

spring 2021

YOUNG



EU presidency

2030: Reunion's course towards energy autonomy

Sustainable fishery

Breathing life into the environment

Plastic in the Ocean



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What does EU Presidency mean?

The EU country holding the presidency is the president of the Council of the European Union. The presidency lasts six months, after which it passes to the next of the 27 member states. As for the order, the Council has previously agreed in a decision. On July 1, 2020, Germany took over the presidency from Croatia, and on January 1, 2021, Portugal took over. Because six months is very short in political terms, the three countries holding the Council presidency in succession coordinate their programs - i.e. Germany with Portugal and Slovenia, which will take over the presidency in July 2021. In this way, the chance that goals will be achieved is higher.

What are the responsibilities of the member states with the Council Presidency?

five central tasks: It...

1. is one of the two main legislative bodies and thus negotiates and enacts EU legislation.

2. coordinates the policies of EU member states in the areas of (1) economic and budgetary policy, (2) education, culture, youth and sport, and (3) employment policy.

3. concludes international treaties with third countries or other organizations.

4. exercises budgetary powers jointly with the European Parliament, i.e. the Council determines the EU budget jointly with the European Parliament.

5. develops the EU's Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP) according to the guidelines of the European Council. This includes the EU's development and humanitarian aid, defense and trade.

What is the composition of the Council?

The Council is composed of representatives of the Member States at ministerial level. The composition of the Council varies depending on the subject matter of the Council meetings. For example, when environmental issues are on the agenda, the environment ministers from all EU member states take part in the meeting.

In total, there are ten different Council compositions:

- General Affairs
- Foreign Affairs
- Economic and Financial Affairs
- Justice and Home Affairs
- Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs
- Competitiveness (Internal Market, Industry and Research)
- Transport, Telecommunications and Energy
- Agriculture and Fisheries
- Environment
- Education, youth and culture

Which specific tasks did Germany have to tackle? Which ones the successors?

Coping with the Covid 19 pandemic is now high on the agenda.

Recovery fund proposed to help countries particularly affected by the virus. The EU Commission's concept for this fund is 750 billion euros. It is not yet clear how exactly the money will be distributed and how much of it will be spent as a grant climate protection and



the „European Green Deal,” digitization, Europe’s responsibility in the world and improving relations with the U.S., China and the U.K., which left the EU on Feb. 1, as well as joint action against anti-democratic currents within the EU.



What problems were encountered in resolving them?

Rule of law and budget:

According to the EU Commission and the EU Parliament, the rule of law is seriously threatened by Poland and Hungary.

Problem: In order to prevent a review of the rule of law before budget funds are disbursed, which is not to their liking, they are blocking the entire seven-year EU budget with a volume of 1.1 trillion euros with a veto.

From the perspective of Hungary’s Prime Minister Viktor Orban, Hungary’s independence must be defended. Apart from Poland, none of the other 25 EU states could follow this line of argument.

Problem (aid fund): Hungary and Poland are also blocking the Corona aid fund of 750 billion euros. This is urgently needed to jump-start the EU economy after the pandemic.

Climate protection:

Climate target by 2030, compared with 1990, emissions of harmful carbon dioxide are to fall by 55 percent. By 2050, the EU wants to have a completely climate-neutral economy.

Problem: Poland, which is dependent on coal-fired power generation, is skeptical. Possible veto by Polish prime minister. Several member states want clarity on what this climate target means for them economically in order to possibly receive more subsidies from the EU budget for the restructuring of their energy sector.

According to the Paris Agreement, the EU should have set its climate target by February 2020. Environmental groups are already criticizing that the 55 percent target will not be enough to slow down global warming as desired.

Could the problems be solved / partially solved / completely solved?

The problems of the Covid-19 pandemic could not be fully solved. During the Croatian Presidency, many measures have already been taken to address the crisis, but much remains to be done in terms of containing the pandemic and restoring the full functioning of societies.

In mid-December, the final negotiations resulted in the EU budget, the Corona reconstruction fund, including a mechanism for verifying the rule of law of EU members.

Successful agreement for the new climate protection target. By 2030, emissions harmful to the climate are to be reduced by 55 percent instead of up to 40 percent. Poland and other states dependent on fossil fuels were virtually bought off subsidies for the energy turnaround.



Unresolved problems:

Relationship with Turkey.

EU accession talks with northern Macedonia and Albania fail due to Bulgaria's veto.

Planned summit meetings with China and the African Union had to be canceled. „Conference on the future of the EU”, which was supposed to push off reforms, could not be started.

Migration and asylum law is passed on unfinished to the next Council Presidency (Portugal) - is also blocked by Poland and Hungary.

What other tasks will future Council presidencies face in the future?

- Promoting cooperation and unity among member states to address the COVID-19 pandemic.

- The Multiannual Financial Framework for 2021-2027 will be an essential tool to support a sustainable recovery.

- Develop comprehensive, durable and crisis-resistant solutions in the area of migration. Strengthen action against illegal migration and human trafficking while addressing the root causes of flight and displacement.

- Further promote Europe's technological and industrial sovereignty and a resilient and competitive single market.

- Strengthen industrial competitiveness in Europe and ensure a stable investment environment for small and medium-sized enterprises.

- Promote European values on the international stage together with the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy.



Article from a student about the current pandemic and digitalisation

One year ago I could never imagine that all schools will close and we'll get lessons at home. Right now it is just something normal. My name is Ilayda Karabulut and I'm a Student of the Kaufmännische Schule in Heidenheim, right now I'm in the third year of my traineeship. As you know Covid-19 changed the student life and school lessons. All schools changed their way from normal lessons into online-lessons. And so did our school, Kaufmännische Schule Heidenheim.

Last month, German authorities drew up a plan to inject the education system with a digital upgrade. Not only social life, the way of living changed also schools changed their way of teaching. In the next few weeks, too, many classes or even entire schools will initially remain closed due to the corona infection situation. The teachers in these schools endeavor to provide their homeschooling classes with teaching materials. For schools and education in Germany that means that "digital-self-learning" will be the word of the year. I can definitely say that the value of technology showed us how bright the spectrum is.

One of my most exciting learning moments was when my classmates and I could work on a PowerPoint presentation together as a group and we could change and write everything on this presentation. It was a great experience for me and it was very useful for

the whole class. It added a whole other dimension and really gave life to the our lessons. As a student of the Kaufmännische Schule in Heidenheim, I like how some tools simplify the work that needs to be done. But there are some things to consider when creating online conferences and online lessons.

Technology doesn't solve all problems. It won't engage students on its own, and it has some serious downsides. Its my third year of traineeship. Two years there was a normal situation. After a normal way of lessons, digitalization can be a big complication in the beginning. It is just something new. But after the corona situation, there need to be a lot of changes done. Students, teacher and schools need to invest in it, they need reliable infrastructure and they need to ensure every last student is able to use it. Even in this day and age, not everyone has a smartphone or tablet, so make sure you have a spare one or talk to students beforehand.

Technology can also be a distraction. For every useful teaching app or software, there are ten others that serve as distractions. But let's face it, that students are already using technology outside and inside the classroom. It is just the way the world works now. Everybody is connected to the ever-growing cloud of social media and internet sites.

In the end digitalization not only in Germany but in Europe always has advantages and disadvantages. I'm thankful our school always helps us being included to the lessons. I think in Germany we generally always have chances to get our education in good ways.

Quelle:© Ilayda Karabulut, 3BM1, Kaufmännische Schule

HDH + google translate



SCHOOL BENCH FOR OFFICE CHAIR



That's me: Pia Bolsinger, 24-year-old German.

MY PERSONAL PATH FROM SCHOOL TO WORKING LIFE – INTERMISSIONS INCLUDED

HOW MY JOURNEY STARTED...

During my school years at the general grammar school, I have always been firmly convinced that I knew exactly what I wanted to do after having finished my A-levels. Above all, I always thought this would be a direct path without any intermissions. But then, as so often in life, everything turned out to be differently than originally planned.

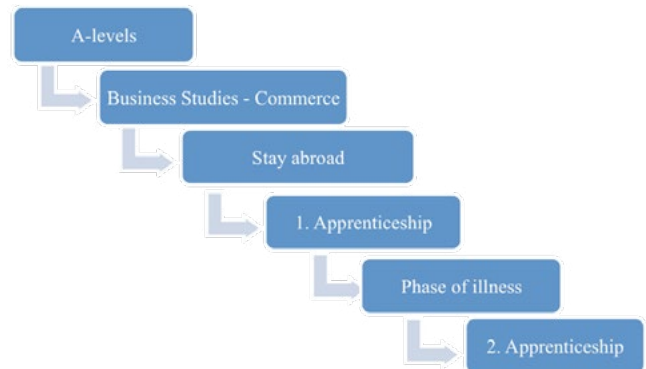
After having finished my A-Levels on 19th June 2015, only three months later I started a dual study programme in business studies - administration and commerce. Until then, everything went according to plan. However, I quickly realised that my dream of spending a year abroad was much bigger than the idea of studying and could not be suppressed. Therefore, after careful consideration, I took my name off the university register shortly after the semester had begun and started planning my stay abroad as an au-pair.

