

INTERVIEW WITH THE PIONEER OF THE RIVER CLEANUP INITIATIVE

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Interviewer: Hello, I'm Jurate from the Social Hub Association. We are currently implementing the Erasmus+ project Eco4Eco. We would like to talk about your initiative as a good example of Lithuania. Thank you for agreeing to be interviewed. First of all, could you briefly tell us about the River Cleanup initiative and how it started?

Lina: Hello, I am happy to be involved. "River Cleanup is a community-based initiative that aims to restore and preserve the health of rivers, streams and water bodies by removing litter, trash and pollutants from their banks and waters. The idea was born out of observing the environment and noticing how much waste accumulates in our rivers. This spurred me to take action and bring the community together to solve the problem.

Interviewer: What challenges did you face in starting this initiative?

Lina: The first and biggest challenge was to get people involved and motivated to participate. Many were sceptical or simply unaware of the scale of the problem. There was also the need to find the right way to sort and properly dispose of the waste collected. Funding and resources were also a challenge, as tools and instruments were needed to collect waste.

Interviewer: How did you manage to involve young people in this initiative?

Lina: Young people are very important for our initiative. We actively work with schools, universities and youth organisations. We provide opportunities for young people to learn different skills such as teamwork, leadership, problem solving, communication and time management. They also become more aware of environmental issues and develop a sense of responsibility for protecting nature.

Interviewer: What are the main skills and benefits that young people can gain from participating in the River Cleanup?

Lina: By participating in our initiative, young people can develop the following skills: teamwork, leadership, problem solving, communication and time management. They also

gain a deep understanding of environmental issues and practical experience of how to tackle them. It also increases their pride in their community and fosters collective responsibility for environmental protection.

Interviewer: What are the main results and benefits of the River Cleanup initiative for the community?

Lina: our initiative has many positive results and benefits. Firstly, we are contributing to the restoration and preservation of local ecosystems by removing litter and waste from rivers. This improves the natural beauty of the rivers and makes them more enjoyable for residents and visitors. Second, we reduce the risk of health problems caused by pollution for community members who use the water for recreational activities or rely on it as a water source. Finally, our activities foster community pride and environmental responsibility.

Interviewer: Thank you for the interview and for your contribution to the well-being of our environment. Is there anything you would like to add?

Lina: Thank you. I would like to invite everyone to join our initiative and become environmental ambassadors. Every small action can have a big impact. If you would like to join or find out more, you can contact us at lina@zaliojistrategija.lt or by phone +3706 721 6383. Together we can make a big difference.