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## REPORT ON ONLINE SURVEY

„HOW RESPONSIBLE ARE WE FOR THE ENVIRONMENT?”



Ungheni, 2020

## SUMMARY

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### 1. INTRODUCTION

At the moment, we must think that the world's existing resources are limited, environmental pollution is constantly increasing, while hundreds of millions of people live in poverty, do not have access to drinking water and electricity, and there is the risk of extinction of many species of plants, animals and fish.

In order to promote an eco-responsible behavior among the people of Ungheni and to mark Earth Day, Ungheni City Hall has conducted an online survey between April 14th and April 22nd, 2020 entitled "How responsible are we for the environment?" in the framework of the Project „Waste Free Rivers for a Clean Black Sea”, funded by the European Commission through the Black Sea Basin Joint Operational Program 2014-2020, implemented by Kutaisi City Hall/Georgia, in partnership with Ungheni City Hall/ Republic of Moldova, the Tehnopol Association of Galati/Romania and the Union of Imereti Scientists „Spectri"/Georgia.



The purpose of the online survey was to find out to what extent people of all ages apply actions to save natural resources and take measures to protect the environment. At the same time, we wanted to promote through that online survey simple and concrete practical measures, available to every citizen, to reduce the negative impact on the environment.



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We go through a not at all easy time, which reminds us that we, human beings, must behave in an eco-responsible way, be responsible and show love for nature, thus leaving a healthy environment as a legacy for future generations.

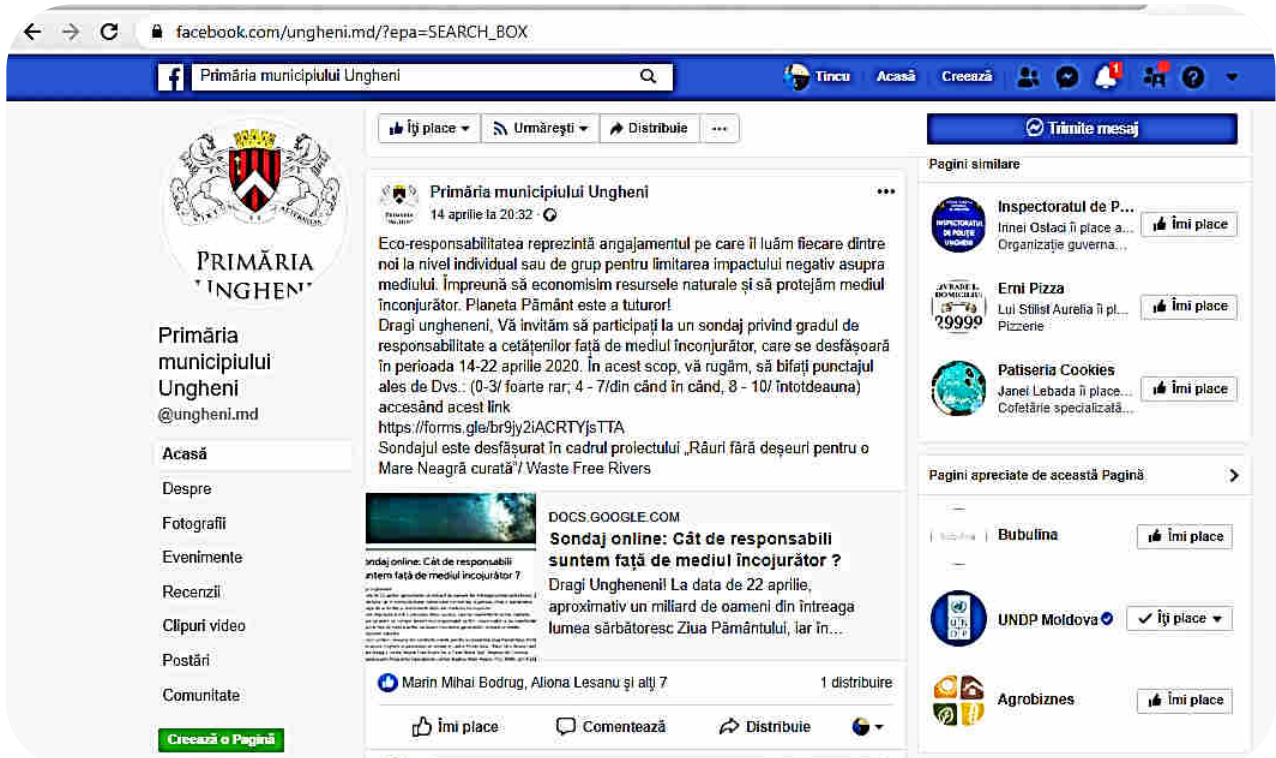
Through the online survey we aimed at promoting the eco-responsibility or commitment that each of us makes individually or in groups to limit the negative impact on the environment. To do this, people need to change their mindsets and habits, be aware that every day of work or vacation they have the opportunity to reduce the negative impact on the environment, generated by their activities.

„Together we can save natural resources and protect the environment. Earth Planet belongs to everyone!” - this was the main message promoted in the online survey.

The online survey "How responsible are we for the environment?" was posted on the official facebook page of Ungheni City Hall ([https://www.facebook.com/ungheni.md/?epa=SEARCH\\_BOX](https://www.facebook.com/ungheni.md/?epa=SEARCH_BOX)), and those interested in were able to present their degree of responsibility to the environment by selecting the desired score in the survey questionnaire (<https://forms.gle/br9jy2iACRTYjsTTA>).



## 2. USED METHODOLOGY





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The questionnaire presented in Annex 1 was used to conduct the survey. The questionnaire was placed on the official facebook page of Ungheni City Hall in Google Forms, accessible online at the address <https://forms.gle/br9jy2iACRTYjsTTA>.

The questionnaire contains 20 questions / measures, of which 10 questions / measures refer to actions to save natural resources and 10 questions / measures refer to actions to protect the environment (collection, waste recycling, etc.). Respondents provided information on gender and age. The questionnaire was completed by 160 respondents, who ticked the score from 0 to 10, indicating the level of responsibility towards the environment: 0-3 / very rarely; 4-7 / from time to time; 8-10 / always.

The online survey period was April 14th - 22nd, 2020.