On 14th February 2016, it was time to say „Good bye Germany, hello UK!“. And this for wonderful six months.

The first intermission on my way from school to working life, which I definitely wouldn't miss and which I always would do again.

Immediately after my stay in the United Kingdom, I started my next stage of my journey: my first apprenticeship as a health and paediatric nurse. Super exciting and

Whatever you do, do it with curiosity for new things, passion, motivation, the goal in mind and staying powerful but above all have fun and always be yourself! Even if this requires some intermissions.



versatile experience.

But unfortunately not for people with severe neurodermatitis. That is the reason why I had to end this part of my journey earlier than expected and take the next intermission. An intermission that was much less beautiful but at least as formative as the first one and which allowed me to regain my strength after several hospital stays. When I was fit enough again to start my final leg of the journey into professional life, I decided to train as an industrial clerk at the company Voith in Heidenheim, Germany. I am currently in my second year of apprenticeship. And, if everything goes smoothly, my journey will be over by 1st September 2022 at the latest.

Application and employment

You are wondering how I got from my first social apprenticeship to my second commercial one at the company?

Here you will find out.

Step one.

Writing the application.

I personally find it very important to stay true to yourself and choose a layout that suits you personally as well as the company you are addressing.



Step two.

After the application had been submitted online and my current training company, Voith, had checked it and found it to be good, I was invited to take a recruitment test on 27th September 2018. My mathematical and linguistic understanding, as well as my logical thinking, were tested by an aptitude test on a PC. Here I advise to stay calm and concentrated even if this seems quite difficult in such an exciting situation.

Step three.

Fortunately, I had mastered the recruitment test well, so that I was invited to the selection day at Voith in Heidenheim on 5 October 2018. The selection day was used by the trainers to directly compare several applicants in different situations. For example, we had to introduce ourselves to the group, complete group tasks, demonstrate our organisational skills in an individual task and give a rounding insight into ourselves in a final interview. Personally, I had a lot of fun on this day, even though I was quite excited beforehand. My plan was just to be myself and do my very best.

Step four.

But less than two weeks later, on 16th October 2018, the time came, and I received my written acceptance. So it was clear: from 2nd September 2019, I would be part of the Voith Group as an industrial clerk apprentice. I was very happy. Not only because it gave me a better idea of the next stage of my life but also because I knew that a company had decided in favour of me as a person despite my intermissions.

Voith as training company.

I chose the Voith Group because I think it is great having the opportunity to work all over the world later on because Voith offers a wide range of products and can therefore provide insights into many different areas during the apprenticeship, because Voith has a very good reputation as a training company and, above all, because I felt very comfortable, understood and being taken seriously during the entire application process.

Me as an apprentice.

Voith chose me as an apprentice because I already had and still have a certain amount of life experience thanks to my CV, my school performance matched the company's expectations, I passed the tests according to expectations or better and because the trainers perceived me as an open, inquisitive and motivated person.

My statement on Europe:

Europe is freedom, adventure and home all in one. Its open borders make international friendships possible and its diversity means it never gets boring. Therefore I am very grateful and I hope it will stay that way forever. **Go Europe!**



MY TRAINING COMPANY AND MY APPRENTICESHIP DURING THE CORONA PANDEMIC

Vanessa B. (21) German



Trainee industrial clerk at Margarete Steiff Limited

MY STATEMENT ON EUROPEAN UNION

The European Union is very important to me; it symbolizes the cohesion of all European countries. It gives us the opportunity to move freely across national borders. It also helps to bring together the different cultures from the neighboring countries. Freedom, peace, and democracy are its greatest goals. Certain fundamental freedoms, such as living and working in any EU country, are made possible by the European Union. This means that goods and services can be offered across borders, among other things. In difficult times like during the Corona pandemic, for example, we stick together and take common decisions together. In addition, countries support and encourage each other. That is what I believe makes the European Community what it is.

The effects of Corona on my company, my school education & myself

MY TRAINING COMPANY

Giengen. Due to the rise of the number of infections, Margarete Steiff Ltd was forced to completely close the plant for 2 weeks in April 2020. The employees had to drastically reduce their flextime hours. The management then applied for short time working in order to somewhat stabilize the situation in the company. However, as

Margarete Steiff Limited produces cuddly toys and children's clothing.



this measure was not sufficient to secure the future of the company, Margarete Steiff Ltd. was forced to lay off employees. Just like all the other companies in the region, costs will have to be cut to cope with the decline in the purchasing power during 'Corona period'. For these reasons unfortunately, the well-known „Steiff Sommer” (summer festival) did not take place. The well-known Steiff Advent market in Giengen was also cancelled a few days ago. The delay in some projects now poses a great challenge to the individual companies. Steiff is also trying to restructure its internal processes to cope with the current difficult situation.

MY SCHOOL EDUCATION - VOCATIONAL SCHOOL IN TIMES OF CORONA

Education was also negatively impacted by the coronavirus. Schools in Baden-Wuerttemberg were completely closed since March 2020. Initially, pupils were given online tasks via Microsoft Teams. During this time, the teacher and the pupils would communicate via a private chat. A couple of months later, video conferences were held at the appropriate times according to the corresponding timetable. Subsequently, schools were forced to completely digitize the lessons. In record time, schools switched to online teaching. This meant that the pupils who would have had to attend vocational school were now in so-called homeschooling.



Over time, teaching via Teams became the norm. From August onwards, half of the industrial classes began to be taught in person physically while the other half in parallel via teams in a 2-week rotation. In September 2020, the entire school was finally able to participate in face-to-face teaching again.

The intermediate examinations, which are written nationwide in Germany at the halfway point of the apprenticeship, have been completely cancelled to avoid large crowds of people. Continuous assessment tests (CATs) could not be offered during online lessons either, so teachers had to rely on grades from the beginning of the school year. The spring examinations which are usually held in April, have also been postponed for the time being. There will be written examinations in the subjects: German, Social Studies, Business Administration, General Economics and Management and Control.

The Chamber of Commerce has also decided to cancel the German and Civic Studies exams due to the situation, so that the registration marks counted as final marks. For the remaining subjects alternative dates were agreed upon in July.

Measures against the spread of corona virus

MARGARETE STEIFF LIMITED

Giengen. Due to the rapid spread of the coronavirus, Steiff company reacted as quickly as possible, to protect its employees from the dangerous virus and by then rather little researched virus. Of course, some measures are now required in the workplace to reduce the risk of infection during work and thus ensure the future of the company. First of all, an attempt was made to equip as many employees as possible for the „home office“, so as to reduce the number of employees physically present at the company.

In addition to this, employees were instructed to cover their faces with a mouth and nose mask as whenever the minimum distance of 1.5m could not be maintained. The mask may only be removed at the workplace. Employees are required to stay at home when and if showing coronavirus related symptoms.

The follow-up procedure is then discussed on the phone with the employer and the personal doctor. Also, increased attention is paid to hygiene. This means washing hands more often as well as using disinfectants. Meetings whenever possible are held via video call. For example, when receiving a visitor, shaking hands is completely avoided. Visits are highly discouraged but in the event that the visit is unavoidable, then an appointment should be made in advance. Strict instructions regarding regular ventilation are highly adhered to. Contact surfaces are also disinfected at regular intervals. All these instructions are very important in protecting us during these difficult and uncertain times.



COMMERCIAL SCHOOLS

Heidenheim. Similar to companies, strict measures have been put in place in vocational schools. These include: compulsory wearing of masks, observing the minimum social distance in the corridors and the schoolyard. Smoking has also been banned on the premises since the Corona virus outbreak. The classes are also well ventilated. It has also recently been decided that exams can be done without mouth and nose masks as long as the minimum distance of 1.5 m is observed.

CONCLUSION

Motto: Together even in difficult times!

These difficult times are demanding for us, but if we all co-operate, take care of each other, we challenging this hurdle together. At the moment, it is impossible to predict when an approved vaccine for the virus will be developed and approved, what long-term effects the vaccination will have or how long the current restrictions will last.

Nevertheless, we have all learnt some important life lessons because once again in our lives we have been shown what the essential treasure of life - health!

Image sources

<https://ww.all-4-baby.de/documents/category/694/Steiff-Image.jpg>

https://www.bremen-city.de/uploads/tx_cityguide/Steiff_Galerie_Bremen_web.JPG

Training as an industrial clerk in the dual system in Germany



Hey, my name is Hanna, I'm 17 years old and I'm training to be an industrial clerk.

My statement about Europe:

For me, Europe is the continent with unlimited possibilities in terms of work, travel, private life and democracy.

In this article of the „European School Magazine“, I take you through a week of my everyday work as a trainee industrial clerk in the dual system in Germany. I hope this will give you a little look inside and a few informations.

