

Vivim Plegats Multicultural Education Programme

Name: Sebastià Barceló

Organization and title: Vivim Plegats (Living Together), Pedagogical Advisor

A) How did your organization first hear about the Earth Charter?

Through a co-worker.

B) Tell us about the project/program that you are working on with the Earth Charter:

i) How and when did it get started?

As the initiative of a school teacher. He presented a project to the Balearic Islands education authorities in Spain and it was accepted. They made a proposal to him to promote and coordinate the effort.

ii) What are its objectives?

Promote intercultural behavior, as well as peace and cooperation education.

iii) How long has it been going on for?

3 years (this will be the fourth year).

iv) Who are the participants and how many people does it affect?

56 infantile, primary, secondary school centers in the Balearic Islands, Spain and a center for special education (for students with autism).

We have also presented the program to the Faculty of Education of the Balearic Islands University.

v) Exactly how is the Earth Charter being used within it?

The Earth Charter was adapted for different age groups and is the core part of the content taught in these schools.

vi) What are your plans for expanding/going forward with this project?

To generalize the use of the Earth Charter in all schools in the Balearic Islands.

vii) Have you noticed its impact/positive effect?

YES.

viii) Has there been any attempts to evaluate it?

Yes, we have evaluated it with guidelines and the reports from most of the centers.

ix) Is there any additional information you want to tell us that may not have been captured by the questions above?

The program is at a critical stage due to a change of government. Unfortunately, the new government has shown distrust towards the coordinators and the program.

C) Please also write a brief “story” about why you work with the Earth Charter and how it is useful to you or inspires you in this work.

When I had the opportunity to acknowledge the Earth Charter principles, I noticed that they embrace the same ideals that inspired my personal and professional life, as an educator. It is the way to work with a planetary project within the principle: “Think globally, act locally.” The experiences I have had and the relationship with people that also work with this program have been enriching.

D) Do you have any short quotes about the Earth Charter – one phrase or sentence that is striking and memorable.

“The Earth is the home for everyone. We should all care for her. So that we, all humans take care of her, education is needed. Mainly emotional and values education is needed to enable us to criticize the dominant social model and respectfully suggest new alternatives. Another world is possible”.