



ECO-SCHOOLS INTERNATIONAL

NEWSLETTER

JUN/JUL 2008

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Editorial

We hope everyone – at least those in the Northern Hemisphere – are enjoying their well deserved summer and vacations!

In this edition of our newsletter we want to tell you about everything that has been going on lately in Eco-Schools all over the world: how the Greek students are doing wonderful work in their VolvoAdventure Project, how the Polish Eco-School St. Rafał Kalinowski Primary School is establishing itself as a cultural reference, how the Irish Programme is finding ways of not using the car to school and how Green Flags have been granted in Czech Republic and Northern Ireland.

We also have exciting FEE news to share with you: there's a new donation shop now available online, the General Assembly was a success and UNEP and FEE are organising an environmental education conference on 28-29 October 2008 in Nairobi, Kenya.

Besides, the Environment and Innovation "Climate Change: Let's Save Energy!" Project, which is being developed in 6 countries (Portugal, Turkey, Italy, Norway, Finland and Denmark) in connection with the Toyota Motor Europe through the Toyota Fund for Europe, has reached the stage where schools are selected to implement the Project, and we already know who the chosen ones in Portugal are.

We also want to introduce you to the Coolest Classroom on Earth: Feet of Green launches a new great way to learn about the Environment.

The KidsCall campaign, on which we worked with the World Future Council, has handed over its message to the German and Japanese Governments.

You will also find interesting links, news on other initiatives as well as Upcoming events.

Enjoy the reading,

Olga, Isabel and Estela
International Eco-Schools Coordination

Eco-Schools of the Month

PROJECT FOR THE VOLVOADVENTURE 2008 COMPETITION: OUR WORLD - OUR RESPONSIBILITY - 2ND GYMNASIUM KILKIS GREECE

Our town is located to the North of Greece in the Central Macedonia region. For the past few years we have only had a small forest! Our goal is to make our town proud of its own forests! In our effort we have been supported by our Municipality, Prefecture, Balkan Botanic Garden, Hellenic Society for the Protection of Nature (a non-governmental organisation) and of course by our school principal and teachers.

We are trying to create small forests around our small town in order to produce clean air and filter the pollution. Our project is about nursing the small trees we plant, during our tree planting campaigns over the last 2 years. We chose this project because we discovered that our trees were destroyed by shepherds and farmers so we have to take care of them and protect them, like small children.

We believe that with our care and protection the trees will grow and become strong and healthy. It's like adopting a small child and you want to take care of him/her so they will grow up to be a strong and healthy human. As an effect to our small town, people will see and understand that we are doing a serious job also they will think twice before destroying the trees.

Firstly, we made a research via internet about the tree species

in Greece and we learned about *Pinus brutia*, *Cupressus sempervirens*, *Pinus heldreichii* etc. Afterwards we asked for help from our local Prefecture office in charge of forests and they informed us about the local tree species, the proper places and the correct way of planting them and most importantly how to nurse them.

Our target is to create environmental awareness to our fellow students, our parents, citizens of our town and why not; to all Greeks. We want people to understand that just planting trees is not enough, that the trees need constant protection and care like small children. You cannot give birth to a child and leave it to its fate.

Our tree planting project began 7 years ago but the environmental disaster last summer made us understand that just planting trees isn't enough... we have to keep on working every day!

**2nd Gymnasium Kilkis,
Greece**

Mrs Alike Vavouris,
**Hellenic Society for the
Protection of Nature,**
hspn@hol.gr



Eco-Schools of the Month

ST. RAFAŁ KALINOWSKI PRIMARY SCHOOL "ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION SCHOOL ON THE AMBER TRAIL" POLONIA

St. Rafał Kalinowski Primary School in Zawoja Przysłop was founded in 1959 with strong support from the local community. Situated on the remote outskirts of the town, the school is an important centre of culture for the residents and the focal point of the area. It adapts its educational offer to the needs of the local community, especially schoolchildren and their parents.

In 1999 the school was given the title of the Environmental Education Centre on the Amber Trail. Since then its community – teachers, parents and pupils – have been involved in organizing events and participating in activities promoting environmental awareness, according to the motto In harmony with Decalogue and nature.