**Table 1. Respondents' structure**

	Respondent gender		Respondent age				
	Male	Female	12-17 years	17-34 years	35-49 years	50-64 years	65+ years
Number	44	118	27	46	50	22	15
%	27,5%	73,8%	16,9%	28,7%	31,3%	13,8%	9,4%

### 3. ANALYSIS OF THE ONLINE SURVEY DATA



The survey results can be accessed here:

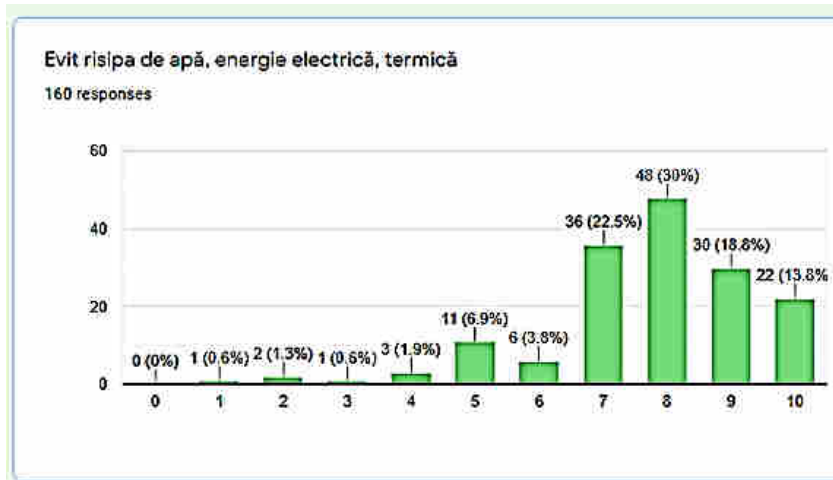
<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSe88rn0idnhpdeSCZeTklQMsf8EnHlq8hUM6lgBYX7Mb0-rvw/viewanalytics>



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### Question/Measure 1 - I reduce/avoid the waste of water, electricity, heat.



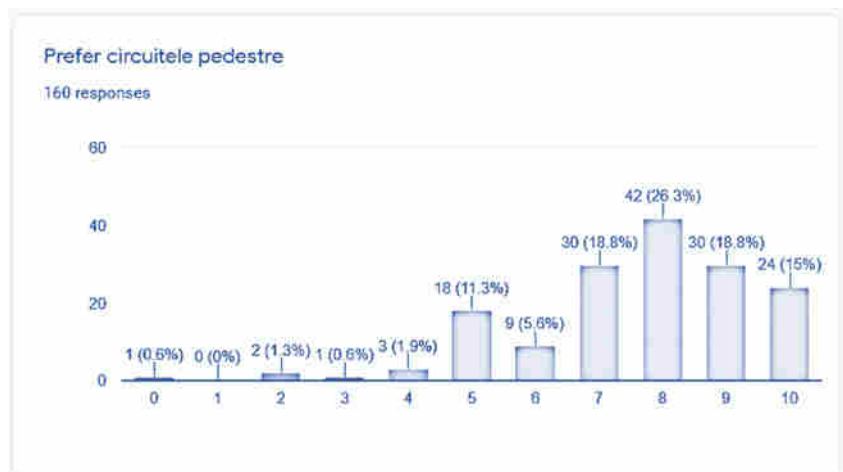
It is noteworthy that out of 160 respondents, 62,5% or 100 respondents mentioned that “always avoid waste of water, electricity, heat”, and 35,0% or 56 respondents stated that they „avoid waste of water, electricity energy, heat from time to time” and 2,5% or 4 respondents mentioned that they very rarely avoid wasting water resources, electricity and

heat.

Even if 97,5% of respondents are aware that it is our duty to be eco-responsible, there is still room for action and measures to increase citizens' responsibility for natural resources that are exhaustible.

### Question/Measure 2 - I prefer pedestrian circuits.

Out of the 160 respondents, most of them 60,0% or 96 respondents stated that they prefer pedestrian circuits; 37,5% or 60 respondents stated that they walk from time to time, and 2,5% or 4 respondents mentioned that they rarely walk.



Thus, 97,5% of respondents are aware that walking brings health benefits and helps combat global warming.

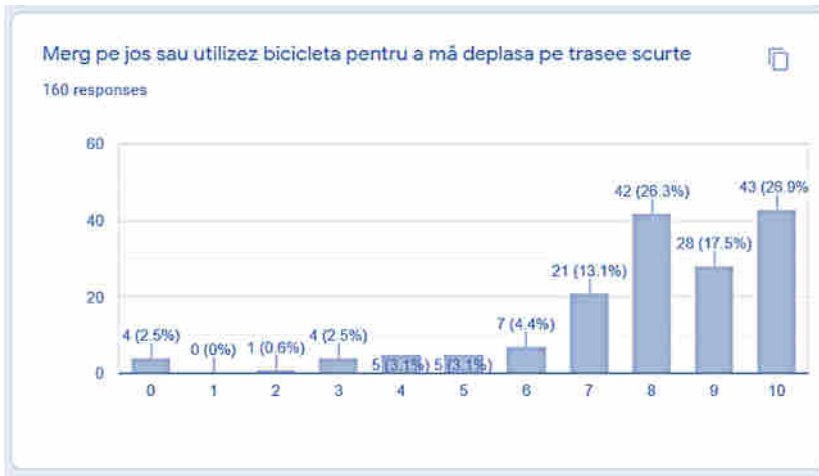




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### Question/Measure 3 - I walk or use my bike to travel on short routes.



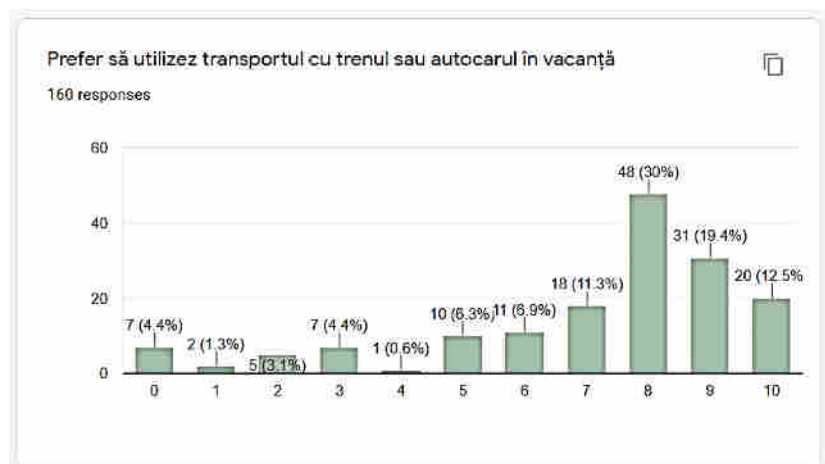
It is worth mentioning that more and more people understand that walking or using environmentally friendly transport are concrete individual measures to protect the environment. Out of the 160 respondents, 70,6% or 113 respondents mentioned that they prefer walking or cycling on short routes; 23,8% or 30 respondents stated that from time to time they practice

walking or cycling on short routes and 5,6% or 5 people rarely walk or cycle when they have to travel on short routes.

