



STORIES OF THE SOILS

**Radijojo World Children's Radio Network, Berlin, Germany
Scrip of 'The Global Green Kids in Brno, Czech Republic'**

<p>Intro Music</p>
<p><i>(HOST): "Ahoi! We are the children from IQ Roma Servis kids club in Brno, Czech Republic. We all belonging to the Roma Community. One week long we did a Global Green Kids workshop with Radijojo and we produced our own radio show: about us, about children from India, about environmental protection - and about soils. Why? Because this year is the International Year of Soils - did you know? We start with us and our culture – here comes a report about our Culture."</i></p>
<p>About Roma Culture "I am Vanesa. I like coming to IQ Roma Service. I also attend Roma dancing classes. I like to play games. I am proud to be Romani. Nice to meet you. I am Miša. I like doing sports-gymnastics. I like coming to IQ Roma Service. There, we play games. I have my friends there. I am also happy that I have people that can help me. Hello, my name is Thomas. We attend Roma dancing and we won first place. We have our own Roma language. Here are some examples: "....." Our traditional plate is halušky, goja and bryndza Hi! So, my name is Karina and I am going to tell you what IQ Roma Service means to me. It means to me learning new pieces of information and it is also my hobby. We often go on trips and do different activities and I also enjoy when I am in the club where we play games. Hi! I am Radim. I enjoy doing sports and other activities. I am glad that I can come to IQ Roma Service. I like it there. I like the activities they offer. And I am happy that I met new friends."</p>
<p><i>(HOST): And here comes a Romani song</i></p>
<p>Roma Song by Rececca</p>
<p><i>(HOST): And now we have a Fairy Tale for you – it's about how the Roma people got from India to Czechia log long time ago...."</i></p>
<p>Fairy Tale "Once upon a time there was a Roma group and it was looking for a way to get to the Czech Republic. One time, they saw a beautiful, big mirror. They argued so long that they shattered the mirror into pieces. Then they collected the pieces and tried to put them back and glue them together. One day, they managed to do so. This mirror showed them the way to leave India. They found a tree which was magical. This tree told them:"Go straight across the river. There you will see people. The people will tell you how to get to the Czech Republic. Suddenly the group was in the Czech Republic. They thanked the mirror that it led them to the Czech Republic. They knew how to sing. So they sang and danced until they were famous. They found presents and sweets on the tree. And that is the end of the story about the Roma mirror."</p>
<p><i>(Host): And how do we live - what do we like and how do we spend our days? Listen to Michal, Kristina, Honza and Simon:</i></p>
<p>Hobbies</p>

My name is Simon and I am eleven years old. I come from BRNO in the Czech Republic. I attend the 5th grade and I like math and exercises. Here is a hockey club called Kometa. We also play hockey matches in school. In Brno, I like the castle Spielberg. We go there with my friends to do parkour. We jump from walls, do flips, and run. Parkour is my hobby and I want to practice it when I am older. I come to Roma Servis to the club. There are computers, football, different activities like card games. I like football the most. I dance Bajata. It's a dance where we learn steps and moves. When I am older I want to become a car mechanic.

In school, I like the books, but I don't like reading that much. I like to write and draw, and exercises, play hockey, football, basketball. When I come home, I eat dinner or a snack in the afternoon. I also eat in the evening and in the morning. I brush my teeth. I come to IQRS. I like computers, football, dancing and the kindergarten there.

My name is Krystina and I am eleven years old and I am from Brno. I like Zabrdky because there is a swimming pool there where we go in the summer. I also like the nature, trees, and flowers. I am looking forward to spring, because flowers will blossom. In Brno I also like the shopping. I like being here with the Romas and the Czechs. The Romas also live in Brno, in Cejl or Francouzaska. I am in my fifth grade. I like math, Czech and exercise. My best friend is Jessica. We go out together, we play football together, and we attend a multimedia course. There we learn how to work on a computer. We also go dancing -Bajata. What I enjoy the most about this dance are the steps and moves.

My name is Michal and I am twelve years old. I am from the Czech Republic, from Brno – Husovice.

I have been living there since i was a small boy but now I live on Cejl. There are a lot of Romas there. In Brno, I like the church Petrov, which is old and made out of rocks.

I also like the castle Spielberg, where kings reside. I go to school to the 5th grade. I like exercise, art and others.