The school building is fully insulated, has got its own water treatment plant, solar panels and energy saving lamps. On the premises there is a garden displaying a variety of plants. In 2001 the school took the initiative of creating an educational path presenting the most interesting natural, ecological and cultural sites of the area. The path comprises 14 sites which present the following themes:

- the school's achievements,
- ecological activities of the local community,
- work of local artists and craftsmen,
- old houses, wells and cellars,
- wayside shrines,
- Carmelite monastery (with its solar panels, heat pump and wood-fired furnace),
- wind power plant
- local bio-variety including animal habitats, rock formations, mountain streams, fir and beech forests and endangered plants,
- mountain landscape with views of Babia Góra, Polica and Jałowiec ranges.

The school prides itself on its own regional museum with exhibits such as old tools, domestic appliances, clothes and photographs. Teachers and pupils have compiled books of stories, songs and legends from the area, photo albums and dictionaries of dialectal expressions and



proper names. The school shop offers books about the region and local crafts.

St. Rafał Kalinowski holds First and Second Class Green Certificates granted in recognition of its contribution to the balanced development of the area.

It organizes several educational events for tourists and schoolchildren.

In June 2007 St. Rafał Kalinowski Primary School was the first school in Poland to be granted the Green Flag – an international award given to schools participating in the Eco-Schools Programme.

The school's activities are supported by the Balanced Development Association, whose members are parents, teachers and residents of Przysłop.

Ms. Malgorzata Luszczyk

Fundacja Partnerstwo dla Środowiska

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News From Eco-Schools

GREEN-SCHOOLS TRAVEL, PAVING THE WAY FOR A CAR FREE JOURNEY TO SCHOOL!



Image provided courtesy of Corporate PR

It has been a busy and exciting year for An Taisce's Green-Schools Travel team. On June 5th 2008 the annual Green-Schools Travel Art Competition Awards Ceremony was held. Fitter – Faster – Stronger was the theme of this year's competition and as usual it attracted huge interest from the schools. Students were invited to design postcards that promoted walking and cycling to school. The postcards will be used to spread the message of sustainable travel in the next school year. Mr. Noel Dempsey, T.D., Minister for Transport, presented bikes, safety gear and certificates to the 8 winning students who were picked out of thousands of fantastic entries.

The Minister took the opportunity to officially announce the nationwide roll out of the Green-Schools Travel programme which will be launched in over 250 new schools through out Ireland in September 2008 and which will rise incrementally to approximately 1,150 schools by 2012. Financial support of up to €2 million per annum has been pledged to the programme. This funding will be used to achieve the overall aim of Green-Schools Travel which is to encourage students, parents and teachers to walk, cycle, park 'n' stride, use public transport or car pool instead of using the private car on the school run by:

- Raising awareness of sustainable travel options to school through the development of workshops & presentations for children, parents, teachers.
- Promoting walk to school initiatives such as WOW (walk on Wednesdays), walking buses, park 'n' stride and golden boot awards.
- Promoting cycle to school initiatives as well as through the provision of cycle training in schools and cycle parking facilities in a number of schools.

We are hoping to build on the success of the pilot programme which saw schools achieving high rates of walking and improvements in the numbers cycling to school. Walking levels were 15% higher and cycling rates were 3% higher than the national average (www.cso.ie). As a result there has been a dramatic decrease in the numbers of children being driven to school.

Cycling is one of the most energy efficient way to travel and in light of this the Green-Schools Travel team launched the new COW (Cycle on Wednesdays) initiative in April, a twist on the popular WOW initiative! Schools are now moving towards cycling safely to school!!!

The Green-Schools Travel team are excited about embarking on sustainable journeys to school with all schools participating in the Green-Schools Travel programme in the coming school year. We will be promoting COW and many of our other initiatives as well as running our annual travel art competition. We are confident that new schools participating in the programme will achieve dramatic increases in numbers of pupils travelling to school using more sustainable modes of transport as demonstrated by the pilot programme.

Ms Cathy Joyce

An Taisce - The National Trust for Ireland

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News From Eco-Schools

CZECH SCHOOLS GRANTED THE INTERNATIONAL ECO-SCHOOLS AWARD CZECH REPUBLIC

14 schools were granted the Eco-schools award on June 26, 2008. The ceremony took place in Prague, at Senate Chamber in the Czech Republic Parliament.