Thus, a total of 94,4% of respondents practice walking or cycling, when they have to travel on small routes. This means that people are aware of the impact of air pollution from cars and that they are ready to make full use of alternative means of transport for short distances. This attitude must be encouraged and promoted.

### Question/Measure 4 - I prefer to travel by train or by bus on vacation.

The majority of respondents (61,9% or 99 people) prefer to always travel on holidays by public transport (train / bus), 25,0% or 40 people prefer to travel on holidays from time to time by public transport and 13,1% or 21 people mentioned that they rarely go on holidays by public transport.



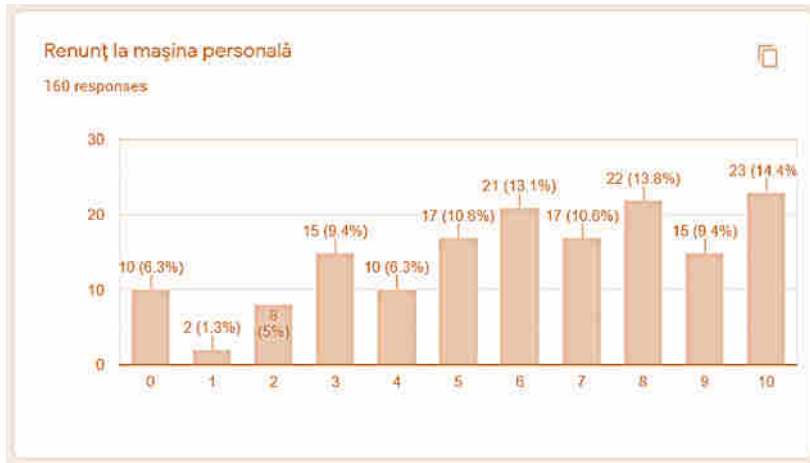
The fact that 86,9% of respondents use public transport on holidays is encouraging and shows a high ecological awareness. At the same time, the preference could be explained by the economic factor - public transport is much cheaper than personal transport. The money saved from using public transport can be a good argument for encouraging its use.



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### Question/Measure 5 - I give up my personal car.

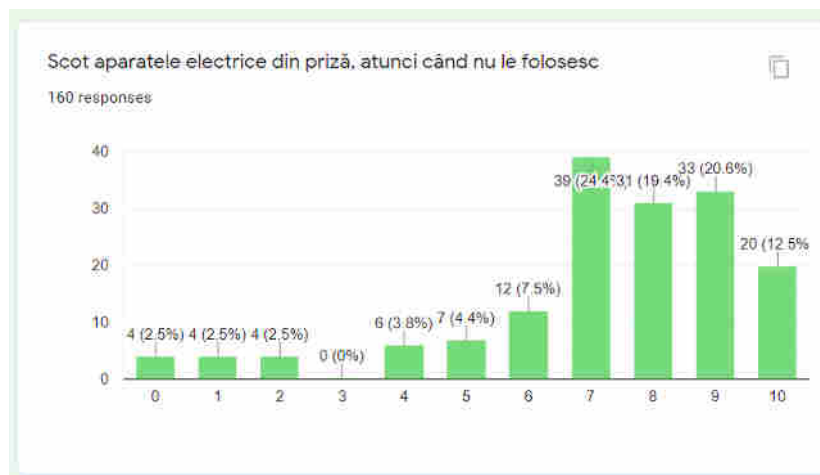


Give up or not the personal car, people's opinions are not evenly distributed. 37,5% or 60 people answered that they always give up their personal car; 40,6% or 65 people mentioned that they give up their personal car from time to time and 21,9% or 35 people very rarely give up their personal car. In fact, there are different contexts and

motivations for choosing your personal car. However, the majority preference is to give up the personal car either always or from time to time, supported by 78,1% or 125 people.

### Question/Measure 6 - I unplug electrical appliances when not in use.

It is noteworthy that the vast majority of respondents 92,5% or 148 people are aware of the need to unplug electrical appliances when not in use, thus saving electricity and money.

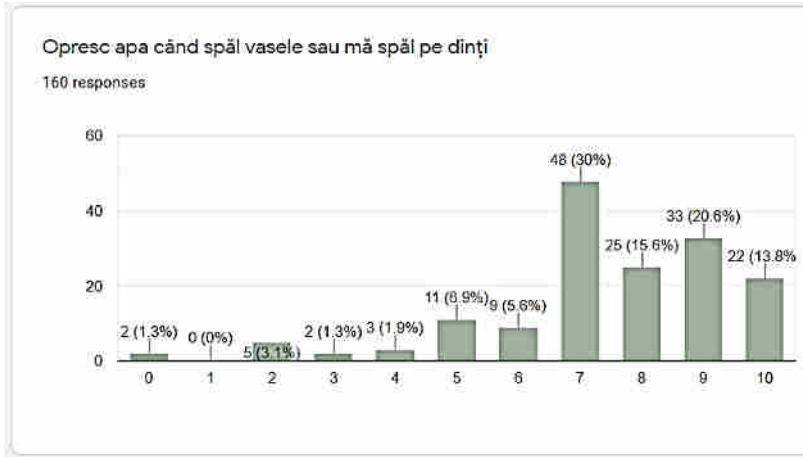




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**Question/Measure 7 - I turn off the water when I wash the dishes or brush my teeth.**

