public.



- **MATERIAL:** Paper, paints, paint-brushes, paper and pens.
- **POTENTIAL PARTNERS:** Local book-shops can give you the paper, the paints and paint-brushes for free or with a discount.
- **COMMUNICATION:** Advertise on the information board, in the schools.
- **TIPS:** Contact the teachers of your local schools and ask for their help. Provide them with any materials they need to create the stage setting for the performance.
- Ask the children/youngsters to describe the feelings evoked in the story/ fairy tale. So, they will realize, as they are asked to do so, what strong feelings could be evoked in a beautiful natural setting.

Drama / Simulation

Target group: Children

Type: Action Oriented

Duration: 2 hours

Country: Greece

- **METHOD:** As introduction to the activity, you may explain why biodiversity in nature is important. Then, you should invite children to choose a plant or an animal each, and identify and relate themselves with the plant or animal they choose. Ask them to think why their life is in danger. Then ask them to address an appeal to the rest of the audience for the things people should do in order to protect them, as their life is greatly threatened. It is more engaging and committing, if the appeals are written on coloured papers serving as demonstration placards.



- **MATERIAL:** Coloured paper, paints, papers, coloured pencils, scissors.
- **POTENTIAL PARTNERS:** Local handcraft shop or bookshop can give you the materials for free or with a discount.
- **COMMUNICATION:** Advertise on the information board, at schools, at children's clubs.
- **TIPS:** Remember to ask children to change their voices while addressing the appeal to make it sound as "colourful" as possible.

Literature / Drama

(Get inspired and create a fairy tale)

Target group: Children / Teachers

Type: Action Oriented

Duration: 6 +hours

Country: Greece

SPECIAL
EVENTS

- **METHOD:** Organise a visit to a place of geological interest and generate a discussion about the factors that have worked towards the creation of geological sculptures or caves. Raise the need to protect these natural monuments and invite the children to get inspired by what they see. Working in groups let them try to make a fairy tale related to this geological monument. Appoint a secretary / spokesperson in each group and allocate time for this activity. Then, ask each group to narrate their fairy tale to the rest of the groups. (Example 1: A witch who used to destroy a natural park was petrified by someone with magic power. Since then ... Example 2: This is a cave where a prince turned by someone with magic power into a crab used to live until ...)

You can extend the activity by asking the children to work in their groups again and dramatize their fairy tale in order to present it as a play to the public on a performance day you will organize. The play can be enriched with music which children can choose.



- **MATERIAL:** Paper, pens, (for the play: used clothes serving the situation, CDs with music, CD player, paper, paints, paint-brushes). The performance could be at a school theatre, or at a conference centre of the Town Hall or a Hotel.
- **POTENTIAL PARTNERS:** Local handcraft shop / book shop can give you the paper and the pens for free or with a discount. A Conference Centre manager could offer the hall for the event.
- **COMMUNICATION:** Advertise on the information board, at the schools.
- **TIPS:** Ask for a teacher's help. If you extend the activity to the dramatization of the fairy tale you need to organise more than one meeting with the children. Their teacher might undertake the responsibility of preparing the performance. The teacher should help the children to dramatize their fairy tale by helping them to add lively dialogues in it, make rehearsals and build the stage setting.

Environmental Messages

Target group: Primary school groups

Type: Awareness raising

Duration: 40 + 40 minutes

Country: Turkey

- **METHOD:**

- Starting with brainstorming (“what kind of environment we want?”)
- Getting words and collecting them to make sentences with the help of brainstorming
- Repeating the sentences and make the pupils to imagine while listening to the background music
- As part of result oriented coaching, questions are asking and exercising
- Creating slogans after what they had experienced in this working process
- These slogans should be written on an simple drawing of natural being they have chosen
- Painting the working cartons if wanted
- These works should be cut and made portable in order to exhibit at the available parts of the school



- **MATERIAL:** Used carton boxes, scissors, crayon, board marker, glue
- **POTENTIAL PARTNERS:** School staff, friend groups, family members
- **COMMUNICATION:** Close environment to the school
- **TIPS:** Could be linked to special days

Blue Flag Certificate for Schools

Target group: Children/teachers

Type: Awareness Raising

Duration: continuous

Country: Ireland

SPECIAL
EVENTS

- **METHOD:** *This year in Ireland we have developed a Blue Flag Certificate for schools. This initiative is being rolled out to all schools in Ireland. It aims to increase awareness amongst young people and the wider community about the Blue Flag programme. A school is eligible to receive the certificate if they:*
 - i. *Undertake a research project about a Blue Flag beach or*
 - ii. *Carry out an activity on a Blue Flag beach that demonstrates the school's commitment to improving the environment of that Blue Flag beach*

The up to date list of Blue Flag beaches and marinas is available on www.beachawards.ie.