Before I begin, I will first explain what training in a dual system means. Dual training combines theory and practice. This means that we have a theoretical part in vocational school and a practical part in the company. The academic part takes place at KSH (Kaufmännische Schule Heidenheim) and the practical part at Voith in Heidenheim.

Everyone who wants to start an apprenticeship in the dual system has to apply for a training company on their own. That's why every trainee in my class works at a different company.

My Monday morning starts with a bus ride to the vocational school. During our training, we are at school 1 ½ days per week. For me, it's every Monday morning and all day Thursday. School starts at 7:45 am on Mondays and ends at 12 pm. On Monday, we have



a total of 5 classes. Our schedule includes subjects like business administration, overall economics, finance and data processing but also subjects that you have in general education school like German, English and social studies.

In business administration, for example, we have subjects like marketing or procurement. There you learn how to market a product or how to select a supplier.

After school, we have a one-hour lunch break and after that we go to the training company. Personally, I often think this is very stressful, because in the morning you study at school and often write a test, and then in the afternoon you have to do your best in the company and concentrate on your work.

My training company is Voith in Heidenheim. Voith is a very large mechanical engineering company in our region. Among other things, we manufacture paper machines, couplings, gearboxes and also turbines for hydroelectric power plants. Worldwide, a quarter of the electricity from hydropower is generated with technologies and services from Voith. That means one in four of you have used energy generated by Voith.

Here you can see Voith's training center, where we trainees mainly spend our time.



Voith Ausbildungszentrum - Halfkann + Kirchner Brandschutzingenieure



This week is my last week in accounting. Starting next week, I'll be changing departments again. We trainees change our department every three to four months so that we get to know as many departments and tasks as possible during our training and can better decide on an area in which we want to work later after our training.

Possible training departments are, for example, purchasing, marketing, sales or employee development. In Employee Development, we organize seminars for Voith employees. My tasks during the department were, for example, to book hotels for the speakers or to create presentations.

For about four months now, I have been working in the accounting department. There invoices are paid and reminders are sent to customers who do not pay their invoices on time. My job is to enter the incoming payments that we receive from our customers into our data system.

Tuesdays are usually a normal work day with no special appointments or events. I often assist the employees in my department with tasks or projects they currently have. Today, for example, I had to check various folders of



bank accounts for validity. Sometimes I also have various briefings where certain tasks and topics are explained to me in more detail.

My workday on Wednesdays usually looks like this: I'm in the office working in the morning and in the afternoon I have in-house lessons or exam preparation. There we repeat the topics we learned at school and prepare for exams. During our 3-year apprenticeship, which can be shortened to 2 1/2 years, we write an exam halfway through our apprenticeship and at the end of our apprenticeship. The intermediate examination in the 2nd apprenticeship year is mainly used to check our level of knowledge and is not included in our certificate. However, the final exam in the 3rd apprenticeship year counts towards our final grade. There, unlike in the intermediate exam, we write five exams instead of one.

On Thursdays, we have school all day until 4:10 p.m. and are currently learning marketing strategies or how to create calculations. Personally, I really enjoy going to vocational school and I am happy to learn new things for my job. After our training, we have the opportunity to build on our knowledge and for example, become a business administrator. Another possibility would be to catch up on the one-year advanced technical college entrance qualification or the Abitur and to study. As you can see, there are many possibilities after an apprenticeship.

On Fridays, I'm back at work and do my daily tasks or prepare projects for colleagues. But sometimes you also have tasks like bringing folders to the basement, which was my task today. Since we have flextime during our training, which means that we can arrange our

working hours independently during our 35-hour work week, I can usually go home at 1 p.m. on Fridays.

My conclusion is that this training is very varied and the perfect foundation for a work life. If you have the prerequisites such as enjoy communicating with customers or suppliers, have good language skills and like to organize, the profession is definitely worth considering. I personally really like the dual system training, because it is always a change between practice and theory and you can gain great work experience.



The last year of apprenticeship – Opportunities and chances afterwards

Are you also asking yourself how you want to continue after your apprenticeship? Will I be taken on by my company at all? What if I don't find a new job? Will my performance be sufficient enough?

All these questions occupy our minds when we think about the end of our apprenticeship and the time afterwards. Many people feel the same way, because only very few have any certainty about how their path will continue.

Basically, there are several options after a completed apprenticeship:

- Takeover / further employment in the learned company
- The advanced technical college or the general baccalaureate
- Begin studies with the appropriate qualifications and prerequisites / requirements
- Further training as a specialist or business economist

Takeover – Straight on to get a head in a job

You liked your apprenticeship and now you want to start your career right away? The chances of being taken on are not bad at all, because around two thirds of former apprentices are taken on by their training company, whether for an unlimited or limited period. In addition, a good reason to start is that you become financial independent of your parents, partner and the state at an early stage, as you now earn your own money.

Vocational College / General

Baccalaureate

But do you want to expand your knowledge first? Maybe even study? Then it's a good idea to catch up on the advanced technical college or the general baccalaureate, provided you graduated the general certificate of secondary education. Since you have already completed a three-year apprenticeship, you can achieve the advanced technical college in only one year. The general baccalaureate can also be shortened to two years. After successfully passing the vocational college or the general baccalau



reate, you now have the opportunity to study at advanced technical colleges or at universities.

Studies - is that what I want?



If you finally comply with the requirements to start studies, you should overthink this path though.

Everyone should decide for himself whether studying is the right decision or not. Studying costs you money, and time but also stamina. If you would like to continue your education but don't think a degree is suitable, you could rather take a continuing education course. This could be an easier way for you.



Further training to become a certified specialist or business economist

After a completed an apprenticeship, you can pass a further training if you achieved the corresponding work experience or a higher degree. That way you can become a specialist or a business economist. One advantage is that the training can be completed both part-time (around 1.5 and 4 years) and full-time (a few weeks and 2 years). The goal of the continuing education is to qualify for new tasks / activities of the middle and high management level. In both further training courses, you decide a focus, e.g. as an industrial business administrator or a technical business administrator. The costs amount to approximately 2,500 - 3,000€ and 7,500 - 10,000 €.

My path after training at VOITH !



Personally, I would like to be allowed to stay in the company after my training. As this would mean a certain security for me, since the situation is currently unpredictable. I don't want to risk my job in order to possibly catch up on my advanced technical college entrance qualification or A-levels if I'm not rehired afterwards. Because it's precisely this takeover that is not certain at the moment. As soon as the pandemic is somewhat controllable, the economy grows again and gradually recovers, I would like to complete further training. Personally, I would like to do this part-time. Of course, this would mean a certain time challenge and effort, as I would now have "classes" again in the evening or on Saturday in addition to my job. However, the advantages outweigh the disadvantages for me in this case, because I would not have to give up my job and could qualify for a higher position at the same time. In addition, I would not have to give up my financial independence because I would continue to earn my own money. This means a lot to me because I can take care of myself.

Plan B - My path outside my training company

However, since I can never be sure what will happen after my apprenticeship, I have of course also thought about a plan B. I would like to continue my apprenticeship. Should I not be taken on, which I would personally regret very much, I would like to catch up on my vocational baccalaureate. Despite losing my job, I would like to make good use of this time. That way, I could expand my knowledge and increase my chances of finding a new job. After the advanced technical college, I could well imagine re-entering professional life. My goal would then be to complete further training with a focus on accounting after gaining the relevant work experience (1-2 years).



Unemployed after training - that doesn't have to be the case



Whether you are taken on after training, regardless of whether it is for a limited or unlimited period, can have various reasons. Often this is already agreed at the start of the training. However, a 100% takeover is only guaranteed in the rarest of cases.

Personally, I would like to keep my decision free as to what I actually want to do after my training. That's why I try to learn as much as possible during my apprenticeship, to further my education and thus increase my chances of being taken on. This means that when I am in the office, I try to concentrate fully on my work in order to use this time sensibly and effectively and to be able to show my supervisor good results and a committed way of working at the end of the day. Besides appearance and working style, other points play an important role:

- Achievement at vocational school
- Previous evaluations in the respective departments
- A professional appearance

How does the EU support young people regarding unemployment?

In addition to taking the initiative during their training, young people may still be laid

off. To prevent the threat of youth unemployment in Europe, the EU offers young Europeans support in choosing a career. The European Union has two instruments for this purpose:

- Youth Guarantee, how does it help you?
The Youth Guarantee is a commitment by all EU Member States to ensure that all young people under the age of 25 receive an offer of employment, training, apprenticeship, traineeship or work placement within four months of becoming unemployed or completing their education. It was launched in 2013 at the height of the employment crisis at the time.



• Erasmus+



Erasmus+ is also an EU programme to promote education, training, youth and sport through stays abroad. The budget is €14.7 billion for the period from 2014 to 2020, so more than four million people will benefit from EU funds by 2020. The aim is to promote exchanges between member states in the field of education and youth. The programme also aims to improve employability in order to reduce youth unemployment and dropout rates.