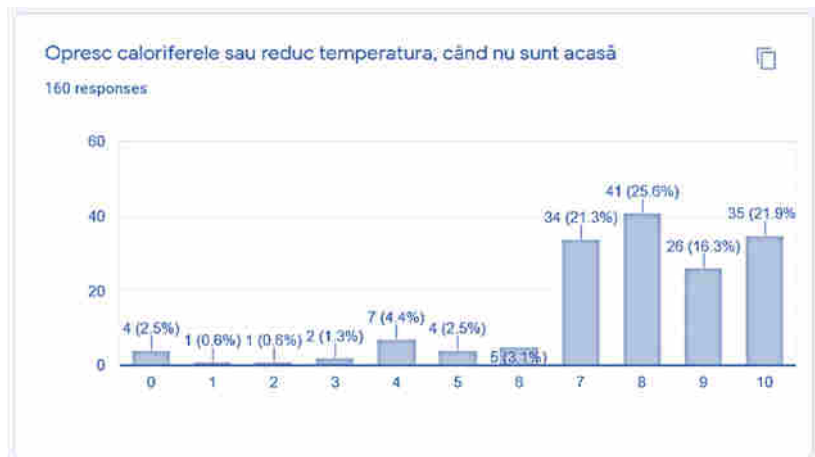


Half of the respondents, 50,0% or 80 people mentioned that they turn off the water when washing dishes or brushing their teeth; 44,4% or 71 people do this from time to time and 5,6% or 9 people very rarely turn off the water when washing rge dishes or brushing the teeth. In total, 94,4% of respondents or 151 people are aware that although there is enough water in our country, it

is still good not to waste it and thus natural resources are always saved. On the one hand, we protect the environment from pollution, and on the other hand, we reduce our consumption costs. It is important to understand that the things we can do to consume less water are simple.

**Question/Measure 8 - I turn off the heaters or reduce the temperature when not at home.**

More than half of the respondents, 63,8% or 102 people, confirmed that they always turn off the heaters or reduce the temperature when they are not at home and 31,2% or 50 people do so from time to time, and 5,0% or 8 people rarely turn off the heaters or reduce the temperature when they are not at home. In general, 95,0% or 152 people



are aware of the importance of turning off the heating systems when they are not at home. It is a pretty good indicator that shows us that people have a responsible attitude towards the consumption of energy resources.

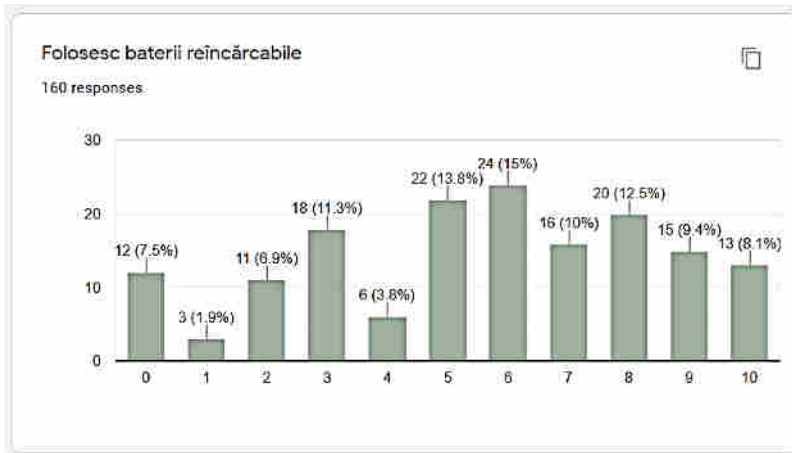




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### Question/Measure 9 - I use rechargeable batteries.

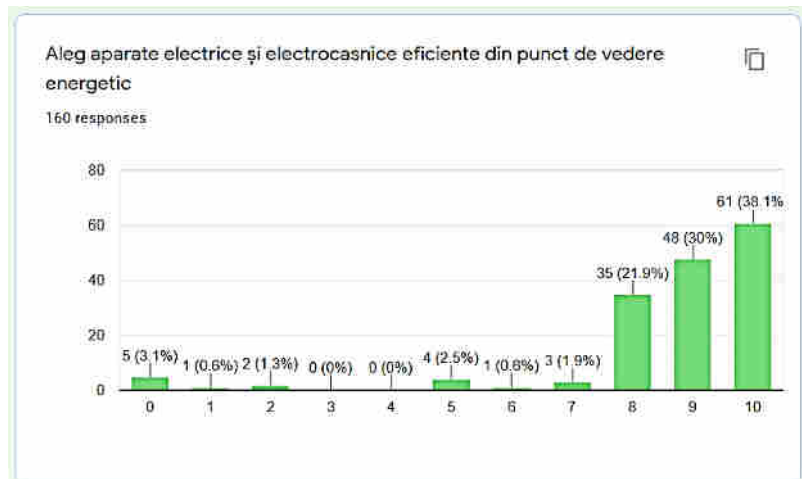


Regarding the use of rechargeable batteries, opinions are not evenly distributed. Most, 42,5% or 68 people prefer to use rechargeable batteries from time to time; 27,5% or 44 people rarely use rechargeable batteries and only 30,0% or 48 people mentioned that they use rechargeable batteries permanently. The arguments

would be different for those who use rechargeable batteries: the convenience they offer, having a universal charger at hand; the danger to the environment is minimized and in the end money is saved. In fact, 72,5% or 116 people support the idea of using rechargeable batteries, which indicates that there are opportunities to promote the use of rechargeable batteries, so that the 27,5% of respondents follow the example of the majority.

### Question/Measure 10 - I choose energy-efficient electrical and home appliances.

It was mentioned that the majority of 90,0% or 144 people choose energy-efficient electrical and home appliances. However, there are still 5,0% or 8 people who, from time to time or very rarely, choose energy-efficient electrical and home appliances. The figures show that people are aware that energy-efficient electrical and home appliances save both energy and money. This trend must be further encouraged.

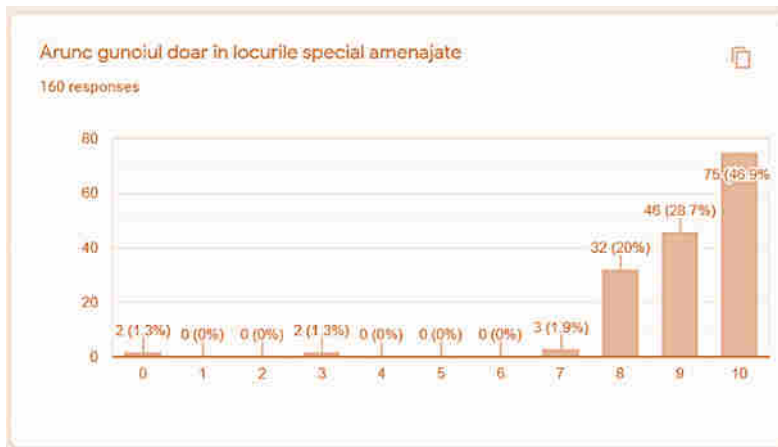




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### Question/Measure 11 - I just throw the garbage in the specially arranged places.