The event was organized by the Eco-Schools Czech National Coordination, the TEREZA association.

Representing the awarded schools were members of Eco-school committee, a teacher (Eco-School coordinator or Headmaster). In some cases the representative of local communities accompanied the group.

The programme Eco-schools is running under the auspices of the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports and Ministry of the Environment. The invitation for the ceremony was accepted by the distinguished personalities from the ministries. They made a short speech and handed out the certificates and gifts to the schools.

The Minister of the Education, Youth and Sports, Mr. Ondrej Liska expressed in his speech the respect for what has been achieved by the schools running the programme. He also said that TEREZA association is one of the most respected organisations in the field of the environmental education. The Deputy Minister for the Environment, Ms. Ruth Bízková, said that Eco-schools is a fantastic programme. She highly appreciated the work done by teachers who often work voluntarily in the Eco-schools.



A short speech was also made by the representatives of the Eco-schools. They expressed what kind of positive changes the Eco-schools

programme brought to the schools, how the pupils and students adopted environmental-friendly habits and what kind of nice experiences they remember. "Unforgettable experience for me was when in the Green day the cooks prepared green food," said one of the Eco-committee member from Prague school.

The brand new Eco-schools received the certificate, Green Flag and gifts. In the school year 2007/2008 210 schools participated in the programme.

The Czech Eco-Schools programme is sponsored by the European Social Fund, by the state budget of the Czech Republic and by the budget of Prague City Hall.

General partner of the programme is Provident Financial, s.r.o.

Ms Jitka Krbcova

Tereza Association

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News From Eco-Schools

400 ECO-SCHOOLS
IN NORTHERN IRELAND



The 400th Northern Irish school has just signed up with Eco-Schools. Over 70 schools have registered since the beginning of the 2007/08 academic year. Approximately one third of all NI schools are now involved in this international programme for environmental education.

A recent evaluation of Eco-Schools in Northern Ireland found that teachers involved valued the teamwork aspect of the programme, involving the whole school, parents and community. They appreciated the formal and organised approach and the practical activities. Teachers in Eco-Schools reported an improvement in the physical environment of the school and ethos within the school as well as practical benefits such as

reducing energy and water use and lessening waste to landfill.

Eco-Schools is now an integral part of the Sustainable Development Strategy for NI and is one of the ministerial targets in that strategy – therefore it is at the heart of the education process for the future of students here in Northern Ireland.

Mr Ian Humphreys
Tidy Northern Ireland

Eco-schools@tidynorthernireland.org

Environment and Innovation

SECOND CYCLE – “LET’S SAVE ENERGY”

After the deadline for applications, National Juries have started to meet in the countries involved (Portugal, Denmark, Italy).

These groups of experts are choosing the projects to be implemented during the next academic year.

In Portugal, the selected schools and projects were:

- EB 2,3 de Algoz – “Galeria Verde”
- EB 2,3 Manuel Pinto de Vasconcelos – “Desenvolvimento da Pegada Rodoviária Segura”
- EB 2,3 de Lousada – “Sunshare Project”
- EB 2,3 de Grijó – “Eficiência Energética de Fazer o Futuro”
- Escola Secundária de João de Deus – “Plano Energético Escolar”
- EB 2,3 de Celeirós – “Alterações Climáticas: vamos poupar energia”

Congratulations to all of you!

News about the selected projects will be posted on the project's website.

In the meanwhile, Finland Turkey and Norway will be starting a second stage of project promotion in order to get more schools involved – this is the last chance to be a part of this great project!

<http://www.eco-schools.org/innovation2008/index.php>

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FEE News

FEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY EVENT 16-20 JUNE 2008

The FEE General Assembly 2008 was held in beautiful Kendal in the Lake District of England with representatives from 50 countries attending.

The following organizations have been confirmed as the new associate FEE members: IEW (Belgium-Wallonia), JREDS (Jordan), TNI (Northern Ireland), EPIC (Sint Maarten) and NGO "Ecological Initiative" (Ukraine).

Malcolm Powell, Sarah Winterton and Lourdes Díaz are the new FEE EXB members 2008-2010.

