

FORUM SYNERGIES SCHOLARSHIP

Trainee: Madara Zamarina, Latvia

Host: Vahe Darbinyan, "ABCD Innovation Center", Armenia

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From my point of view, we learned a lot from each other, and this traineeship will have a long-lasting effect on all of us – some children overcame their shyness to speak in English for the first time that is an important step towards training their skills, some children learned the effect that burning rubber and plastics has on the environment and started thinking of alternative practices for village's waste management, some children found out how everything in our world is interconnected and picked up waste that wasn't theirs. To me, personally, this opportunity has reminded on how much I like to work with children and has shown that we can find a common language quite well. It has inspired me to work further on sustainable development together with children since it is easier to form or change habits that can affect the development at a younger age, since children look at the world with such a "clear" view and optimism, and often have the greatest ideas that only the creative mind of a child can do. This experience has also proven to me what I have believed for several years now – that a united community can achieve wonderful and ambitious goals even when faced with adverse circumstances and that not much is needed to give a spark for the process of change.

As for the future, I am starting to think of ways to include children in development planning processes that is not something we do yet but has a potential to help create more diverse, creative solutions to our everyday struggles that, after all, those children will face themselves in a few years if nothing is done now. Secondly, I am considering applying to a program that prepares professionals from different fields to work as teachers since this scholarship experience has shown me how rewarding it is to work with children and how sustainable development can be initiated "from the roots" – not so much in changing the habits of adults (that, of course, is also necessary) as educating the young that can drive further change.