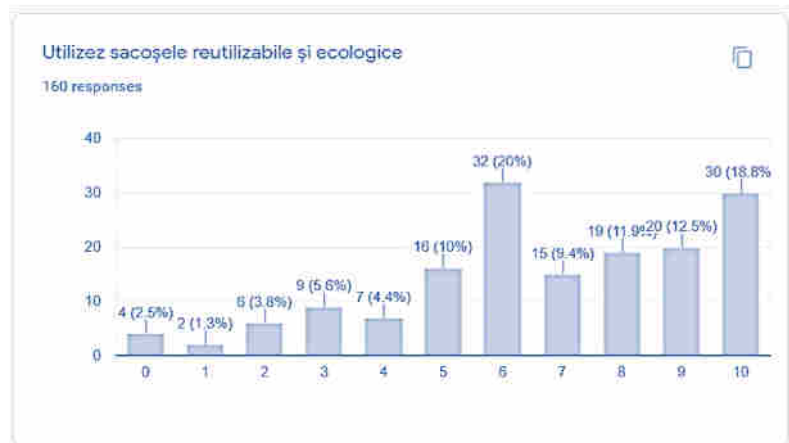


The choice of the majority of respondents was for eco-responsible behavior. It is gratifying that the vast majority, 95,6% or 153 respondents are responsible for the environment and always throw garbage only in specially designed places. A very small percentage is the category of people who very rarely (2,5% or 4 people) throw garbage in specially arranged places and

1,9% or 3 people mentioned that from time to time they throw garbage in specially arranged places. The importance of the presence of places arranged for waste collection and storage is also noteworthy. At the same time, ecological education activities are still required among the citizens so that the garbage is 100% dumped in specially arranged places.

### Question/Measure 12 - I use the reusable and environmentally friendly bags.

Regarding the use of reusable and environmentally friendly bags, opinions are unevenly distributed. 86,9% or 139 respondents stated that they use reusable and environmentally friendly bags, out of which 43,1% always use them and 43,8% use them from time to time.



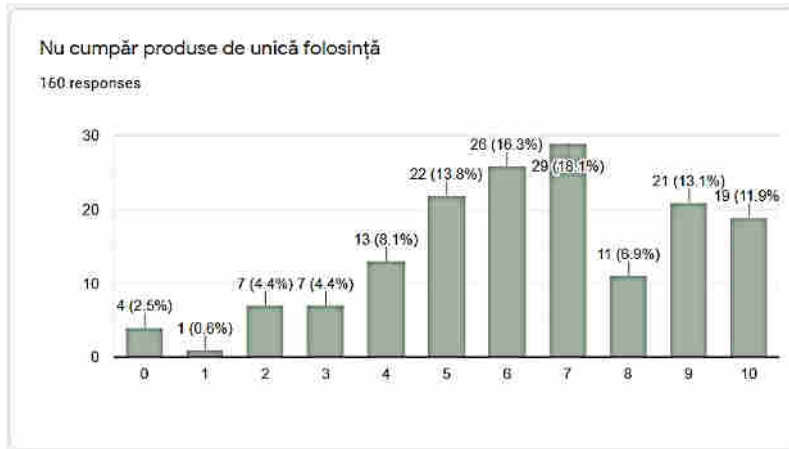
However, there are 13,1% or 21 people who mentioned that they rarely use ecological bags. The introduction of eco-friendly bags among consumers should be encouraged, which is the best solution to protect the environment, even if we have to take money out of our pockets for it.



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### Question/Measure 13 - I do not buy disposable products/single use items.

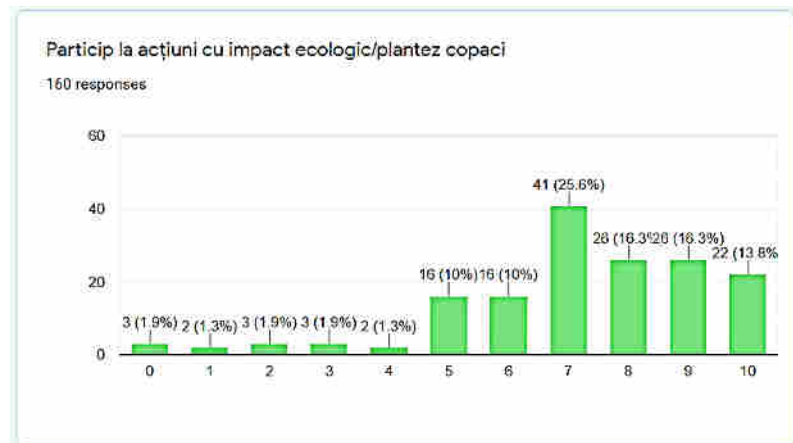


The respondents' opinions were divided: on the one hand, more than half, 56,25% or 90 people mentioned that they buy disposable products from time to time; on the other hand, 11,87% or 19 people very rarely do not buy disposable products and only 31,88% or 51 people understand the negative impact of disposable products and do not buy them at all.

The respondents' responses suggest that in terms of consumer culture regarding the purchase of single-use products, there are opportunities for improvement and that ecological education should be started from an early age on the preferences for buying ecological products.

### Question/Measure 14 - I participate in actions with ecological impact / I plant trees.

Even if planting trees is a popular action with a very high ecological impact, only 46,25% or 74 people mentioned that they always participate in tree planting actions; 46,88% or 75 people specified that they participate from time to time in actions with ecological impact, and 6,87% or 11 people emphasized that they very rarely participate in actions of planting trees.



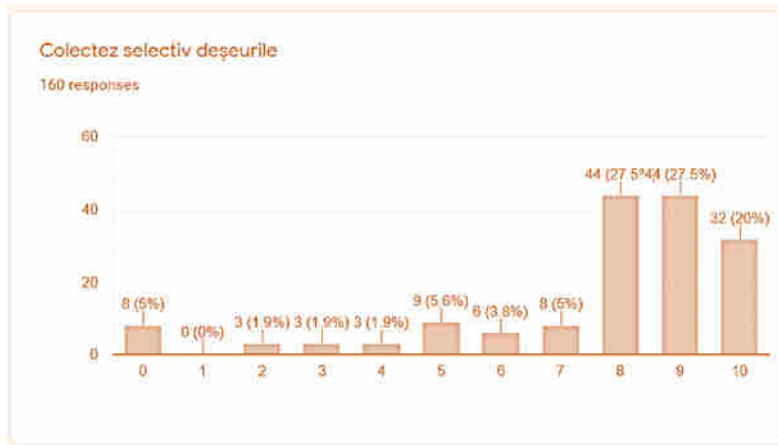
These ecological tree planting activities have an immediate and visible impact and must be combined with activities to promote ecological education.