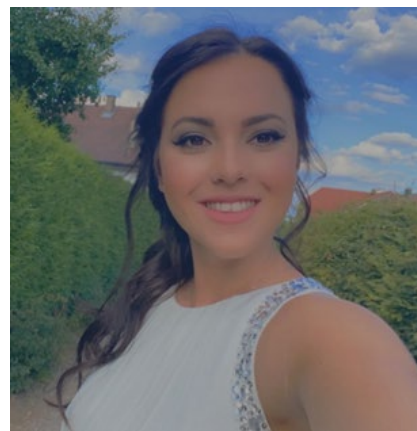
This allows young people to spend a few months abroad during their training or to travel

to other EU countries for a few weeks with organisations / partner schools.

Name: Tobias Hillmann
Age: 17 years
Nation: Germany
A united Europe, the EU - for me that means peace instead of war, freedom instead of oppression, democracy instead of dictatorship. Because hardly any continent has changed and developed as much as Europe in the past centuries and I am happy to be a small part of the big and whole.

Profile

That's me: My name is Nathalie.



I come from the district of Heidenheim and I am 20 years old. My nationality is German. My first thought about

Europe is the word freedom. For me the most important thing in Europe is that we can live and travel freely. By the way

Europe mainly means to me the cohesion of many different countries, societies and cultures that live peaceful together.

In the following, I would like to tell you a little bit about my professional future, in and outside my training company. In addition, I would also like to share with you a few thoughts on unemployment. In my personal view both topics, the own professional future and how to deal with unemployment in general, are very important. This perspective became even more present with the Corona year 2020. Many friends and relatives of mine had to handle this new experience in this time.

Because of the pandemic, some companies went bankrupt or had to lay off employees. Those affected were confronted



with the search for a new job. Impressed by this, I would like to share more details on both topics with you.

My career – now and in the future

Plan the future?

To plan the future? Should I plan my future career now? A few years ago, I was still asking myself what I was going to do after I finished school. But then I decided to train as an industrial clerk. I got the chance to start my apprenticeship at Margarete Steiff company in Giengen. Now I am in my second year of training and will probably graduate in January 2022. By knowing that the time is running very fast, I already start to think about my future. I'm asking myself, how it will go on, what I wanna do after finishing my apprenticeship? I thought that I would like to continue my career after my graduation in my present company. Till now I like to be there and enjoy my work. I have a very good relationship with my colleagues and I really enjoy the job. These two things are very important for me. I want to be involved totally in the work and I want to show maximum flexibility and commitment. At the same time, I want to prove myself and show that I am motivated and that I like the things I do at work. Of course, I am also very interested in further training as a specialist in order to take over more responsibility in a higher position in the company. The specialist manager is a higher commercial vocational qualification in the Federal Republic of Germany. It can be acquired through a further professional training in business administration.

I have also been recently asked the question „How do I plan my future outside my training company? Also at school, we have been asked what we plan to do if we are not

taken on at our company. My first plan would be to look for a new company where I can continue to collect work experience. An alternative would be to do a dual studies program in another company, if that is possible. However, there would also be the possibility to do something completely different. Like, for example, to start a study. However the study I would prefer would also go in the direction of BWL or completely different in the direction of special education. In any case, I would like to develop my skills.

My first goal is to successfully pass my exams and get a good education.

In the pictures, you can see me at the training fair in Heidenheim. There we advised job seekers what we train at the company Steiff and what courses of study we offer.

Unemployment

What to do about unemployment?

Unemployment is a big topic all over the world this year. An important question is what exactly I can already do during my training to prevent impending unemployment. That's why I show happiness and motivation in my job. This way, my superiors see that I like my work and that I am focusing totally on the job and that I am really committed to it. However, I also keep my eyes open and see what other companies are offering, in case it would come to the point that I would be unemployed. Half a year before I am graduated, I plan to start writing applications. If things are not running well, this is the way to avoid unemployment after my apprenticeship. In general everyone should plan the own future in advance and expect positive as well as negative things. Many things can happen in today's world. Especially in this time with the pandemic. Many people are finding



it hard to find a new job right now, because



many companies have a hiring stop because they are not doing well financially.

Protection against unemployment

The unemployment of young people is increasing more and more. While the rate of young people's unemployment was around 10% in 2013, it was already 14.1% in 2019. Compared to the year before, the unemployment rate increased by 3.5% in 2020. One reason for this is the Corona crisis. That is why the EU wants to provide several ways for young people to protect themselves from unemployment. In order to promote young people's employment, the EU offers young people a youth guarantee. I think that this is very useful and I would like to introduce this possibility to you. The Youth Guarantee means that all young people up to the age of 25 are offered different possibilities within four months after they have lost their job or have not been taken on after their training. These options include, for example, further training in a quality job or a quality apprenticeship or traineeship. The idea behind these support measures is to make it easier for people to work and enter the workforce. Because of the pandemic, the EU is working on the fact that they want to support the young people even up to 29 years. After more than 20 million young people signed up for the program in 2014, 2.4 million people had already

been supported through it by the end of 2017.



I think it's a good thing and it's good that there is an alternative option like this.

Another goal of the EU is to create a European education area. In this way, they want to ensure that young people can find qualified



jobs or general education all over Europe.

In addition, Erasmus + offers various mobility opportunities, such as being able to study abroad, as well as a wide variety of teaching and training courses.

The graph shows the development of the unemployment rate of young people aged between 15 and 24. You can see very well that the number of unemployed decreased quite a bit from the year 2014. However, from the year 2019 to the year 2020, the number increased by about 2.6%. One reason for this increase is also the Corona crisis, which came at the beginning of 2020.



The Corona Pandemic - Measures, effects and prediction

Name: Nadja Nagel

Age: 22 years

Nation: Germany

My statement about Europe:

I am really happy to live in a country of the European Union. Being member of a big union eases our life and is in many situations more convenient. If Germany wouldn't be part of the EU we would face higher burdens with regard to foreign trade and tariffs. In essence, goods would be more expensive, trading more complicated and life not as pleasant as it is. All member states of the EU are con-



nected and are able to support each other, which I highly appreciate.

(Quelle <https://www.rnz.de/nachrichten/heidelberg/karikatur-lokal.html> Karikatur 24, Stand 20.11.2020)

Young: Oh, what happened with the lady?

Me: I think she misunderstood something about the mask.

Young: Tell me Nadja, how is it actually with you? What measures have been taken in your company?

Me: When the first Corona cases were confirmed in Heidenheim, my training company immediately acted on the new situation. Our pandemic committee developed rules of conduct together with the management as a preventive measure. At the beginning of April, the company announced short-time work.

The short-time work lasted until July. Additionally, the employees worked from home when their presence was not necessary. I was also in home office during the first weeks of April. All meetings were moved to Microsoft teams to limit direct contact as much as possible. Due to these measures, for example, the Christmas party in our company was cancelled. Of course, we employees are very sad about this, everyone was looking forward to an entertaining Christmas party. When the infection rates dropped again, more employees came back to the office. There are still 25% of the employees in the home office, because the rules cannot be implemented in the open-plan offices. Now that the numbers have increased again, a higher number of employees is working from home again. Currently about 60% of the employees are working in home office. Since the end of October, we have also had to wear a mask throughout the building, except at our own workplace.

Young: Oh...Then the effects on your company are certainly serious, aren't they?

Me: Yes, unfortunately. Due to the pandemic, orders have been postponed due to delivery difficulties. This is also one of the reasons why we have announced short-time work. Additionally, we no longer had the opportunity to contact customers personally, as we were not allowed to welcome visitors. Likewise, customers no longer let external persons on their company premises. There were also negative effects internally. As many employees were in the home office, the communication was very difficult, especially in the early days. Due to the situation, the social personal contact between the employees decreased, which is why many employees were happy when they were allowed to return to the office. Nevertheless, there is a certain amount of anxiety among employees due to the uncertainty that the virus is also spreading.

Young: Then let's hope that the situation will soon improve again. What do you think what the future will bring for your company?

Me: I think a higher number of employees will stay in the home office throughout the year. If the situation doesn't improve, the probability

is quite high that we will announce short-time work again. However, we cannot confirm this at the present, as it depends on many different factors. Nevertheless, everyone hopes that the pandemic will calm down soon.

Young: Nadja, as a trainee you go to school every week. What measures have been taken to keep the number of infections at school as low as possible?

Me: Shortly after the announcement of the first Corona cases, the schools were closed as a precaution from mid-March onwards. During the school closure, we initially received assignments from our teachers online to work on them independently. A few weeks later the lessons were held via video conferencing. So, we no longer had to teach ourselves the material, but had a little help from the teachers. Now it was also much easier to ask questions and get in contact with the teachers. From the end of June, we were allowed to go back to school, but the class was divided so that each group only went to school alternately. The respective other group was connected via Microsoft Teams in the classrooms and could also participate in the lessons. In the beginning we only had to wear the masks on the school grounds, but in the meantime, it is completely compulsory to wear masks, also in class.