My favourite teacher is Gabor, who is nice to us and doesn't scream at us and lets us do whatever we want. I have been playing football for two years. My idol is Christano Ronaldo, a Portuguese player. He was poor when he was young and got rich because of football.

After school, I come to IQ Roma Servis. I like football and karate. Our teacher is Silva.

I attend Bajata - an American dance.

(Host): "Here are the Global Green Kids from Brno with a show about Roma culture, India and environment. Here comes another song and then we will continue."

Music Romani Song

(Host): "You already heard a lot about us and about our culture. But we also talked about the environment. How we can protect it. And why soil is so important. Here is what we knew so far."

Environment and Soils:

Whether there is something polluted or unpolluted in the forest.

The environment to me is buildings and streets.

We have to protect the environment.

We recycle.

At IQRS, they teach us to recycle.

How to act in nature. We should throw trash into the bin. We should act nicely.

Don't set trees on fire. Don't kill bugs.

At school they teach us that we also pollute the environment via car exhausts.

The soil is a field.

The soil is a field where you can plant plants or flowers.

The soil is a place where you can put things and you can plant flowers there and turn it into a garden. Plants grow from the soil.

(Host): "We also talked about soil - why is it so important for our life?"

Soils

Plants and trees protect it.

Because plants grow on the soil.

Because we need it for our life.

The soil can be protected and cities are build from soil.

If there would be no soils so we would not exist.

(Host): "You will learn more about soil later when we will talk to an expert from the Food and Culture organisation. But what do the adults know about the environment and about the importance of soils? We went on the streets and did a survey."

Street Survey Environment

...

Adult1: Plants grow there. We can eat the plants. Meadows are also on soil, right, so animals and other stuff are living on it. So why is it important...It is a part of our life here.

Adult2: The soil is important because it is made of dirt, where we can grow fruits and vegetables and that keeps us alive.

Adult3: Maybe because everything grows from it.

Adult4: So we have a place to grow wheat, potatoes and other things.

Adult5: Because we have to live from it.

Child reporter (C): What do you know about the International year of soils?

Adult1: I know nothing about it. When is it?

C: This year!

Adult1: How come this year had been announced? Is there less of soil?

C: An expert on soils and the environment told us that this is the international year of soils. It is held so that the soils would not be destroyed anymore and to remind that... So it is protected.

And the soil is made out of millions years old rocks and we cannot wait a million years for new soil. So we should protect it more.

Adult1: Great. I did not know that!

Adult2: I must confess, I know nothing about it. I have never heard of it. The International Year of Soils...

Adult3: Nothing at all. I'm always at work so I do not have time to care for things like this.

C: Thank you for your answer!

Adult3: You are welcome!

C: Goodbye!

(Host): "But we are not the only ones talking about environment and soils. We have partners in India: students from Mattool, a small town in South India with 50,000 inhabitants. We didn't know that much about India before. And so we also asked some adults again."

Street Survey India

What do you know about India?

It is a third world country where a lot of people live. It is overpopulated. Poverty is there. The inflation is great. They don't have access to drinking water unlike us because it is wasted.

I know a little about India. Maybe, Indians live there. Surely, adults and small people live in India. It is also hot there unlike here.

About India? Poverty is in India.

I don't know a lot about India. It looks bad there. The human rights aren't obeyed and the life there is hard.

I know that it is a big country and the Romas come from India.

(Host): "Are really all people poor there?"

No, there are also many rich people and people living a good life. And of course, there are cars and electricity.

We also saw some pictures of mega cities with a huge skyline - very modern.

Here comes some more music and then we come back to partner in India."

Music

(Host): "Here we are again. The Global Green Kids from IG Roma Servis in Brno. We just talked about India and our partners there. They are living in a village near the ocean. They also worked on environmental issues. They visited a river and studied the impact of human intervention and how it impacted rivers."

Message from India

Greetings to Radijojo from India. I'm Shalala from Peace Gong. Participant of the Radijojo and Peace Gong Workshop. We did an excursion to the bank of a river in our neighbourhood and we find out: It is polluted due to human interaction like putting waste and sand mining. Sand mining and putting waste must be controlled. Me and my friends from Peace Gong promise to do some important steps to control the pollution.

(Host): "In the same time we did an excursion to our playground and discovered the different kinds of ground. Here are our reports."

