

HOW TO SAVE A TREE

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(Gimnasium “Niko Rolović” Bar)

One of the recognizable features of Bar is an olive tree. Bar is proud of its oldest olive tree in Europe. For two thousand and three hundred years the old olive tree on Mirovica withstand the behaviours of nature and man. However, many other trees have not had a chance for longevity. Although in the area of the municipality of Bar there are about one hundred thousand olive trees, the fact that during the sixties of the twentieth century, there were twice as many, calls for thinking. The story of the olive tree, is only an introduction to a much broader story about the fate of trees that is being cut down, burned, destroyed, in Bar and beyond.

At the local as well as at the global level the same happens. The rapid process of urbanization and the overall quest for money, man devastates the nature and favors cold concrete areas, not realizing that it would endanger their lives and those of their descendants.



Old olive tree at Mirovica

(source: BarInfo)

Recycling of paper is certainly one of the main ways to save a tree. In this process each individual could participate. Through participation in the recycling of waste, at least from your home, with a little bit of our effort, the future of a tree could be brighter.

To understand the importance of recycling, it is necessary to include the following information:

Paper accounts for more than 40% of our waste, and to create one ton of paper, it is necessary to cut down 17 trees of medium size. In the past 15 years, the area under forest in the world decreased by 3%, which is an alarming fact, given the short time that it happened. If this tendency continues, what will happen to the lungs of our planet in fifty years?

The answer is in the recycling of paper. Paper can be recycled even seven times, and the recycling process requires half the water and energy than is required for the production of raw materials. This would achieved notable 73% less pollution than traditional paper production form the wood.

Well, if all these facts exists, what's the problem? Is the fact that citizens are not well informed, so they do not have awareness about the importance of recycling? Or maybe the fact is that each individual thinks they can not change anything by themselves? Or, in this age of technology, the awareness about how important is the healthy and green environment, is completely lost?



The picture shows more than words
(view from Bar)

In the attempt to find at least some answers, I conducted a small survey at my school. The subjects were students between 15 and 16 years old. In the survey, I asked students three questions - whether they know what recycling is, whether they use recycled products and if they had ever recycled something.

The results showed that all students generally know what recycling is, which can make us very satisfied. However, to the following two questions almost 95% of students responded negatively, which means that they have never used recycled products (or do not know they were using them), and that they have never recycled. However, in all this there was a bright side - the remaining 5% of responses also included several very interesting and creative ideas.

One of the students suggested setting up two bins of different colors in the lobby and in the classrooms of the school. One bin to serve for throwing plastic waste and the other for throwing paper - intended for wastes that are most common in school. It would be a continuing education through practice. Another student said he would like to see the recycling process, and also to try to recycle, and he suggested organizing an educational workshops in our school.

Through informal discussions with students later, it turned out that many of them are interested in both activities. These ideas were supported by our school administration, so we really hope that all this will not remain only a promise.

Because, for raising awareness about the threat to our planet and about the need to save trees in the world, is the key to improvement.

The answer to what we have come by the end of this report is that, in fact, we need very little to get things started for the better! Therefore, let's not wait that even this little, instead of us, someone else does. Let's take, everyone individually, what we can and as much as we can! Only in this way we will save a tree!