Possible research projects include:

- ✓ *Sand Dune Erosion*
- ✓ *Flora and Fauna*
- ✓ *Health & Safety at the Beach*
- ✓ *The Role of Your Blue Flag Beach in the Community*

Possible activities include:

- ✓ *Beach scavenger*
- ✓ *Beach Clean Up*
- ✓ *Awareness Campaign about Litter/Dog Fouling/Graffiti*
- ✓ *Habitat Survey of the Beach*

A brief description of the activity or project must be submitted to the Blue Flag Manager. It should be no longer than 4 pages and must include the following:

- 1. Name of School*
- 2. School Contact Number*
- 3. Email address for correspondence*
- 4. Class / Classes that participated*
- 5. Contact Teacher*
- 6. Name of Blue Flag Beach*
- 7. Date of submission*
- 8. 500 words description of the activity / research project*
- 9. Photographs of the activity or research*

Blue Flag Certificate for Schools

A Blue Flag Certificate for Schools in recognition of their contribution to the conservation and preservation of their chosen Blue Flag beach or marina will be awarded to those schools that submit this information to an adequate standard.

- **MATERIAL:** *Dependent on activity.*
- **POTENTIAL PARTNERS:** *Dependent on activity.*
- **COMMUNICATION:** *Blue Flag Newsletter, email all Environment Education Officers in Local Authorities, email all Beach Managers, email all Green-Schools Coordinators.*



The National Trust for Ireland

is delighted to award the 2010
Blue Flag Certificate
to

School Name

for their efforts in improving the environment
of their local Blue Flag beach

Blue Flag Beach Name



Annabel Mc Loone
Blue Flag Manager Ireland



Public Talk on “Dog Fouling’ in Cork”

Target group: General Public / Dog Owners

Type: Awareness raising

Duration: 1h30

Country: Ireland

SPECIAL
EVENTS

- **METHOD:** *The talk was organised to give the general public an insight in to why it is important that they control their dog on public beaches and clean up after them. The afternoon’s event was chaired by Mary Stack of Cork County Council. A talk was given by Cork County Councils Veterinary Officer, author of “Responsible Dog Ownership & Dog Bite Prevention”. His talk gave an overview of the legislation in Ireland regarding the responsibility of dog owners. He also talked about the problems that occur when dogs are not looked after responsibly such as attacks and fouling and what effects both of these have on the human population. He then went on to talk about how to care for your dog properly and what you can do if you have concerns about a dog that is not being looked after.*

A representative from An Taisce also spoke about the Clean Coast programme asking groups to get involved in the area. There were also talks given by representatives of the Council about the Blue Flag and a representative from the Dog’s Trust Munster Unit gave a brief talk about her work in the area. All talks were accompanied by Power Point Presentations. There were leaflets on dog fouling, examples of signage used by the local authority and pooper scoopers for those in attendance to bring home with them.

- **MATERIAL:** *Information leaflets, power point presentations, Responsible Dog Ownership & Dog Bite Prevention*
- **POTENTIAL PARTNERS:** *Coastcare groups, Residents associations, County Council, Dogs Trust Charity.*
- **COMMUNICATION:** *Advertised in the local area. Power Point Presentation, youtube video.*
- **TIPS:**

I love my tree

Target group: Primary School Groups

Type: Exploratory

Duration: 2 hours

Country: Turkey

- **METHOD:**

- *Pupils are led to the garden with their eyes closed by the help of scarf.*
- *Under the supervision of teacher(s), each pupil is taken near a tree.*
- *By touching and hugging a tree, pupils are told to feel and to get to know their own tree.*
- *In the meantime, pupils are told to imagine what their teachers are telling about the life stories of the trees by using personalization method.*
- *After a while (after the group feels ready), teacher(s) take the pupils away from the trees and open their eyes to make a circle in the middle of the garden.*
- *The teacher, who is standing in the middle of the circle, asks to the pupils to find their own tree.*
- *Teacher(s) asks the pupils whom have found their own tree to come back to the circle, and the ones who couldn't find are guided to find their tree by the help of the teacher(s).*
- *After re-circling, the teacher throws the ball which she/he's holding to one of the student and asks her/him to tell her/his feelings.*
- *After sharing the feelings of one pupil, they are needed to throw the ball to another.*
- *The first tour should be finished by sharing the pupils' feelings and the second one should cover the feelings of the trees.*