On 17 June, there was furthermore a break-out session with 3 groups discussing FEE and Sponsoring, FEE and Climate Change and FEE and Social Responsibility.

During the stay in England, our host Encams furthermore organized various cultural and environmental events (including the visit to an Eco-School). On behalf of all participants at the FEE General Assembly, the FEE Secretariat would like to thank Encams for all their work on organising and hosting the FEE General Assembly 2008.

FEE EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETINGS ON 16 AND 19 JUNE 2008

FEE Executive Board meetings were held on 16 and 19 June 2008 in Kendal, England in connection with the FEE General Assembly event.

The FEE Executive Board meeting on 16 June 2008 was used for the preparation of the FEE General Assembly meeting. The status of FEE membership review and payments were discussed and the future hosts of the International YRE and Green Key Coordinations were agreed upon.

The FEE Executive Board meeting on 19 June 2008 was used for constitution of the Board and for a regular meeting.

The most important discussions and decisions of the FEE Executive Board meeting on 19 June were to welcome to Lourdes Díaz (Puerto Rico) and Sarah Winterton (Canada) as new FEE Executive Board members and the appointment of Heiko Crost continuing as FEE Vice-President and Malcolm Powell continuing as Treasurer of FEE.

It was also decided that the new political responsible for the Eco-Schools Programme would be Henny Kromhout. Besides, the Eco-Schools 2008-2011 Objectives and Action Plan were approved.

UNEP-FEE CONFERENCE ON ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION UNEP AND FEE ARE ORGANISING AN ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION CONFERENCE ON 28-29 OCTOBER 2008 IN NAIROBI, KENYA

As part of the Memorandum of Understanding, UNEP and FEE are organising a joint conference on environmental education that Nairobi, Kenya, on 28-29 October 2008.

The official title of the conference is "The UNEP-FEE conference on cooperation and best practice for Education for Sustainable Development: The North-South Experience".

The draft agenda includes official opening, information about UNEP and FEE's programmes on education for sustainable development, presentations of examples of the north-south cooperation and a workshop where north and south representatives will be matched.

Invitations to the conference will be sent out shortly by UNEP. All FEE member organisations will be invited to attend the conference. FEE hopes that you will contribute to the success of the conference by participating, and would furthermore kindly ask you to assist FEE in ensuring the national donor agencies of our countries (in case you have such authority) will furthermore participate in the event. UNEP will assist in ensuring the participation of organisations and authorities from a range of African countries.

FEE DONATION SHOP TO SUPPORT PROJECTS ALL OVER THE WORLD

The donation shop aimed at supporting projects all over the world is ready for use. Go to www.fee-shop.com and make a donation to one of the projects in the donation shop or place a new project in the shop.

FEE Netherlands took the initiative of setting up a web shop to support projects. We are conducting a trial in Slovakia to gain experience with the donation shop concept outside Western Europe. We asked Spirala from Slovakia to put some of its projects into the web shop and the first donations have already been made!

The donation shop works like a web shop. You don't buy goods but rather, with your donations, you support the projects that are in the donation shop. You buy a part of the project and you receive a certificate as proof of your donation.

FEE Netherlands will manage the donation shop. We will place new proposals into the web shop, we will receive the money in a special bank account and we will transfer the money to the FEE organization in the home countries of the projects. The FEE organization will distribute the money to the organizers of the projects.

Many countries find it difficult to fund their projects. It is hard to find enough sponsors and most of the projects are small scale. With the donation shop, we more or less make a sponsor run for funding small projects. We try to find 'new money'.

I will give you an example. I contact the Embassy of Slovakia in the Netherlands and ask if there is a Slovakian community in my country. I ask the Slovakian community in the Netherlands to support projects in their home country. The community will recognize the projects and they will have the satisfaction of supporting projects in Slovakia. For Spirala in Slovakia this is 'new money' that they could not acquire on their own.

It is very important that the donation shop becomes widely known. Place the link www.fee-shop.org on your website; ask companies and communities to support the projects on this website, give your friends a certificate for their birthday and ask for certificates for your own birthday whenever possible. Think about new possibilities for raising awareness of the website and place your own projects in the donation shop.