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### Question/Measure 15 - I selectively collect waste.

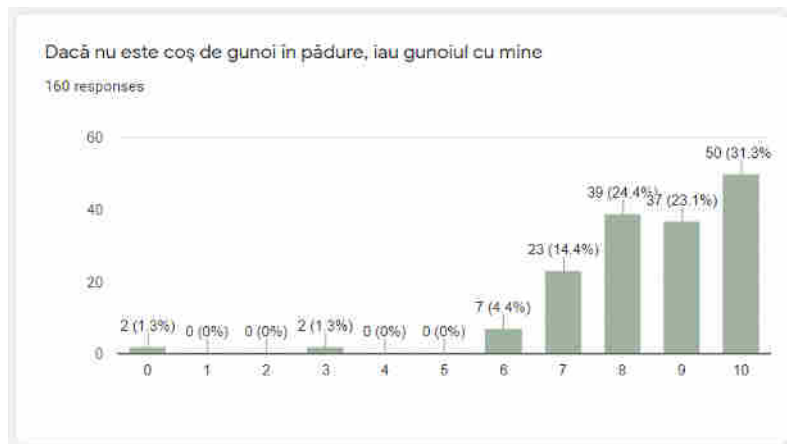


The vast majority of respondents, 75,0% or 120 people, emphasized that they selectively collect waste, which indicates that they are aware of the need and benefits of selective waste collection. 16,25% or 26 people mentioned that they sometimes selectively collect waste, and 8,75% or 14 people said that they rarely collect waste selectively.

The answers reiterate, firstly, the importance of having adequate infrastructure for selective waste collection and, secondly, the need to promote the benefits of selective waste collection on environmental protection.

### Question/Measure 16 - If there are no garbage bins in the forest, I'll take the garbage with me.

The vast majority, 97,5% or 156 people mentioned that they take the garbage with them, if they do not find a garbage bin in the forest, out of which 78,75% or 126 people always do so and 18,75% or 30 people specified that they do the same, but from time to time and only 2,5% or 4 people said that they rarely take the garbage with them, if they do not find a garbage bin in the forest. It is necessary to check more often, either with the help of video cameras or pictures taken in the forest after various parties, in order to see in reality what the respondents mentioned.



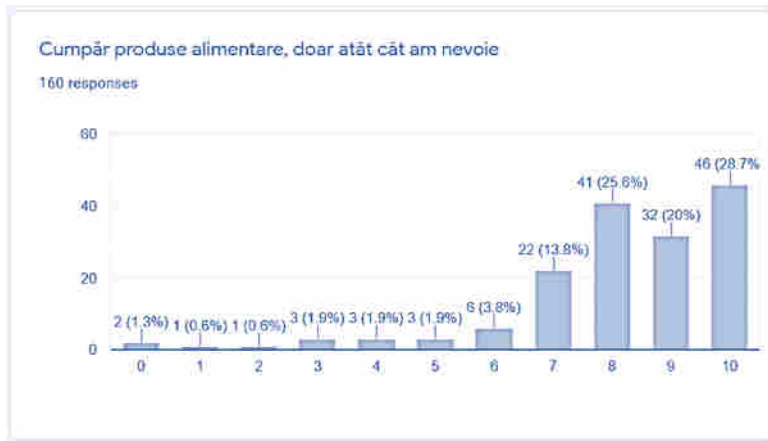
It should be noted that in surveys respondents are often subjective and exaggerate their positive qualities.



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### Question/Measure 17 - I buy food, just as much as I need.

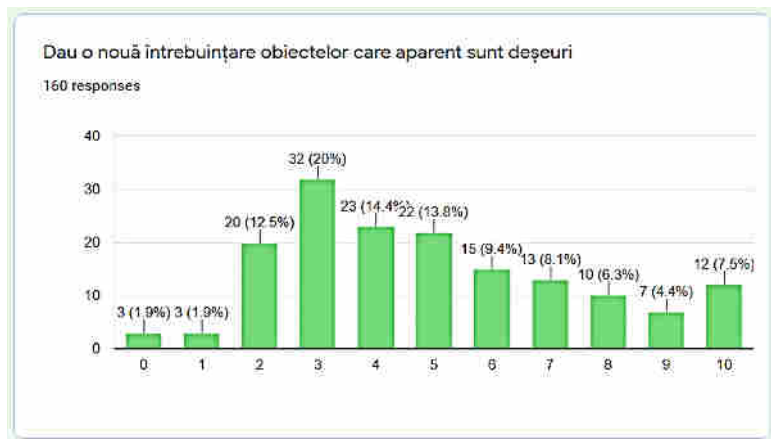


It is gratifying that 95,6% or 153 people mentioned that they buy food only as much as they need, out of which 74,35% or 119 people emphasized that they do this permanently, and 21,25% or 34 people buy from time to time only as much food as they need. Only 4,4% or 7 people specified that they rarely buy food only as much as they need.

It is appreciated when people avoid food waste and buy food only as much as they need.

### Question/Measure 18 - I give new use to objects that are apparently waste.

Only 18,12% or 29 people stated that they always give a new use to objects that are apparently waste, 45,63% or 73 people mentioned that they do this from time to time, and 36,25% or 58 people have specified that very rarely give new life to objects that are apparently waste, thus increasing the amount of waste that reaches the landfill. This picture suggests that the use of objects that are apparently waste is an area with possibilities not fully explored.



Practices of reusing the waste for practical purposes must be widely promoted, not only at the theoretical level.