After finishing the garden work;

- *pupils are asked to make a writing activity about their feelings and the trees' feelings*
- *pupils are asked to make a painting activity*
- *pupils are asked to make a presentation on the importance of the trees in our lives*



- **MATERIAL:** Requested number of scarves, ball
- **POTENTIAL PARTNERS:** School staff, teachers
- **COMMUNICATION:** Could be link with other schools.
- **TIPS:** Could be repeated in each season

World Environment Day (integrating the LEAF and Blue Flag programmes)

Target group: All public close to the beach

Type: Action Oriented

Duration: 2 hours

Country: Turkey

SPECIAL
EVENTS

- **METHOD:**

- *Contacting with a Local Blue Flag Responsible*
- *Inviting the responsible to school and having the information about the Blue Flag, giving some information about the LEAF Programme*
- *Talking about what can be done cooperatively for the environment*
- *Encouraging everyone to talk and trying to create different ideas*
- *Forming effective slogans to carry and writing some scripts that show the importance of saving the environment in the World Environment Day*
- *Accelerating people by cleaning the beaches and getting them help the group*
- *Showing all the garbage collected from the beach and sea*



- **MATERIAL:** *Used cartons, scissors, crayon, board marker, glue, garbage bags, gloves.*
- **POTENTIAL PARTNERS:** *Blue Flag Awarded beaches and marinas, municipality, provincial directorate of environment, the chamber of sea trade.*
- **COMMUNICATION:** *the areas related with the school and the sea.*
- **TIPS:** *Must be done frequently with the cooperation of different sectors to point out the importance of the environment.*

Hidden dangers at the coast

Target group: Adults

Type: Awareness Raising

Duration: 1-2 hours

Country: Denmark

SPECIAL
EVENTS

- **METHOD:** A guide from the interpretation centre gathers the group at the Blue Flag flagpole. First the participants are asked questions about their prior knowledge about the dangers on the beach and in the harbour. Afterwards, the guide suggests different solutions based on the participants answers - and leads the group around in the area pointing out the hidden dangers and describing different types of beaches (city beach, isolated beach etc.). At the end of the outing a folder about safety is handed out.
- **MATERIAL:** A guide from the interpretation centre or a representative from a safety related organisation (lifesaving organisations, the local police, etc.), folders about safety and a microphone or megaphone.
- **POTENTIAL PARTNERS:** Local police, lifesaving organization, insurance companies.
- **COMMUNICATION:** The activity can be announced through the loudspeaker system or the guide can contact the people on the beach, explaining that a short safety course will be held for parents and others interested. Folders and flyers can likewise be handed out.

Mini Ironman

Target group: Teenagers (or adults)

Type: Action Oriented

Duration: About 3 hours

Country: Denmark

SPECIAL
EVENTS

- **METHOD:** In collaboration with lifesaving organisations and the City Council the interpretation centre arranges a mini triathlon. The contestants meet for example at the marina. The route is laid out for the running to take place on the beach. At the beach the participants are going to swim a certain distance in the sea. After this the contestants must cycle a marked route before finishing at goal area. At the finishing area, the hand out of medals and gifts will take place. After this some kind of food and beverage is served for the hungry and thirsty contestants.
- **MATERIAL:** First aid personal, local police, life guards, volunteers handing out water, fruits and ex. sandwiches. Volunteers register all the contestants.
- **POTENTIAL PARTNERS:** City Council, potential sponsors (bicycle shops, local sport clubs, fitness centres, life saving organisations, local shops (food and beverages, flowers for the winners, gifts for the winners). The application procedure for the mini ironman could be handled by the physical education teachers at the school before the summer holiday begins.
- **COMMUNICATION:** Advertisement on the local newspaper, local radios, SMS-chains, posters at the elementary and secondary schools and at the municipality website.
- **TIPS:** Communication and security are the key elements in this activity. Deadline for signing up is necessary. Seek advice about preparations at organizations holding similar events (Ecco, Sparta Athletes Club ect.).