Young: How did the measures affect your lessons? Are you happy that you can go back to school now?

Me: Due to the sudden closure of the school, the communication between school, teachers and students was initially very difficult. Communication was exclusively via Microsoft Teams and the school's homepage, so questions could only be answered in a very limited and time-delayed manner. During this time, no exams were written, so teachers and students had not a review of the material learned. I'm really glad that we can go back to school now. I struggled at times to work through the school material on my own. A positive aspect of the school closure was that the teachers are now partially accessible online, so we can make additional contact if we have questions. However, no one knows what the future holds and how the pandemic will continue to affect the school. I would imagine that another school closure is imminent if the infection numbers don't come down.

Young: Thank you Nadja for giving us a little insight into your business and school situation during the pandemic. We wish you and your company much strength during this difficult time!

(stand 30.11.2020)



Opportunities after the apprenticeship and measures to protect against unemployment

My training as an industrial clerk will last about another year, but what will happen to me after that? What further training opportunities are there? If you would also like to know how you can protect yourself from the threat of unemployment and what the EU is doing to help, then you are welcome to read the article.

The opportunities after the training

As an industrial clerk you can:

- further training to become a certified expert in human Resource,
- to become a business economist,
- further training to become a specialist merchant,
- to be trained as an accountant
- continue to work in a company,
- or opt for a degree course (possibly dual study) with the appropriate prerequisites.



All of these further training options can be taken both with your training company and outside your training company.

Further training to become a certified expert in human Resource

After you have completed the dual vocational training as an industrial clerk and have one year of work experience, you can continue your training to become a certified expert in human Resource. The aim of this further training is to qualify you for new tasks in the middle management level. It takes about 1.5 years. If you decide to complete this further training full-time, you will be finished after just a few weeks. The costs are around 2,500€.

Further training as a business economist

Another possibility of the further training, which brings new fields of activity in the high management level and a higher income, is the further training to the business economist.

As a prerequisite for the business economist, a further education examination, must be present, as well as a professional practical experience. It takes 2 years full-time and 4 years part-time and costs an average of €5,000.

Further training to become a specialist merchant

A further possibility is the further training to become a specialist merchant. This involves choosing a specialisation in marketing, foreign trade, purchasing and logistics or human resources. With this graduation, professionals often lay the foundation for a career at the management level. It takes 3 to 4 years, depending on whether it is completed full-time or part-time.



Further training to become an accountant

Further training to become an accountant is also offered on a full-time or part-time basis. It takes between 3 months and 2 years. In addition to the training qualification, at least three years of professional experience is required for admission. As an accountant you are specialised in the field of finance and accounting.



Academic studies

The admission requirement for a course of study is the advanced college entrance qualification or the general university entrance qualification. Depending on the degree, you can study at a college or university. Through a course of study, knowledge specific to the field of study is deepened. Possible courses of study include, for example, the following:

- Business Administration
- Economics
- Economics

In addition to a normal course of study, there is also a dual course of study. This is based on the dual training system, because the dual study includes additional practical phases in a company.



My career plan

After my training, I would like to stay in my training company and work as an industrial clerk for one to two years. I therefore hope that I will be taken on despite the current Corona situation. After that, I could very well imagine continuing my training as a part-time business administrator. That way I will continue to work in my training company and have a secure job.

If I am not taken on, I would still like to do the further training to become a business administrator (full-time). That's why I would then catch up on my entrance qualification for a university of applied sciences in order to be admitted to the further training - even without one year of work experience.

What can I do during my training to prevent the threat of unemployment?



There are still more than three million young people unemployed in Europe. So that I don't become unemployed after my training, I can already do something about it during my training, such as:

- Perform well in the company as well as at vocational school
- Plan a takeover with the employer
- Make plans for further career (e.g. further education)
- Consider alternative plans (Plan B)

An education is quite important in Germany. With this qualification, you have a good chance of getting a job. That's why it's very important to me to complete the training successfully and to leave a good impression in order to have the possibility of being taken on in my training company. I also think about how my career should continue after the training and make alternative plans. Sudden situations are less likely to throw me off course. In my opinion, these are good prerequisites for avoiding unemployment.

What opportunities does the EU offer young Europeans to protect themselves from unemployment?

One of the EU measures to combat youth unemployment is the Youth Guarantee. This is a com-

mitment by all EU Member States that all people under the age of 25 will be offered a job, training opportunity, apprenticeship or traineeship within four months of becoming unemployed or completing their training. This is intended to facilitate re-entry into working life.

The implementation of the Youth Guarantee is mainly supported by the Youth Employment-

Initiative. Another measure is the European Solidarity Corps. This allows young people to take part in a volunteering or employment project across Europe. The work experience gained can help make a profession attractive. It also creates a sense of cohesion that benefits the community.

In addition, the EU is investing even more in Europe's education. It is hoped that this will:

- Better chances for education and training opportunities
- Better opportunities for learning mobility and participation
- Better access to employment
- Reduction of unemployment

The EU also agreed in 2014 on a quality framework with recommendations for traineeships. This will give young people the opportunity to gain quality work experience under safe and fair conditions and improve their employability.



The EU's Erasmus+ programme focuses on promoting cooperation and mobility in exchanges with partner countries. Erasmus+ enables Europeans to study, train, gain work experience or go on a school exchange abroad. Organisations (such as schools) can build partnerships with other schools from other countries. Trainees have the opportunity to do part of their training in another EU country. In addition, the stay is financially supported by the EU programme so that everyone has the opportunity to participate. Erasmus+ aims to reduce school drop-out rates, reduce unemployment and promote cooperation.

name: Anna **age:** 17 years **nation:** Germany. **My statement on europe:** For me, Europe means cohesion, acceptance and getting to know different cultures, as well as the freedom to travel to different countries within the European Union at any time and thus have a sense of independence.

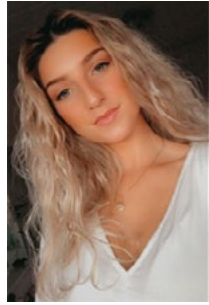


Training as an industrial clerk in the dual system in Germany

Name: Alicia Collins

Age: 20 years

Nation: Italian/Belgian



My statement about Europe

Most European countries are members of the EU, this allows Europeans to live in peace and prosperity. In addition, as Europeans we have the opportunity to travel, work and live without borders, which is very important to me, because I want to see a lot of the world. For the entire world population, Europe with its common values is a role model for human rights, democracy, social cooperation and equal opportunities. In a world where human rights are still not self-evident, extremism, hatred and violence can only be countered together, in order to defend values together.

Training as an industrial clerk in the dual system in Germany

Many students abroad wonder how the training as an industrial clerk in the dual system in Germany actually works.

With regard to this question, I would like to give the students from abroad an insight into my training as an industrial clerk at the company Margarete Steiff GmbH in Giengen,

based on an interview that I was asked about.

How does your week look like? How often do you have school and how is the working day organized in your company?

Well, I have alternating classes every week. That means, Monday morning from 07:45 am to 12:00 pm and Thursday from 07:45 am to 04:10 pm. Then we have lunch break from 12:50 pm to 02:35 pm. If I have less than six hours of vocational school, I still have to go to work afterwards. If I have more than six hours, I can go home. That is the law in Germany. Since I only have vocational school until 12 o'clock on Mondays, I still have to go



KNOPF IM OHR

to my company.

My working day is 7.4 hours minus a half hour break. It's up to me when I want to start, but I have to stick to the period between 7 am and 9 pm. In the afternoon, I am then allowed to go home from 03:30 pm. I should clock out at 05:30 pm at the latest. If I stay a little longer, I have to inform my trainer, but that is usually not the case. I still have to keep in mind that I can't work more than 10 hours if I only take a



half hour break. I actually start at 07:30 am and go home between 03:30 pm and 04:00 pm. I get overtime credited to my flextime account. If I don't work my full hours on a particular day, the missing time is deducted in the same way, if I left early or something similar, for example. In addition, we have 30 days of vacation, which we are always allowed to divide up ourselves. I can also add the hours to my flexitime account at any time and take overtime as I wish.

How long is your apprenticeship?

My apprenticeship is scheduled to last three years, but depending on the situation, I can also shorten my apprenticeship to two or two and a half years. Of course, I also have to achieve a certain level of performance at school. At the end of my apprenticeship, I'll take written exams in the subjects SBW (business administration), SGW (overall economy), SSK (control and supervision), social studies and German. After that, I have to take an oral exam on a topic of my choice.

What are the requirements for your training?

The requirements for training is a secondary school leaving certificate, a high school diploma or the entrance qualification for a university of applied sciences. Without a school

leaving certificate or only with a secondary school leaving certificate, the chances of being accepted are generally very low. Some companies also consider it important how good the grades are in certain subjects such as German, English and Mathematics and whether PC skills are available. Furthermore, you should be flexible, reliable, open and communicative, because you have a lot to do with your colleagues and outside people such as suppliers, customers and many other people.

