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**Training Module for Teachers
“Introduction to the Climate Change Issues and the Practical
Application of the ‘Climate Box’ Interactive Learning
Toolkit in Educational Organizations”**

**Recommendations for the Organization, Preparation and
Hosting of Climate Change Projects Competitions for
Schoolchildren at Different Levels (School, City, Regional)**



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Introduction

It is difficult to imagine improving quality of schoolchildren's projects on socially significant topics and the creation of an educational space that motivates both project authors and scientific advisors, without organizing a separate platform where it would be possible to form ties both between project participants and between participants and the professional community representatives (experts on climate and geography, energy, manufacturing). In addition, the organization of such platforms not only allow to increase, expand and popularize existing projects, but involve other participants in the project activities, for example, people as visitors who encourage both project developers and their scientific advisers. In this regard, an important tool of educational work is the organization and holding of competitive events for children and young people, a separate competition for socially significant projects on Climate Change.

Competition Format

The competition can be presented in the following formats:

1. A separate independent event with its own regulations, which has separate competition founders (local education administration, school governing council, methodological association of teachers, etc.);
2. A separate independent section within the existing similar competition with introducing appropriate changes to the competition regulations;
3. The competition can be organized only at the school level or with the subsequent selection of the best projects and their promotion to the city competition and further to regional and national competitions.

Competition Governance and Management Structure

It is recommended to form the following controls:

1. The competition appeals commission, where participants who do not agree with the result of individual stages can send their objections and receive a reasoned response or refusal to fulfill the request;
2. An expert commission who will evaluate projects at the stage of processing applications and during further face-to-face presentation.

Competition Documents

Holding a competition requires careful documentation that is publicly available for all interested parties:

1. Competition regulation – a separately developed document or an adjusted version of the document of an existing competition with related topics;
2. List of documents for filing an application. The list is recommended to include consent to personal data processing (depending on the requirements of local legislation), project thesis (a summary, including the name, purpose, objectives, project stages and conclusions, results), full text, presentation. The theses can be used for compiling an abstracts digest of the competition, while the full text of the paper and presentation can be used by a commission of experts for making a decision on the project's future.

Competition Schedule

The contest should be publicly announced beforehand, preferably no later than six months before the first day of accepting applications. Despite the fact that all comprehensive information about the competition stages and timing is reflected in the regulation, it is worth adding the following information to the event announcement:

1. Deadline for accepting applications (interval of at least one month);
2. Email or personal account for sending applications;
3. An excerpt from the regulation on the projects' requirements, the main objectives of the competition (solving problems or preventing global climate change and adapting to its consequences);
4. Requirements for participants and papers;
5. Evaluation criteria and participation format (full-time, correspondence, online conference).

Competition Organizing Committee Work

The competition organizing committee is endowed with the following functions:

1. Applications evaluation and processing;
2. Dividing participants to age categories;
3. Distribution of the submitted projects among the competition experts;
4. Providing feedback to the competition participants, sending out experts' decisions, if possible, providing participants with critical reviews, especially for those who are not admitted to the next competition final and the next stage, if there are school, city, regional stages.

Project Evaluation Criteria

The organization of the assessment system seems to be the most vulnerable block during the competition, since there is a large proportion of the "human factor". The more objective and uniform the experts' way of evaluating projects is, the more joy the event will bring to both organizers and participants. The further fate of the presented projects will largely depend on how the assessment algorithm is built, both in terms of the implementation itself and further deepening and expanding the work by the author and scientific advisor. In addition, an evaluation system capable of impartially and fairly grading projects according to their significance and contribution to the fight against the climate change effects play a key role in both the authors' participation in the competition in the future and the development and promotion of the competition itself.

In this regard, it is worthwhile to separately analyze the criteria and the proposed methods for evaluating presented projects using the expert sheet in Appendix 1. It is proposed to evaluate the work according to 5 criteria, it is allowed to use fractional points with a step of one tenth with the evaluation range from 0 to 2. According to the proposed evaluation system, the project can get a final score from 0 to 10:

1. Relevance

The maximum number of points, i.e. 2 points, are awarded to a project where the relevance is justified by knowledge of the global climate change problems, knowledge is based on modern scientific data, the global climate change consequences are assessed in general for the planet, humanity and for the area

where the project is being implemented (region, city, village), the goal is achievable, tasks are being solved "here and now", practical activities have been carried out.

