

# Introduction and Methodological Background

## Fair trade

COURSE FOR EXPERTS

GE4Youth /Global Education for Youth Workers

## Fair Trade (including sustainable consumption, environmental awareness)

### Area introduction

## Fair trade

Fair trade is a trading partnership, which is based on transparency, dialogue and respect. This partnership seeks greater equity in international trade. It also contributes to sustainable development, which is another part of this area. It contributes by offering better trading conditions to, and securing the rights of, marginalized producers and workers. Fair trade organizations are engaged actively in supporting producers, awareness raising and in campaigning for changes in the rules and practice of conventional international trade. Fair trade organizations also work with farmers and workers, mainly from Africa, Asia and Latin America, in order that they can improve their living standards, invest in their communities and businesses and protect our shared environment.

### Main goals are:

- To improve living standards of disadvantaged producers by improvement of their access to the market, fair prices, ...
- To spread the information between the consumers about the negative impact of international trade on producers in order that they can use their purchasing power in a positive way.
- To protect human rights by promoting the development of social justice, environmentally acceptable behaviour and economic security.

## Sustainable consumption

Sustainable consumption is the use of products and services in ways which minimize the impact on the environment in order for human needs to be met in the present but also for future generations. Sustainable consumption is often paralleled with sustainable production. A sustainable lifestyle minimizes ecological impacts by enabling a flourishing life for individuals, households, communities etc.



Sustainable consumption, as part of sustainable development, is part of the worldwide struggle against sustainability challenges such as climate change, resource depletion, famines and environmental pollution.

Sustainable development as well as sustainable consumption **rely on certain premises** such as:

- Effective use of resources and minimization of waste and pollution,
- Use of renewable resources,
- The reuse and upcycling of product life-cycles so that consumer items are utilized to maximum potential.

## Environmental awareness

Environmental awareness means understanding how our behaviour impacts the environment and committing to making changes to our activities to protect the planet. The environment refers to all parts of nature, living and non-living.

**This topic is important** because of the increasing number of **environmental challenges** the world is experiencing nowadays, such as:

- Climate change,
- Deforestation,
- Droughts,
- Floods, but on the other hand also water scarcity,
- Global warming,
- Pollution.

By understanding these issues and changes in the lifestyle, humans can contribute to environmental conservation. Individuals affect the environment in a variety of ways including pollution emission to land, air and water, use of natural resources, energy consumption and production of waste.



## Methodology background

The activities were made in order to be very different from each other. The tasks in the activities are different, the time consumption is different and also the topics are different. As a part of the topic Fair trade, there were added activities which focus on sustainable consumption and environmental awareness which are nowadays also very important and world-wide known topics.

### Experts

**Activity 1** focuses not only on sustainable consumption but also on environment. It is done by footprint calculation for people from the stories and for the students themselves.

**Activity 2** consists of making promises regarding the Fair trade about what the students are going to do better plus they will do little from art which helps to connect more students' skills.

**Activity 3** is based on story-telling about Fair trade and then the students should critically think about the differences between two stories and answer the question related to them.

**Activity 4** focuses on overall consumption and where the things go when they are used. Activity is based on discussion and critical thinking.

**Activity 5** focuses either on consumption and environment because these topics are highly connected. Again, this activity is based on thinking about the things the students use every day and maybe this activity will encourage them to change their purchasing habits.

**Activity 6** focuses on environmental topic by working together during the discussion on one hand but then working in small groups with computers and making small research. Also, the communication skills in front of the bigger group of people are practiced.

**Activity 7** is based on teamwork. Students are encouraged to choose the best solution from their class regarding the use of electricity. Students have to discuss all the possibilities and then, together, make the decision.

Sources:

<https://www.delta-net.com/knowledge-base/health-and-safety/environmental-awareness/what-is-environment-awareness/>

<https://www.gvi.co.uk/blog/how-to-cultivate-environmental-awareness-in-schools/>

<https://www.fairtrade.org.uk/what-is-fairtrade/>

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sustainable\\_consumption](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sustainable_consumption)





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