What are your activities during the training?

We go through various departments and work there for either one or two months, depending on the department. We have a total of 15 departments.

I'll list the departments I've been in so far and what my activities there have been:

- Shipping: This mainly involves parcel processing, preparing and checking customs documents and processing the mail
- Incoming goods: Checking goods and carrying out initial spot checks, posting goods receipts and processing returns and repairs



- Warehouse: Picking, preparing packages and getting them ready for shipping

- Purchasing: Placing orders in our operating system,

creating material, file delivery bills and other accompanying documents

- Museum, Tourism and Public Relations: Prepare and sort goods for sale, handle customer inquiries, answering e-mails and performing organizational tasks

- Customer Service: Process orders for various customers, attend to customers, process returns, answering e-mails and maintaining the customer base

- Quality Management: Inspect plush/fashion merchandise, perform various tests on items

such as flammability, tensile test, color fastness and so on

- Atelier & Technique: Create production instructions of the articles, enter the cuts of the plush animals and here I was even allowed to develop/design my own teddy bear

- Financial accounting & controlling: Entering various figures into lists (for example costs of leasing vehicles, accruing rental income, ...), posting receipts, approving invoices and sorting mail

- Corporate Business: Writing offers for customers or designing an article for a special customer order



- Disposition & Planning: In this department I am currently comparing and checking invoices, enters articles into the system, looks at which orders are still open, how many backorders there are at the moment and how many items there are still in stock

Now I am still missing the following departments:

- Retail (takes care of the online store & and the individual stores)

- Marketing & Club

- Human Resources

- Sales & Distribution Once we have gone through all the departments, we then get to our assignment area. We can name our trainer three departments we absolutely want to go to or to which not at all at all. Depending on our needs, we are then assigned to a department accordingly.

Opportunities for further training:

- Business administrator

- With the appropriate prerequisites, complete a course of study, such as business administration, marketing, communication sciences and much more.



My apprenticeship as an industrial clerk

Vivien Ulrich
17 years old
Germany



I believe in Europe. I am convinced of Europe. Not just as an inheritance from the past, but as a hope and vision for the future.

My apprenticeship as an industrial clerk

Who knows at the age of fourteen or fifteen which profession they would like to pursue later? I have been in much the same situation when I applied for an apprenticeship about two years ago. I had absolutely no idea what I could imagine for my future, what I like and don't like. Without a doubt, internships can help you make your decision, but in my case, a few weeks of internships weren't enough to recognize my life calling.

However, I had to find something with different future opportunities.

That's when I came across the apprenticeship as an industrial clerk. In my eyes the job of industrial clerk is so diverse and required in pretty much every company. Are you now curious about how the industrial clerk apprenticeship works like and what options there are afterwards?

Then stay tuned. I'm going to tell you some of my experiences with the apprenticeship in my training company and in addition some facts about myself. As you can see in the following picture, I got the opportunity to start my training in the company called Maier with its headquarters in Heidenheim.

In Germany, the training to become an industrial clerk is managed through a dual system. Twice a week we are in the vocational school and on all other days we gain practical experience in the company. In my class, the vocational school days fall on the weekdays Monday and Thursday. On Monday half day and on Thursday the whole day. Our main subjects include SBW (focus on business administration), SGW (focus on overall economy), SSK (focus on management and controlling) and GK (community studies). We also



have minor subjects such as German, TV (word processing on the computer, i.e. how to write a correct e-mail, etc.), DV (data processing on the computer, various spreadsheets and formula applications in Excel), as well as religious education and Business English.

The purpose of the dual system is to learn the theoretical basics of entrepreneurial processes and procedures in school, in order to be able to implement them into the daily business of the training company.

The training as an industrial clerk normally takes three years but can be shortened to up to two years at the request of the respective training company. In my company it's not customary to shorten the duration of training. For this reason, I assume that it will take me the usual three years to complete my training. I have to say this also corresponds to my will as the training is pretty demanding. I prefer to gain experience rather a little longer to be well prepared for the future.

At my company the training runs as follows: Every trainee of the company has access to our digital training planner. With aid of this planner, I can see which department I am assigned in which period. Since I am doing a commercial apprenticeship, I go through all commercial departments like purchasing, selling, human resources, accounting and work preparation. In some cases, it's possible to go through technical areas such as manufacturing, warehouse and development, for a better understanding of our processes and products. Because I get an insight into all the different departments, it's easier for me to understand the various processes that flow together and to comprehend the interaction of my company.

After one and a half years there is an intermediate examination to provide information about my training status for me and my company. At the end of the training there is a final school examination and an oral final examination at the IHK translation?. After these exams, I am a trained industrial clerk with the hope that my training company will take me on board for an unlimited period for gaining more work experience.

It all sounds very promising, doesn't it?

Let's go on with the requirements that are placed on the applicants.

From a legal perspective, the training to become an industrial clerk may begin with a secondary school leaving certificate (Hauptschulabschluss). At my company, however, the minimum requirement was the intermediate school-leaving certificate (Realschulabschluss).

Special attention is paid to individual subjects, such as Ger-



man, English and math. After I was shortlisted, I was invited to take a recruitment test. This recruitment test was followed by an interview. The company maier offers the apprenticeship as an industrial clerk only every three years. So you can imagine how happy I was to be accepted to the apprenticeship.

As soon as I heard the job title of industrial clerk, I always combined it with a rather one-sided office job. In fact, I had no idea what the job content exactly was. During my apprenticeship so far, I was allowed to help with individual processes and tasks in various departments.

For example, I was allowed to compare offers in purchasing and place simple orders at our suppliers. In sales department, I was allowed to create the delivery notes, which will later be attached to the package so the customer can see how many products the package contains.

These were just a few examples and a small part of my activities during my training so far.

Because I am allowed to do different tasks in each department, I found out which activities and departments suit me well, and which doesn't. This is exactly where I see the benefits of an apprenticeship. I found out for myself, that I like the commercial activities the most. I had a lot of fun working in human resources and sales department. The tasks in human resources are very confidential and also very interesting. At the same time, I get to know the various colleagues better.

If I want to continue my education after my training, there are many options which are based on my apprenticeship. In my company, I can develop my skills through various training courses and seminars in various areas and departments. Nowadays there are also many good part-time courses that I can attend based on my training. In addition, my completed training gives me the opportunity to complete the technical college entrance qualification within one year. With this I can take and study any course at a university of applied sciences.

To put it in a nutshell: An apprenticeship as an industrial clerk opens new doors for young professionals and helps you to find the right career path. It's anything but one-sided!

I hope I was able to spark your interest and maybe answer a few of your questions.

Your Vivien

VIDEO

**Die EU Ratspräsidentschaft
von Lea & Rebecca**



**Introduction of our industrial clerk class in
their second apprenticeship year.**



**The EU Council Presidency
by Lea & Rebecca**

**Die Klasse der Industriekaufleute im
zweiten Lehrjahr stellt sich vor.**



2030: Reunion's course towards energy autonomy.

As a tropical paradise island with record sunshine on an almost daily basis, a coastline regularly exposed to the trade winds, spectacular swells from the Indian Ocean, sugar cane (which, thanks to the bagasse, represents an invaluable fuel resource), rivers and waterfalls with an impetuous flow and geothermal potential linked to its volcano (one of the most active in the world!), it would seem unthinkable that Reunion should still be dependent on energy and that the energy consumed locally should not be totally renewable.

However, this is indeed the case: our island's energy dependency rate is 87.5%, with 1,305.1 ktoe coming from imported fossil fuels such as fuel oil, coal and diesel. Only 186.7 ktoe come from the production of renewable energies such as bagasse, hydraulic energy or solar energy.

Even though energy consumption per capita remains lower than in mainland France (1.7 toe/capita in Réunion compared with 2.1

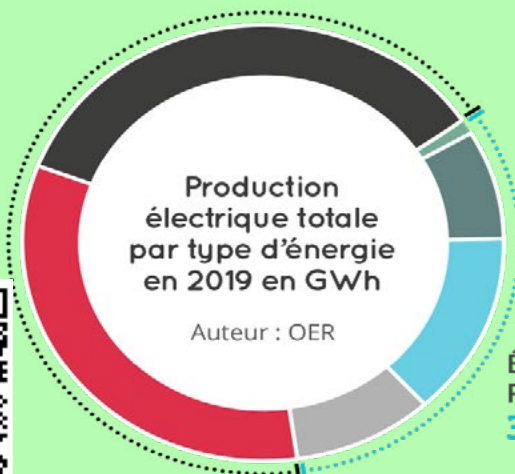


toe/capita in mainland France), the island's energy balance raises many questions and requires drastic adjustments.