We will be talking about the donation shop at the National Operators Meeting in Morocco. Before that time I hope to get a great many new projects and donations in the donation shop.

Henny C. Kromhout

FEE Netherlands, Member of FEE Executive Board

THE COOLEST CLASSROOM ON EARTH

Feet of Green are engaging with schools and youth organisations in the UK and internationally to inspire a positive sense of adventure and focus on the environment. Alan Chambers MBE and Peter Herbert intend to motivate by example; they want to show the young that if you really want to do something and you research and focus yourself on the challenge, nothing is out of reach. At the same time they aim to help focus the attention of as many children as possible on the fast changing global environmental challenges that we all face.



The Feet of Green team will launch a major annual event or expedition in order to provide a valuable out-of-classroom learning resource for schools. The major event this year was the Great British Mobility Group crossing of Greenland from West to East; Alan and Peter skied a distance of 550 kilometres, climbing to 10,000 feet over a period of 26 days.



The adventure was 2 years in the planning and was conducted in an environmentally sensitive manner using solar panels to charge satellite technology used to communicate into the classroom.

Alan and Peter endured some of the most inhospitable weather known to man whilst having to manage the dangers of deep crevasses and hungry polar bears. They also experienced some rather unexpected conditions such as melting ice, rain and blazing hot sunshine with temperatures rising to 85°F at 9,000 feet attributed, they think, to the changes in climate due to global warming.

Thousands of school children across the UK followed the expedition via the website www.feetofgreen.com having access to photographs and daily video diaries. They were able to interact with the adventurers whilst they were on the ice-cap by posting comments on the website. Alan and Peter inspired a sense of adventure among the children who were engaged with the initiative whilst educating them about the Arctic Region and the Inuit people.

Children at Henbury School, a large secondary school in Bristol, United Kingdom have been working with the Feet of Green Team since March of this year. Richard Berry, Deputy Head said “The Feet of Green Project was seen as a perfect topic for engaging students in their Learn to Learn lessons. The excitement of following polar explorers on a major trek across Greenland is not the basis of your average lesson. Henbury’s Year 7 teachers were able to weave all sorts of cross curricular themes on the back of following the team.”.

The Feet of Green Team visited the school on July 3rd to talk to the Year group about the trip and to give the students a chance to show off the work they had done. Both staff and students found the whole experience inspiring and worthwhile. The school, which achieved its Bronze Eco Schools Award last Year, will now use the project and its findings to encourage students to join its Action Team as it works towards its Silver Award and beyond. Involvement with Feet of Green has raised the profile of Eco issues within the school and inspired the students to be aware of global issues.



Peter Herbert and Richard Hale, Education and Business Director, presented to the Federation for Environmental Education General Assembly on the 18th June 2008 in Cumbria a keynote talk at the dinner with representatives from over 40 countries running the Eco-Schools programme. They were delighted to visit Cockermouth School who received its green flag in recognition of its achievement in becoming eco-school.

To find out more visit www.feetofgreen.com or contact richard@feetofgreen.com.





KIDSCALL HANDOVER TO GERMAN AND JAPANESE GOVERNMENT! - "KIDS PLEDGE TO DO EVERYTHING THEY CAN TO SAVE THE PLANET – AND EXPECT NOTHING LESS FROM THE G8+5 LEADERS"

Bianca Jagger and some 30 youngsters representing the World Future Council's (WFC) youth campaign on climate change personally called for action in talks with the German chancellor's special commissioner to the G8 Summit and the Japanese ambassador in Berlin.

The young people and WFC Chair Bianca Jagger presented German State Secretary Bernd Pfaffenbach and Ambassador Toshiyuki Takano with samples of thousands of appeals from children in 45 countries. The letters, drawings and quotes were printed on 30-foot-long scrolls the youngsters unrolled in front of the government representatives. They call on the G8+5 heads-of-state to take active steps to prevent climate change and protect the environment. Talks about climate issues are scheduled for the second day of the G8 Summit on July 8 in Japan.

"I can say that not only I but the whole German government supports your efforts. I made a promise to Ms Jagger that I will report to the chancellor today about our meeting," said State Secretary Bernd Pfaffenbach. He also told his visitors he doesn't own a car, rides a bus on weekends and uses renewable energy at home. "I will also inform the G8 presidency in Japan about this great project you've done," he said.