1 point is awarded to the project if the relevance is insufficiently substantiated, the goal is difficult to achieve, practical activities are only planned.

0 points is awarded to a project with poorly substantiated relevance, its goal is unattainable, or if the goal is not socially significant, not associated with solving the problems of global climate change or finding adaptive solutions, activities have not been carried out and are not planned.

2. Planning

2 points are awarded to the project if the resources involved are indicated and feasible for the participants, the project implementation stages are planned and carried out and have the content corresponding to the competition topic (climate, consequences, adaptation, actions to reduce climate impact).

1 point is awarded if the resources involved are not fully indicated or are overwhelming for the author, the project stages are only planned, but not fully completed, the content of the work is not explicitly related to solving the global climate change problem.

0 points are awarded if the resources involved are not indicated, the planning of stages is not worked out, the fight against the climate change consequences is only declared.

3. Product

2 points are awarded to the project if the project product is provided and its contribution to solving the problem of climate change is demonstrated, for example

- the amount of reduction in greenhouse gas emissions or their absorption – for example, for greening projects, is calculated;
- adaptation mechanisms have been developed to reduce the effects of global climate change – for example, drought-resistant plant varieties have been developed and introduced, salt water desalination plants have been designed for coastal arid regions, a certain number of people were informed about possible specific adaptation measures for various consequences of climate change etc.).

In addition, the product has been tested, the result is presented in specific units, positive reviews have been received on the product or project author activities, the product implementation has a climatic focus.

1 point is awarded if the project product is provided, but not tested, there are no reviews on the product, the product implementation is not directly related to climate problems, or there is no demonstration of reducing the volume of greenhouse gas emissions, the prevention of a specific volume of emissions (in liters or kilograms), calculations are not presented on the greenhouse gases accumulation by plants or on the project positive impact on adaptation to climate change by ecosystems, people and / or their economic activities.

0 points are awarded if the project product is not presented, in broad terms, or unrelated to climate.

4. Speech

2 points are awarded if the author actively uses the Climate box textbook terminology during presentation, the speech reflects all the necessary sections of the work (relevance, purpose, tasks, materials and methods, results), confidently answers questions asked by experts, reports live.

1 point is awarded if the terminology from the textbook is little used, some sections in the report are missing, the answers to the questions cause difficulties in understanding the questions, the report is read from a piece of paper.

0 points are awarded for inappropriate use of terms related to global climate change, poor understanding of the meaning of the questions asked, some sections are missing, the author is confused in the materials.

5. Visual Influence

2 points are awarded to the project if the presentation (stand) is not overloaded with text, the illustrations are copyrighted, appropriate, additional visual materials are presented.

1 point is awarded if the presentations are overloaded with text or unnecessary information, some of the illustrations are borrowed from the Internet, the meaning of the illustrations does not coincide with the text.

0 points are awarded if there are only illustrations from the Internet, they do not reflect the author's contribution to the project, do not relate directly to the project topic.

Methods of Project Presentation

At the first stage of collecting project papers it is recommended to accept all competition documentation, including theses, presentation and text of the project in electronic form by mail or a personal account, as mentioned above. After the selection of projects that best meet the project requirements, it is worth distinguishing a group of authors of 10-15 people for public presentation. Additionally, groups can be organized according to age criterion or, with a large number of works corresponding to the competition, organized according to the principle of project implementation (adaptation to global climate change and its consequences or combating the global climate change causes).T

Projects can be presented in person or by videoconference, by broadcasting on open Internet platforms. If the competition provides for several stages (city, regional, national), then the experts evaluating the work must select the 3 strongest projects to promote their authors to the next stage. If the competition is limited only to the school stage, then it is worth encouraging all authors by awarding appropriate nominations (the best village project, the best urban project, the best project for adaptation to climate change, etc.). It is proposed to proceed the same way at other competition stages, where selection of the best works and promotion to the next stage are not provided for.

Appendix 1

Expert Sheet for Assessing Schoolchildren's Projects on Climate Change, Its Consequences and Adaptation Ways

Nomination _____

Project Name _____

Author or Group of Authors (Full Name) _____

City _____

Evaluation Criteria of the Competition Material	Assessment Range	Grade
1. Relevance	0-2	
2. Planning	0-2	
3. Product	0-2	
4. Speech	0-2	
5. Visual Influence	0-2	
TOTAL	0-10	

Expert Full Name _____

Position _____

Date « ____ » _____ 202__

Signature _____