Currently, 36% of the island's electricity comes from coal-fired power stations and 33% from turbines running on heavy fuel oil. To meet the needs of its 860,000 inhabitants, the aim of the overseas department is to massively replace these fossil fuels with green energies from 2023 onwards, giving priority to biomass and developing hydraulic, wind and solar power. This is a virtuous ambition from an environmental point of view, but also from an economic and social point of view, as it will enable the development of a large number of local jobs.

PRODUCTION ÉLECTRIQUE : 3 046,9 GWh - 262,0 ktep

ÉNERGIES
FOSSILES
68,8 %



ÉNERGIES
RENOUVELABLES
31,2 %

Fioul et Gazole	1 006,5 GWh - 33,0 %
Charbon / huiles usagées	1 090,0 GWh - 35,8 %
Bioéthanol	6,7 GWh - 0,2 %
Bagasse	239,8 GWh - 7,9 %
Hydraulique	417,5 GWh - 13,7 %
Autres EnR (PV/Éolien/Biogaz)	286,9 GWh - 9,4 %



A Green Association

In the high school of Pierre Poivre, some students, with their professors, have decided to join up and create an ecological association : Pierre Poivre Vert. Their main objective is to raise awareness about climate change among the school and to develop a healthier environment of learning. To communicate their actions and touch a maximum of person, these students usually use the word of mouth and also an instagram account.



Since 2019, Pierre Poivre Vert has led various ecological and social actions like collections of clothes and toys for international associations as La Croix Rouge, those objects have made happy the needy and the unlucky children of Madagascar. They also made collections of plastic caps for the association Handi-Bouchon which will recycle it in wheelchairs.

Also, this collective has created a little vegetable garden accessible to all the students, the professors and the people who work in the school so as to transform the school into a greener lively place.

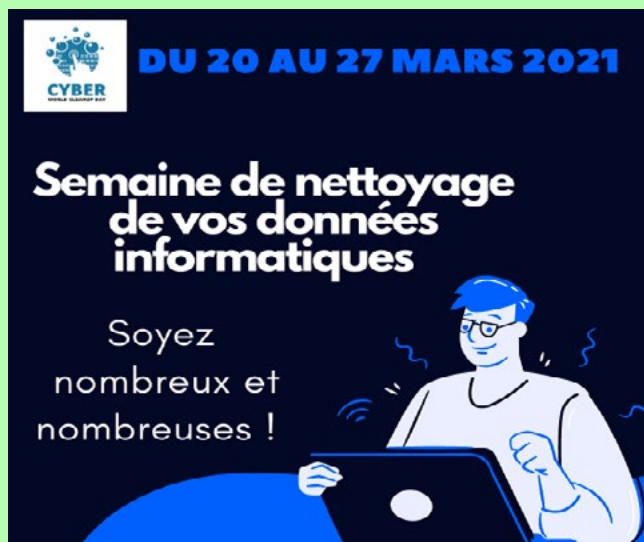
Recently, because of the international context of pandemia and knowing that they couldn't organise many actions in the high school, they have decided to organise a cyber clean up in order to get people realise the importance of their files in the world's use of energy.

But more than that, this club is a way for students to become citizens as we will see with Pierre, a student of terminale:

“As an Eco-delegate my main goal is to sensibilize my comrades to the impact we have daily on our environment. From the single piece of garbage to a fan that is working unnecessarily, I try to make them understand that we can and must act now ! We can reduce the carbon emissions, and the pollution at our own scale, by any little action.”

<https://eduscol.education.fr/1117/education-au-developpement-durable>

<https://pedagogie.ac-reunion.fr/edd.html>



A chicken coop in my school

An example of a project of education to sustainable development to live together and better.

This project started in 2019, it is a project of the school Simon Lucas (l'Etang Salé) and it promotes

- Inclusion of disabled pupils
- education for sustainable development
- improving the school environment
- valorisation of the intangible cultural heritage

The school is in l'Etang Salé ; a green village which is developing : bike path, forest, sea, beach, city.

Our goals:

1 a professional apprenticeship

A micro company EPA (Entreprendre Pour Apprendre / Entrepreneurship for learning) was created. Ti Bazar Vert, a company managed by the pupils, was born.



2 Developing a circular economy

- In the school restaurant, food is not thrown away, the chickens eat it.

- We recover all the school's green waste: sorting of plastics, leaves for composting and soil fertilisation, mulching etc.

- We recover coffee grounds for soil enrichment.

3 Learning

We want to develop the approach across all disciplines of educational content related to sustainable development, climate change and biodiversity, in order to form the scientific spirit of the pupils and develop their sensitive relationship with the world.

The Higher Council of Programmes proposed five „green” threads: air, water, fire, earth and life - „which lend themselves in a privileged way to a construction structured around thematic poles at the crossroads of scientific, artistic, literary, etc. discourses”. They offer various possibilities for developing explicit and progressive teaching and detecting complex interactions”.



Projects: creating a place for sharing and learning

- It would serve to take ownership of a living place with the plantations and the garden.

- We want to change the way we see the school and promote social links.

- We want to improve the school environment to encourage learning. We want to promote self-esteem, value the pupils, their knowledge, know-how and know-how to do.

- We want to promote interdisciplinarity, to limit school drop-out rates and to



We want to promote interdisciplinarity, limit school drop-out and open up learning, participate in the construction of a project that makes sense on an individual and collective level.

- Creation of a kiosk:

to propose to pupils, teachers and staff (nurse, CPE, social worker, school staff), a place of life, of exchange, where teaching in a different way would allow to reinforce life together: a space for reading, poetry, theatre, classes, a space for conflict management.

- Creation of a medicinal plant garden: replacement of the soil with grass, trees, medicinal plants.

- Installation of 4 rainwater recyclers: To irrigate the garden with ecological and economic concern, and the desire to contribute to preserving the planet.



Un gallinero en mi colegio

Un ejemplo de proyecto de educación al desarrollo sostenible para vivir juntos y mejor.

Este proyecto empezó en el 2019, es un proyecto del colegio Simon Lucas (l'Etang Salé) y promueve

- la Inclusión de los alumnos discapacitados
- la educación al desarrollo sostenible
- mejorar el ambiente escolar
- valorar el patrimonio cultural inmaterial

El colegio está en l'Etang Salé ; un pueblo verde que se esta desarrollando : carril bici, bosque, mar, playa, ciudad.

Los objetivos:

1 un aprendizaje profesional

Se creó una micro empresa EPA (Entreprendre Pour Apprendre/ emprender para aprender). Nació así Ti Bazar Vert, una empresa gestionada por los alumnos.



2 Desarrollar una economía circular

- en el restaurante escolar, los desechos alimenticios no se tiran, las gallinas los comen.

- Recuperamos todos los residuos verdes del colegio : clasificación de plásticos, hojas para compostaje y fertilización de suelos, empajado etc.

- Recuperamos el café molido para el enriquecer el suelo.

3 Aprender

Queremos desarrollar el enfoque a través de todas las disciplinas de los contenidos educativos relacionados con el desarrollo sostenible, el cambio climático y la biodiversidad, con el fin de formar el espíritu científico de los alumnos y desarrollar su relación sensible con el mundo.

El Consejo Superior de Programas propuso cinco hilos conductores “verdes”: el aire, el agua, el fuego, la tierra y la vida - „que se presta de manera privilegiada a una construcción estructurada en torno a polos temáticos

en la encrucijada de los discursos científicos, artísticos, literarios, etc. Ofrecen diversas posibilidades de desarrollar una enseñanza explícita y progresiva, y detectar interacciones complejas”.

Proyectos: creación de un lugar para compartir y aprender

- Serviría para apropiarnos de un lugar vivo con las plantaciones y el jardín

- Queremos cambiar la mirada que tenemos del colegio y favorecer los vínculos sociales

- Deseamos mejorar el ambiente escolar para favorecer los aprendizajes. Favorecer la autoestima, valorar a los alumnos, sus conocimientos, saber-estar, saber-hacer

- Queremos promover la interdisciplinariedad, limitar el abandono escolar y



abrir las enseñanzas, participar en la construcción de un proyecto que tiene sentido a nivel individual y colectivo.

- Creación de un quiosco:

para proponer a los alumnos, a los profesores y al personal (Enfermera, CPE, Asistente Social, plantilla del colegio.), un lugar de vida, de intercambio , donde dar clases de manera diferente permitiría reforzar la vida juntos: espacio de lectura, poesía,, teatro clases, espacio de gestión de los conflictos.

- Creación de un jardín de plantas medicinales: Sustitución del suelo por hierba, árboles, plantas medicinales.

- instalación de 4 recicladores de agua de lluvia: Para regar el huerto con la preocupación ecológica y económica, y el deseo de contribuir a preservar el planeta.



Digital Pollution

Digital technology is increasingly present in our daily lives, and even more so with the advent of connected objects. However, although it is partly dematerialised, it is not at all neutral for the environment. Digital technology consumes a lot of energy. A search on the internet involves running servers, which can be located anywhere in the world.