Playground

I welcome you to the Placek. Here is a playground, some rocks, trees, swings, monkey bars etc. There is also an IQ Roma Servis building, where we can play games or table tennis. During the summer, the table tennis paddles are here but not in the winter.

Because it is cold we cannot play outside and we cannot play football inside.

But in the summer we can do everything outside. Here at the Placek, we can play a lot of nice games such as football, basketball, volleyball and dodge ball.

We are at the Placek and I am in the middle of the sidewalk. On my left side, we have a building with balls and toys. It is big. It has stairs. Right now, I am at the building. On the right hand side, there are trees. On the left, there is grass which is green and 3 centimetres long. There are also different swings and bushes.

When you look on the ground what can you see? There is a sidewalk from dirt and a playground from rocks, gravel and grass.

What do you think you can do here?

Play with the ball, climb the monkey bars, play football, play basketball.

What do you like the most about the Placek?

The monkey bars, the playground.

Is there something you don't like?

No. No.

What would you do here if you could spend your free time here?

Climb the monkeybars. Play ball games.

(Host): "Thank you, here comes some more music and then we will talk directly to the students in India."

Skype with India

Czech children (C): What is the weather like and do you have seasons?

Indian children (I): So the climate is, in the morning we get somewhat cool, normally it is hot here.

C: What part of the nature do you like the most? How do you protect the nature and what is the biggest problem with the environment?

I: There are some missions for protecting the environment, like pollution, water pollution, than sound pollution. In India we have a lot of rules to protect our nature, but generally some farmer people do exploit the nature. We can see sand mining and because of sand mining we have lost one important river here called Nila.

And whenever we have plastic we don't care, we simply throw the papers and plastics outside. So people do care only about their families and houses.

C: Do you have any questions for us?

I: Shahila, her name is Shahila, her question is: What kind of pollutions do you have ?

C: The basic pollution is cars, the industry and all the smokestacks around with chemicals.

I: Thank you. Her name is Shamila, her question is that: Do you protect your nature?

C: We try to recycle; we recycle paper, plastic and glass. Also we water trees and do the normal stuff.

I: What are the main reasons for pollution in your country? Do people in your country pollute rivers and other things?

C: The answer is yes, we pollute rivers by dumping some of our waste to it. But we try to protect the rivers. We don't have an ocean but rivers surely leak to an ocean.

I: How do you react against this pollution?

C: We think it is bad, we don't like it, but we cannot do anything about it.

I: Now in India the nature is polluted. So now in your country, how is the condition now. Is it good or becoming worse? What is the condition of your country now?

C: Half of us think it is getting better the other half it is getting worse. In real life it is getting better.

(Host): "And of course, we also sang a song for the students there – the Romani Anthem, it's called Jelem, Jelem."

Music Romani Anthem

(Host): "Than we did another Skype conference - with Ronald Vargas, Soils and Land Management Officer at the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the FAO. From him we learned why soil is so important for our life and what will happen in the International Year of Soils.

Our Indian partners also got some questions for him. We asked those questions in behalf of them."

Skype Interview with Ronald Vargas, FAO

Andrea: Hi, my name is Andrea. We are here in Brno, Czech Republic and we have some questions for you.

Ronald: Well, first of all, welcome and thank you for the opportunity. It's really nice to see you all.

Karin: Hello, I'm Karin. Why is soil so important?

Ronald: So if there are no healthy soils, we will not have healthy food. Also, apart from food, soils are the basis to producing feed, antibiotics and fuel and other important products. And some pint you have played with soils, because we also call it mood and sometimes, I'm sure you saw that soils is dark. And that is because, soils contain soils carbon. And that is very important for climate change. Soils play an important role for that because soils capture carbon that is carbon dioxide. That's one fundamental service of soil. But also soils are important for the climate regulation. And for the ability and recycling of nutrition that are chemical components. So,

as you can see, there are many functions that soils play which are very important for our life.

Charlotta: Hi, my name is Charlotta. What will happen in the International year of Soils?