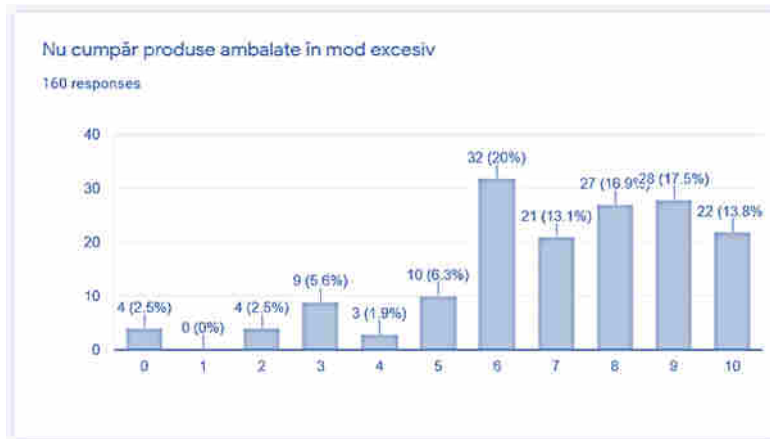




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### Question/Measure 19 - I do not buy excessively packed products.

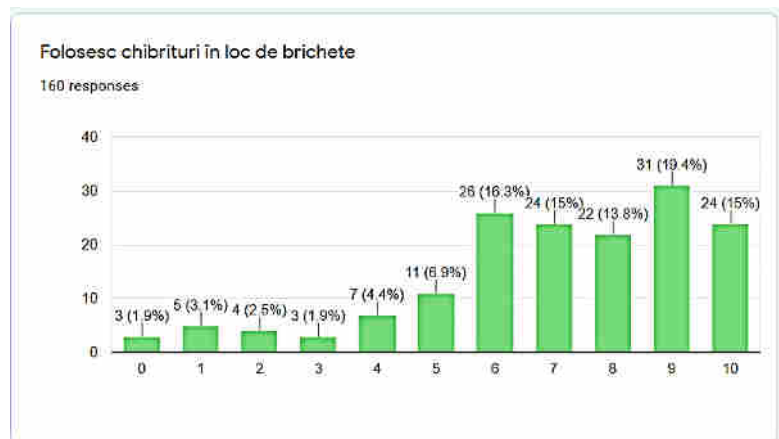


More than 2/3 of the respondents prefer not to buy excessively packaged products, either they do so permanently or from time to time, namely 89,38% or 143 people, and 10,62% or 17 people mentioned that more often buy over-packed products.

The principles of „green” consumption must be promoted among citizens in order to fight against waste and protect the environment.

### Question/Measure 20 - I use matches instead of lighters.

The vast majority of respondents mentioned that they use matches instead of lighters - 90,63% or 145 people and only 9,37% or 15 people said they do this very rarely.



It is possible that the option chosen by the vast majority of respondents can be explained by the convenience of using matches and by the raised awareness of the use of biodegradable materials for environmental protection.



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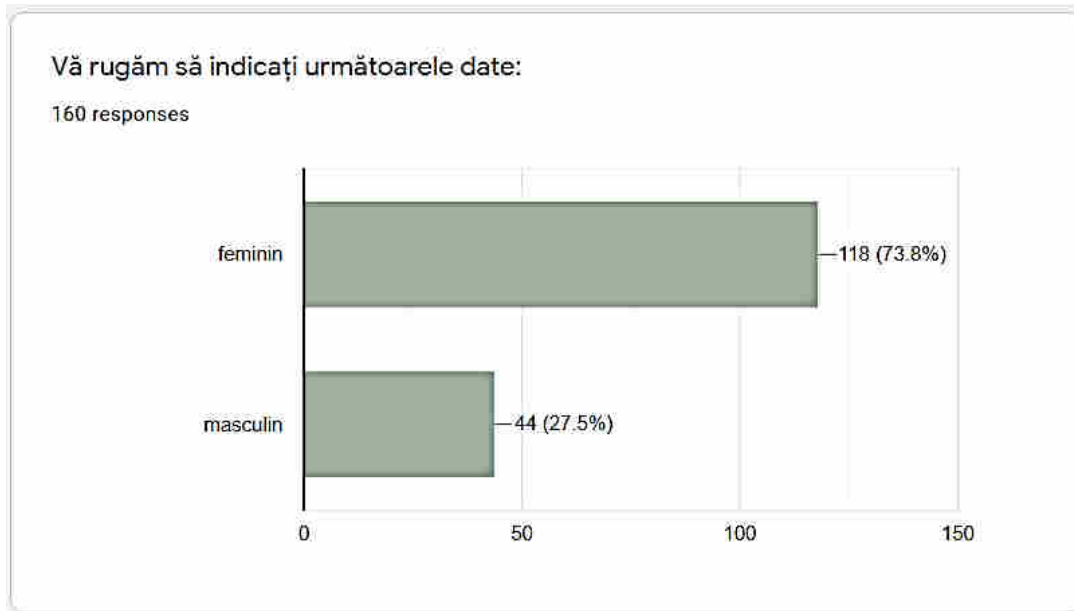


Waste Free Rivers For A Clean Black Sea  
GEORGIA · MOLDOVA · ROMANIA

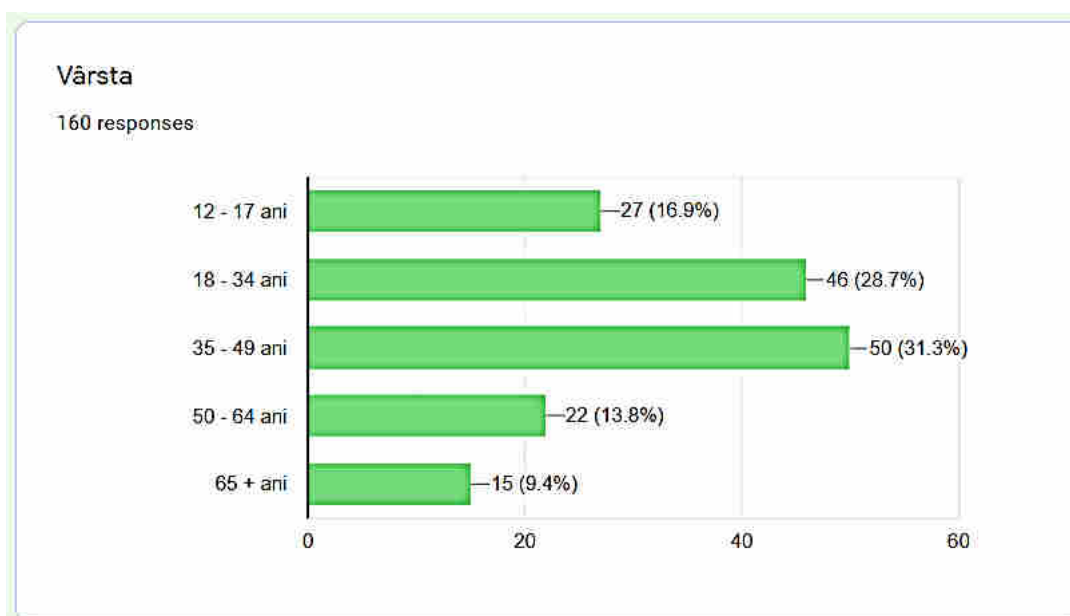


The demographic structure of the survey respondents is represented by:

- the most active were women - 73,8% (118 persons)
- men were less active - 27,5% (44 persons).



