

DRITA

SARAJ, SKOPJE



**“We work on this
because this is
our planet.
This is our home.
We don’t have
another one”**
-- Drita Student

The Macedonian Green School Program reduces the environmental impact of Macedonian primary schools and creates better learning environments through *renovation, education, awareness promotion, and student empowerment.*

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PROJECT BACKGROUND

Since 2007, USAID Primary Education Project contributed over US\$30,000 worth of renovations to the school, with donations from the municipality and community exceeding US\$47,000 to improve learning conditions and decrease expenditures in the school. The money was used to install new windows and doors, florescent lights and replace leaky faucets. Bike racks and an automatic door closer were also bought for the school.



STRATEGIES AND RESULTS

When the Green Club was founded in 2008, the student members continued greening the school with different projects, including making educational posters for their peers and handing out flyers in their community to raise awareness about alternative and environmentally friendly modes of transportation and waste management.

This year the students are focusing on waste management issues, due to the lack of quality infrastructure in the village. One of their main goals is setting up a plastic recycling system that can be utilized by the entire community. "We have the space to store the recyclable bottles," says the director, "then an outside company can come pick them up once a month or so."

Expenditures for heating have significantly decreased since the renovations. Although the school does not yet have a central heating system, they have been able to use approximately 30% less wood for heating the classrooms because of the new doors and windows.

The Club's advisor is not only proud of his students, but is impressed that they've gone beyond his expectations. "I didn't believe so much would change or that we would have any influence, but now we have seen a change not only in the behavior of the students, but also in their families and communities."

"The students know they can change something in the school. They didn't feel that before, but now they do."

-- Ramadan Kovachi
(Drita's Director)



ABOUT DRITA

Drita is located in the small village of Rashche in the municipality of Saraj, on the outskirts of Skopje. It serves with approximately 488 students in grades 1-9 with 26 staff members. The language of instruction is Albanian.



For more information, please visit our website: www.greenschools.org.mk

