

SUSTAINABLE SCHOOLS: REDUCING WASTE



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OID: E10201112

Advanced Institute for Skills Development

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Education is key to changing human behavior, and teachers are in a unique position to influence the next generation. The critical role of teachers and schools in reducing plastic waste cannot be overstated. As plastic pollution continues to have significant global repercussions, taking proactive measures is essential. Schools, being central to their communities, have the potential to become powerful agents of change. They are centers of knowledge where young minds are shaped and enlightened. By embedding environmental education into the curriculum, schools can foster a generation that comprehends the impact of plastic waste and is committed to seeking sustainable solutions.

If all schools adopted environmentally sustainable practices and eliminated single-use plastics, it would dramatically reduce Europe's plastic consumption and positively affect society.

This course aims to:

Equip teachers with practical knowledge and strategies to reduce plastic waste and integrate lessons on plastic pollution, sustainable living, and environmental conservation into the curriculum.

Enable teachers to educate students about the detrimental effects of plastic on the environment, wildlife, and human health.

Engage students in discussions about plastic pollution, its causes, and potential solutions.

Promote critical thinking and brainstorming sessions to generate ideas for reducing plastic use and encourage waste reduction initiatives.

COURSE INFORMATION

Learning Outcomes

- Understand the environmental impact of plastic pollution and its consequences on ecosystems, human health, and the planet.
- Identify various types of single-use plastics and explore sustainable alternatives.
- Gain practical knowledge and skills to reduce plastic waste in their daily lives, including shopping, packaging, and personal care.
- Apply the principles of the 5 R's (Refuse, Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, and Rot) to minimize plastic consumption and maximize waste reduction.
- Teach about alternatives: Educate students about alternative materials to plastic, such as biodegradable, compostable, or reusable options. Discuss the benefits and drawbacks of these alternatives to help students make informed choices.
- Inspire creativity: Encourage students to think creatively and come up with innovative solutions to reduce plastic use.
- Conduct art projects using recycled materials, assign research projects on sustainable inventions, or organize competitions that promote eco-friendly practices.
- Collaborate with the community: Partner with local organizations, NGOs, or environmental activists working on sustainability projects.
- Foster a sustainable classroom environment.
- Promote awareness campaigns: Encourage students to raise awareness about plastic pollution and sustainable living by creating posters, presentations, or social media campaigns.
- Support their initiatives and provide platforms for sharing their ideas with a wider audience.
- Evaluate and select sustainable alternatives and ocean conservation.
- Develop a comprehensive action plan to reduce plastic waste and promote sustainability in a specific area of interest (e.g., school, community) instil a sense of responsibility, and empower students to live without plastic, making a positive impact on the environment.
- Improve technical and English language, communication and social skills.
- Transfer and share core values, experiences and effective teaching practices between educators from different contexts and regions.
- Motivate and inspire educators to contribute, through their areas of action, to building more coherent, harmonious, and sustainable societies.

DAILY PROGRAM

6-DAYS

..... *Our courses also include a daily Coffee Break

DAY 1 / 16h30-21h30

- Self Preparation for a short School presentation on Day 2
- Cultural Quiz (to be filled out pre-dinner)
- Welcome Session - icebreaking & dinner, week briefing & planning
- Networking between participants and Erasmus+ team
- Sharing of European core values
- Open space for participants to share ideas and discuss current challenges in the Education sector; collaborative opportunity to exchange future goals (activity)

DAY 2 / 8h30-13h45

- Understanding Plastic Pollution
- Introduction to plastic pollution and its environmental impact
- Exploring the life cycle of plastics: production, usage, and disposal
- Analyzing the global plastic waste crisis and its consequences
- Case studies: Real-life examples of plastic pollution and its consequences
- Practical group work and exercises

DAY 3 / 8h30-13h45

- Plastic-Free Living: Strategies and Alternatives
- Identifying single-use plastics and their alternatives
- Exploring sustainable packaging options
- Practical tips
- Engaging Communities: Advocacy and Awareness. Cooperation with parents/family
- The power of individual actions in driving change
- Effective communication strategies for promoting a zero plastic lifestyle
- Creating homemade alternatives to common plastic items

DAY 4 / 8h30-13h45

- Sustainable Solutions: Reducing Plastic Waste
- Introduction to the 5 R's of waste management: refuse, reduce, reuse, repurpose, and then recycle
- Zero-waste lifestyle: Incorporating sustainable habits into daily routines
- Field trip: Visiting a recycling center and understanding the recycling

DAY 5 / 8h30-13h45

- Zero Plastics (Plastic-Free) in Schools: Empowering Future Generations
- Understanding the impact of plastic waste in schools
- Strategies for reducing plastic consumption in educational institutions
- Collaborating with students, teachers, and staff to implement sustainable practices
- Workshop: Designing a zero-plastic action plan for a school
- Coastal cleanup activity: Hands-on experience in removing plastic debris

DAY 6 / 8h30-13h45

- Protecting Our Oceans: Combating Marine Plastic Pollution
- Overview of the impact on marine ecosystems
- Final presentations and reflections: Sharing insights and future commitment
- Course roundup & review
- Learning outcomes' validation
- Certification Ceremony

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Documentation: Learning Agreement; Certificate of Attendance with description of learning outcomes; Europass validation; and other required Erasmus+ supporting documents.

(Our courses are eligible to be completely funded by the Erasmus+ program 2021-2027 - KA1 funds and several other programs)

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