

## Project for climate protection through improved behavior of the energy consumers in the European schools

### (Project 50/50)

The project is implemented in partnership with the German Independent Institute for Environmental Issues **UfU** and the Romanian organization **Environ** with the support of the Federal Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Germany.

In light of the belief, that the pupils' behavior is of decisive importance both at school and at home, the project is aiming at increasing the awareness among the pupils on the energy efficiency topic and to encourage them to save energy in their schools. It has a practical focus, allowing the pupils to be directly included in the process of evaluating and improving the energy consumption in their schools.

At this first stage, four schools are participating in the project – BS “Neofit Rilski” and BS “Hristo Maksimov” from Samokov and 56<sup>th</sup> school “Konstantin Irechek” and 79<sup>th</sup> school “Indira Gandhi” from Lyulin neighborhood in Sofia. In two of these schools, NTEF is already financing investment projects for improving the energy efficiency of buildings, and in the other two – these measures are pending.

The implementation of this project consists in the setting up of permanently acting pupils' energy teams under the mentorship of several teachers. In order to prepare for their role of energy teams' managers, the teachers attended training in Berlin, and after that they also trained on-site in their schools.

The established energy teams received educational materials developed for the project, and were as well trained on the energy efficiency subject. They also received measurement devices with which to monitor the state of energy consumption in their schools. They started their activity with the conducting of energy tours in the schools to evaluate the situation in the school and identify efficient ways for reducing the energy consumption. The energy tour includes evaluation of the heating, lighting, water consumption, waste treatment, etc. The developed proposals for improving the energy consumption can include provision of information on the use of the windows and the heating, marking the light switches, change in the hot water supply, etc., and the results from each project stage are announced in front of the remaining students from the relevant school.

The funds saved from increasing the energy efficiency may be used to organize excursions, or other pleasant and educational activities at the school.

The project is being implemented from September 2016 to March 2018.