Ronald: Hi Charlotta. Thank you for your question. We have worked since 2011 here in my institution that is the Food and Agriculture Organisation, in order to raise awareness on the importance of soils. Very few people in the world, especially people who have not studied soils or agriculture, are aware of the importance of soils. So they don't pay any importance especially when some people, like farmers need some support – they don't get it. Because people think soils are there and we don't have to be concerned about it. But that's not true. Many people think it's not alive, but in reality they are. It's living, it's a living resource. And if you compare with you: When you get sick, you need some treatment. That's exactly the same with soils. Currently around in the world, we have studied and around 31 per cent, it means a quarter of our soils, already degraded or we can also say sick. More people will be in our world in the next years and they will require more food, medicines, more fuel, more houses and all of that has to be using more soils. So we need to try to work in order to find a solution for those soils that are already degraded or sick. And try to protect those who are healthy. For that we need support, I mean we need that the people that are in the governments can invest money in trying to protect our soils and recover those which are sick. The International Year of Soils is a platform that will help us to raise knowledge and awareness of people about the importance of soils. For instance, now I'm glad that all of you understand what soils are. Because that's what we need. That children and young people can understand why soils are important, so that they can help us and support them in order to protect them. So, we hope you will help us and you will share this knowledge with your sisters, your brothers or your classmates.

Tomas: Hello, my name is Tomas. What are the reasons of soils degradation?

Ronald: Hi Tomas. They are many, many different types of degradation. Many causes, for instance, in many areas - I don't know, if you have noticed when the rivers when it rains, they carry water that is brown. Did you see that? Because that is showing you that unfortunately soils are not protected. The water is carrying all the soils from the mountains and from all parts the river is passing through. And now all this soil goes to the sea or to the lakes or to other dams. That is called soil erosion and is one of the main problems in most of the countries in the world. All the problems with soils are that in so many areas soils are being taken for building cities, especially soils that are very good for growing crops. And that is a serious problem everywhere, especially in Europe also, because few areas for agriculture are remaining and more cities are growing. Do you know that for having one centimetre of soil nature takes between 100 and 1000 years to form? And we can lose it very fast. Just with one heavy rain or with building one house. But also, we have all the types of degradation: salinity, in many areas we have dry lands. Many in dry areas, close to deserts or semi deserts. Salts appear on the surface so you have a white surface so that you have put not salt in your food, but on the soil. Other problems are that soils in order to produce food have nutrients, like you eat every day – your breakfast, your lunch – you are eating nutrients so that your body can grow, so that you can go to school and perform well. Soils need exactly the same nutrients. But sometimes we keep using the soils for producing, producing, but we never feed the soil. So that is called nutrient depletion.

Vanesa: Hello! My name is Vanesa!

Ronald: Hi Vanesa! How are you?

Vanesa: Fine! How to stop the destruction of soils?

Ronald: Everybody in its own world can play an important function in order to protect and avoid destruction of soils. For instance our people in the ministries they should help us and support the farmers in order to use soils and also we can play an very important role: like you can share all the information about the importance of soils with your classmates, with your friends and you can try to promote better use of soils by doing many things: people should try to protect our soils. That should be preparing terms of knowledge and share with all people. And even schools have to include the protection of soils as part of the class.

In the world, many people and we also, are trying to stop degradation and the destruction of soils. And we are also having projects in regions like Africa or Central America in which we support farmers. And we support them in teaching them first understand the soils second how they can use it – not only for today, but in the future, because that is the main important challenge.

We are trying, but people should be committed to do that and all of us and that's why the International Year of Soils will help us to get more support.

Christina: Hello, I'm Christina and I have a question from Sahala, a girl from India: Sand mining is a serious issue. Because of sand mining one of our major rivers, Nila, is dying fast. How could we bring it back?

Ronald: Hi Christina! Thanks for raising the question from your friend Sahala. This is one common issue in many rivers and lakes in the world. And you can imagine when you have a river, all the water comes from the upper part from the river – it comes down. So if we will stop the water to come from the upper part, we will not have the water in the river in the down part. One of the issues also is that people do not use the natural resources like soils properly. Like sand mining in many rivers - those people who are trying to get sand going to the rivers and destroy them, because there are no rules or, if there are rules, the authorities are not make them to respect. And then they change a nice river that in the past was full of water to rivers that are the shape is completely changed. There is no more water, because others are using the water for other proposes upstream and then that really change the whole landscape and it's not nice for us anymore.

So what they need to do there in India, is that they need to control the people how to use our natural resources likes soils and others and they need to respect them and to use them properly.

Children: Good bye.

Ronald: Good bye.

(Host): Thank you Ronald. And now we are at the end of our show.

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Good bye!"*

Music

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