"This is a rare opportunity for the children to address their concerns directly to a senior politician," said KidsCall patron Bianca Jagger. "The WFC is delighted that its youth delegation had its questions answered and its concerns taken seriously. Future generations will have to pay the price for climate change – that is why we have to listen to the youth of today."

After the lively discussion at the German Federal Ministry of Economics, the delegation proceeded to the Japanese Embassy. "I am very pleased that these young leaders understand the issues, and are contributing to solidifying the solutions," said



Ambassador Toshiyuki Takano. "Movements like this influence our debates for the better."

"I think that it's great that these politicians took so much time out for our discussions," said Luisa Wellhausen (17) from Hamburg. "I hope that they'll take us seriously and remember our questions." "...and that they'll pass them on to the other politicians so they'll do something about climate change," 15-year-old Tim Hamester added.

"Young people want assurance that politicians are committed to solving the climate crisis," said Bianca Jagger. "They are genuinely worried that the rainforests are about to disappear, that there will be no more fish in a few years, and that soon the only water left will be polluted water."

The WFC initiated the KidsCall campaign last May during the Live Earth concert in Hamburg, Germany. During the G8 summit, world leaders will continue talks about the road to an emissions agreement at Copenhagen in 2009.

Joint Initiative between WFC and FEE

www.kidscall.info

www.worldfuturecouncil.org

www.eco-schools.org

Interesting Links

ENERGY-SMART URBAN DESIGN NEWS (SNOWBALL)”

Snowball is a project funded by the EU's STEER-programme. The project started in January 2006 and will end in December 2008. Its aim is reducing the energy use in the participating European cities, by providing municipalities with experiences on sustainable integrated transport and urban planning. The Snowball philosophy is that Integrating transport and spatial planning can optimize the use of space and networks. It also reduces the use of energy needed for a local or regional transport system. As every city or region in the EU has its own characteristics, tailor-made solutions need to be developed. You can find more info at: www.steer-snowball.info

HOW TO BUILD A GREEN SCHOOL

<http://www.buildgreenschools.org>

News

THE ADVENTURE BEGINS AGAIN VOLVO ADVENTURE

A campaigning project to rescue and revive an endangered and environmentally-sensitive urban park in the Russian city of Nizhny Novgorod has won the 2008 Volvo Adventure and the US\$10,000 first prize, the five students of the 'Green Sail' team, beating off stiff competition at the World Final in Gothenburg , Sweden this May.

We are now searching for the 2009 winners – could it be your project representing your country? Could it be you? If you have a project involving young people between 13 and 16 years old, working in groups of two to five people and actively involved in devising and managing the project, then you can enter. All you have to do is register and enter your project by visiting www.volvoadventure.org.

By registering, you have the opportunity to win an all-expenses-paid trip to the final in Sweden and the chance of a financial reward that could make it possible to run, improve or enhance your project. For young people it could be an adventure that offers a chance to make new friends all over the world and attract international recognition for their project.

There is also a Great Big Bob the Bunny Cartoon competition for the under 13 years of age. Young people are invited to create a cartoon picture using Bob the Bunny and send it to Volvo. The best cartoons will be collated into a book of environmental messages and the team of people with the best cartoons will be invited to Sweden in 2009.

All you need to do to get started is to go to the Volvo Adventure website – www.volvoadventure.org. There you will find everything you need to register your project. You will receive a start-up package with instructions on how to proceed. Good luck!

Upcoming Events

Sustainable Cities & Communities
Creating greener living for a sustainable future
Geneva, Switzerland
30 September - 1 October 2008

5th World Environmental Education Congress
Montréal, Canada 10-14 May, 2009
Submissions by **September 30, 2008**
<http://www.danbif.dk/conference2008>



FEE - Foundation for Environmental Education is a non-profit umbrella organisation implementing programmes for environmental education, management and certification.
fee@friluftsraadet.dk - www.fee-international.org



The International Coordination is hosted by Associação Bandeira Azul da Europa (ABAE), the Portuguese Member of FEE.
fee.portugal@abae.pt - www.abae.pt

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