Art Exhibition

Target group: Children / Adults

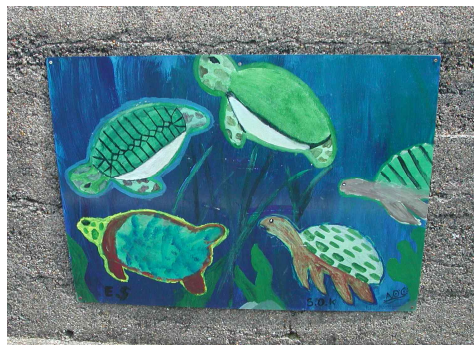
Type: Action Oriented

Duration: Decided by organisers

Country: Greece

- **METHOD:** An Art Exhibition with themes inspired by the environment will raise awareness to the public about the need to protect it. The beauty of the environment triggers talented people's feelings and creativity who express themselves in an artistic way. Not only should adult artists be invited to participate in this Art Exhibition but children as well. Both might produce artworks which will attract the attention of even those who have not got an artistic talent themselves.

An open air exhibition might be very effective, as the ones who will visit it are not only those interested in seeing it but also all the passersby who otherwise would have never seen it. So, obviously in the case of an open air exhibition the ones who will benefit from it will be quite a lot.



- **MATERIAL:** Paints, drawing paper, brushes, colour chalk for the drawings on the ground.
- **POTENTIAL PARTNERS:** Local handcraft shop can offer materials for free or with a discount.
- **COMMUNICATION:** Advertise on the information board, at the local press, local TV channels.
- **TIPS:** Organize a Competition and set a prize for the best three paintings.

Campaign

Target group: Children

Type: Action Oriented

Duration: 4 hours

Country: Greece

- **METHOD:** As introduction to the activity, you may explain and discuss with the children how important nature is for us and why there is a great need for the protection of the environment. As long as it has become quite clear for the children why we should all try to protect the environment, ask them to express their thoughts either on posters or on a very long piece of cloth put on a long wall of a very busy street.

If the children choose to make their own posters, ask them to turn them into placards and while holding them in their hands demonstrate in the streets asking people to protect the Environment. If the children choose to draw on the piece of cloth, inspired by nature, ask them to write messages on their painting, inviting people to protect the environment.

Both happenings will attract people's attention who will consider their habits, concerning the protection of the environment.



- **MATERIAL:** Cloth, paints, paint-brushes, hard coloured paper, coloured pens, sticks.
- **POTENTIAL PARTNERS:** Local handcraft shop can give you the paint and the hard paper for free or with a discount.
- **COMMUNICATION:** Advertise at schools, at children's clubs.
- **TIPS:** Remember to use water colour paint so that if the children stain themselves the parents can wash the clothes.

Campaign

Target group: Children

Type: Action Oriented

Duration: 4 hours

Country: Greece

- **METHOD:** As introduction to the activity, you may explain why there is a great need to protect the environment. Invite the children to join the discussion concerning the threats the environment faces and ask them to give ideas on how awareness for its protection could be raised to the public. Ask the children to work in groups and make placards with messages concerning the protection of the environment. Then ask the children either to sail along the beach or to walk around in the streets of your town, with their placards raised. This could be a lively demonstration-invitation addressed to the citizens of the town to do their best in order to protect the environment.



- **MATERIAL:** Paper, paints, paint-brushes.
- **POTENTIAL PARTNERS:** Local handcraft shop can give you the paint for free or with a discount. A boat owner could be very helpful for the activity.
- **COMMUNICATION:** The activity could serve as a very effective invitation to the public for initiatives and action to be undertaken for the protection of the environment. Unexpected happenings, particularly when created by children, constitute surprising events which attract people's attention and interest.
- **TIPS:** Remember to use water colour paint so that if the children stain themselves the parents can wash the clothes.

The first version of this brochure has been produced by a Blue Flag working group composed of Blue Flag National Operators, Environmental Education experts and the International Blue Flag Coordination.

Special thanks to: Helen Springall (Environmental Education expert), Almila Kindan (FEE Turkey), Ana Pérez Montero & Virginia Yuste Abad (FEE Spain), Annabel McLoone (FEE Ireland), Dyonisia Papadopoulos (FEE Greece), Helen de Witt Qvist (FEE Denmark), Lindie Buirski (FEE South Africa expert), Richard McIlwain (FEE England), Jenni Jelkänen, Joan Arildslund and Sophie Bachet (Blue Flag International Coordination)

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