Regarding the age of the respondents, the most active were the people aged between 35-49 years old (31,3% or 50 people), on the second place came the young people aged between 18-34 years old (28,7% or 46 people) and less active were the elderly aged be of 65+ years old (9,4% or 15 people).



#### 4. CONCLUSIONS



The online survey „How responsible are we for the environment?“ dedicated to Earth Day and carried out within „Waste Free Rivers for a Clean Black Sea” Project, funded by the European Commission through the Joint Operational Program Black Sea Basin 2014-2020, managed to determine the extent to which people of all ages apply natural resource saving measures and take environmental protection measures. At the same time, the online survey promoted simple and concrete practical measures, available to every citizen, to reduce the negative impact on the environment.

It is appreciated that 97,5% of respondents are aware that it is our duty to be eco-responsible, but there is still room for action and measures to increase citizens' responsibility for the exhaustible natural resources.

Also, 97,5% of respondents are aware that walking brings health benefits and contributes to combating global warming.

Thus, a total of 94,4% of respondents practice walking or cycling, when they have to travel on small routes. This means that people are aware of the impact of air pollution from cars and that they are ready to make full use of alternative means of transport for short distances. This attitude must be encouraged and promoted.



The fact that 86,9% of respondents use public transport on holidays is encouraging and shows a high ecological awareness. At the same time, the preference could be explained



by the economic factor - public transport is much cheaper than personal transport. The money saved from using public transport can be a good argument for encouraging its use.

It is noteworthy that the vast majority of respondents 92,5% or 148 people are aware of the need to unplug electrical appliances when not in use, thus saving both electricity and money.

In total, 94,4% of respondents are aware that although there is enough water in our country, it is still good not to waste it. On the one hand, we protect the environment from pollution, and on the other hand we reduce consumption costs. It is important to understand that the things we can do to consume less water are simple.

In general, 95,0% of respondents are aware of the importance of turning off the heating source when they are not at home. It is a pretty





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good indicator that shows us that people have a responsible attitude towards energy resources.

The arguments would be different for those who use rechargeable batteries: the convenience they offer, having a universal charger at hand; the danger to the environment is minimized and in the end money is saved. 72,5% of respondents support the idea of using rechargeable batteries, which indicates that there are opportunities to promote the use of rechargeable batteries, so that the other 27,5% of respondents follow the example of the majority.



The figures show that people are aware that energy-efficient electrical and home appliances save both energy and money. This trend must be further encouraged.

It is gratifying that the vast majority, 95,6% of respondents are responsible for the environment and always throw garbage only in specially designed places. A very small percentage represents the category of people who very rarely (2,5%) throw garbage in specially arranged places and 1,9% mentioned that from time to time they throw garbage in specially arranged places. The importance of the presence of places arranged for waste collection and storage is also noteworthy. At the same time, ecological education activities are still required among the citizens so that the garbage is collected 100% by them only in the specially arranged places.



86,9% of respondents stated that they use reusable and environmentally friendly bags, out of which 43,1% always use them and 43,8% use them from time to time. However, there are 13,1% who mentioned that they rarely use ecological bags. The introduction of eco-friendly bags among consumers should be encouraged, which is the best solution to protect the environment, even if we have to take money out of our pockets for it.

Respondents' responses suggest that in terms of consumer culture regarding the purchase of disposable products, there are opportunities for improvement and that ecological education should be started from an early age on the preferences for buying ecological products.



Ecological tree planting activities have an immediate and visible impact and must be combined with promotional activities of ecological education.



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The responses on selective waste collection reiterate, firstly, the importance of having adequate infrastructure for selective waste collection and, secondly, the need to promote the benefits of selective waste collection on environmental protection.



It is appreciated that people avoid food waste and buy food only as much as they need.

The fact that only 18,12% of the respondents stated that they always give a new use to objects that are apparently waste, 45,63% mentioned that they do this from time to time, and 36,25% specified that they rarely give a new life of objects that are apparently waste, thus increasing the amount of waste that reaches the landfill, suggests that this is an area with possibilities not fully explored. Practices for reusing waste for practical purposes should be widely promoted, not just at a theoretical level.

At the same time, it is necessary to promote the principles of „green“ consumption among citizens in order to fight against waste and protect the environment.

In conclusion, the online survey shows that the message „Together to save natural resources and protect the environment. Earth Planet belongs to everyone!“ sensitized some of the citizens of Ungheni who answered, we hope as sincerely as possible, all the questions asked.







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Annex 1.

Action	0-3	4-7	8-10
<b>A. Actions for saving natural resources</b>			
I reduce/avoid the waste of water, electricity, heat.			
I prefer pedestrian circuits.			
I walk or ride my bike to travel on short routes.			
I prefer to travel by train or by bus on vacation.			
I give up my personal car.			
I unplug electrical appliances when not in use.			
I turn off the water when I wash the dishes or brush my teeth.			
I turn off the heaters or reduce the temperature when not at home.			
I use rechargeable batteries.			
I choose energy-efficient electrical and home appliances.			
Others			
<b>B. Actions for environmental protection (waste collection, recycling, etc.)</b>			
I just throw the garbage in the specially arranged places.			
I use the reusable and environmentally friendly bags.			
I do not buy disposable products/single use items.			
I participate in actions with ecological impact / I plant trees.			
I selectively collect waste.			
If there are no garbage bins in the forest, I'll take the garbage with me.			
I buy food, just as much as I need.			
I give new use to objects that are apparently waste.			
I do not buy excessively packed products.			
I use matches instead of lighters.			
Others			

Please provide the following information:

GENDER

- female
- male

AGE \_\_\_\_\_ years old

THANK YOU!