Today, digital technology already accounts for 4.2% of global energy consumption and 3.8% of greenhouse gas emissions, according to GreenIT.

CLEAN UP YOUR MAILBOX, INCLUDING DELETING SPAM

By storing only what you need and only for as long as you need it, you will reduce the load on data centres.

AVOID MULTIPLYING CONNECTED OBJECTS, WHICH ARE OFTEN MORE DIFFICULT TO RECYCLE

According to GreenIT, connected objects represented about one billion in 2010 and could increase to 48 billion in 2025. Some of them seem interesting with the aim of having an impact on reducing energy consumption.



For example, like remote control of heating levels. On the contrary, others seem much less essential (communicating hairbrush, connected water bottle, etc.) and require a quasi-permanent connection to retrieve data.

AVOID CONNECTED LEDS THAT CONTINUE TO CONSUME ENERGY WHEN ON STANDBY

Lighting with LED bulbs can reduce electricity consumption, but using connected LEDs for lighting cancels out some of the energy savings. A connected LED on standby consumes twice as much power as a TV on standby.

STORE DATA LOCALLY, NOT IN THE CLOUD

Storing data on the cloud (externally) involves going back and forth between the user and the servers and requires more energy than if the data is stored locally, on a computer or an external hard drive for example.



DON'T REPLACE OUR COMPUTER EQUIPMENT TOO OFTEN

We should not replace our computers too often. It is better to maintain our equipment, repair it rather than throw it away, sell or buy second-hand or reconditioned items. According to ADEME, „going from 2 to 4 years of use for a tablet or a computer improves its environmental balance by 50%.

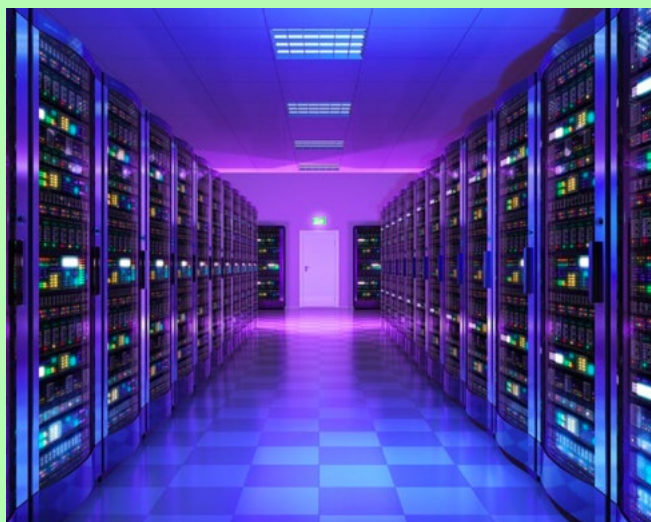
PRACTISE MINIMALISM IN TERMS OF CONNECTED EQUIPMENT

Going light is just as important. It is not necessary to have a smartphone, a computer, a tablet and a connected watch. Some equipment is more environmentally friendly, such as tablets, which consume less power than a computer.



REMEMBER TO TURN EVERYTHING OFF

At home and in the office, digital tools are one of the main sources of electricity consumption. So remember to turn them off when you are not using them. In addition, on some equipment, the user can also select the „energy saving” option.

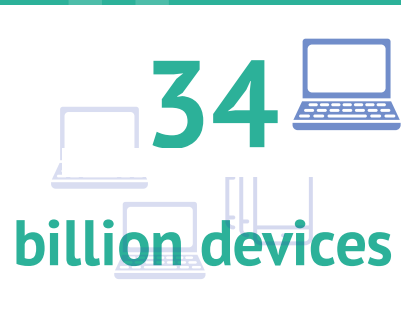


Digital pollution

in numbers




4,1
billion users



34
billion devices

6-10%
of global electricity
consumption

4%
of global GHG
emissions



1.5 times
more than
civil aviation



one e-mail
= 20 g of CO₂



one smartphone
= 70 materials
including 50 rare
earth metals



one computer =
240 kg of fossil
fuels
1.5 tonnes of water
22 kg of chemicals

The impact of digital technology on the environment

What are the effects of information technology on the environment?

Many of us still don't realize how the use of computers, smartphones and other digital devices impact the environment. In an era of digital transformation, it is necessary to adopt good habits.

A WeGreenIT study, conducted in 2018 with the collaboration of 24 companies, confirms the importance of the environmental impact linked to the digital footprint of an internet user at a company. The fabrication of digital devices is one of the main sources of environmental impact (29% of energy consumption, 54% of greenhouse gas emissions, 61% of water consumption and 97% of natural resources depletion). As for the users' work environment (computers, screens and peripheral devices) and the computing service (premises, means of transportation and equipment of those in charge of running the information system), they total from 44% to 66% of the impact, depending on the company. However, contrary to popular opinion, the energy consumption of computing centres is not the principal source of impact.

The environmental impact of digital technology can be presented as follows:

- The internet represents 2% of the world's greenhouse gas emissions, equivalent to global air transportation for one year. (figure from a 2008 study by the American consulting and analysis company Gartner Inc. specialising in new technologies)

- To build a new computer, it takes 22% of chemical products, 240kg of combustible materials and 1.5L of water. (figures from a study published in 2003 by Eric Williams and Ruediger Kuehr, two academics who work for the United Nations)

- A total of 70% to 90% of all electric and electronic waste is trafficked and not managed through the internationally regulated recycling industry. (figures from a study conducted by the University of the United Nations)

Every year, a French employee emits the equivalent of 514kg of greenhouse gases with only his digital activity. This is equivalent to a Paris-Moscou drive, a result to be multiplied by the 27 million employees working in France. As for energy consumption, this equates to each employee keeping 50 low-consumption light bulbs on for 2,000 hours, the same as each one running 23,555L of water or taking 428 showers.

What are the primary sources of pollution?

The first source that comes to mind is data and their storage in data centres. We estimate that data volumes augment 20% on average per year (an increase of 69% between 2013 and 2014 for smartphones), which constantly increases the need of calculation power and storage space for the energy consumed by these centres. As a result, every year, Greenpeace pays attention to the energy consumption and energy supply on its barometer: Click Clean. In its 2015 edition, this NGO acknowledged Apple for its environmental policy, which supplied its infrastructure of up to 100% with renewable energies. In 2014, the dunce cap went to Amazon Web Services. The cloud



service supplier barely used renewable energies up to 23% and still heavily relies on fossil fuels (27% of coal and 21% of natural gas). Nonetheless, it committed to reaching 40% of renewable energy sources in its data centres in 2016.

How to reduce this impact ?

Nowadays, the internet represents 9 billion devices including 2 billion smartphones, 1 billion computers, 5 to 7 billion connected devices, 45 servers, 800 million network devices (such as ADSL routers), among others. Most of the environmental impact stems from the fabrication of devices and bad e-waste management. Alone, the fabrication of a computer requires no less than 240kg of fossil fuel, 22kg of chemicals and 1.5 tons of water.

If we want to reduce that impact, first we have to increase the average life of our devices' components such as batteries, accumulators, chips, because they include toxic material for both environment and health.

From the extraction of rare metals, essential for the manufacturing, to their treatment as wastes, it's very important to reduce their ecological footprint throughout their life cycle.

The less we change them, the better it is.

- Keep your electronic devices as long as possible, more than 4 years. If you take care of your smartphone, it can be used for more than 5 years and a laptop more than 10 years.

- Opt for a refurbished device rather than a new one.

- Choose eco-label (Blue angel, TCO, EPEAT etc.) for the hardware.

- Delete useless software because they often slow the computers. Repair and reuse before throwing away. Most of the time you can fix them.

- Donate your old hardware to someone who will reuse it. After it's been cleaned and refurbished, your old smartphone or computer will be donated or sold once again. It'll have a second life. When you favor an actor of social and solidarity economy you actively contribute to social integration and you fight against the digital divide.

- Recycle is the very last step. If you have to get rid of your hardware, drop it off into the proper waste and recycling container or at a specialized shop which could try to refurbish it, if it's possible. Then your hardware will be recycled or given to an association.

- Restraining our energetic consumption is also an option. All our uses on the internet have an impact with consequences on the climate, biodiversity and even on the depletion of non-renewable resources. Using a search engine, sending an e-mail or storing files and pictures for example, all these little daily actions have an ecological footprint.

However you can find some tips to become a responsible internet user and reduce your ecological footprint.



Ökologische Auswirkungen der neuen Technologien

Kein Wunder, dass die Entwicklung der Informationstechnologie in unseren Gesellschaften eine echte Herausforderung auch für die Umwelt geworden ist ! Mit dem Aufkommen von Cloud Computing wird erwartet, dass sich die Rechenzentren vervielfachen, um die Speicherung von Benutzerdaten auf entfernten Servern zu ermöglichen, mit dem offensichtlichen Risiko der Beeinträchtigung des Klimas, aufgrund der digitalen Verschmutzung dieser Anlagen...

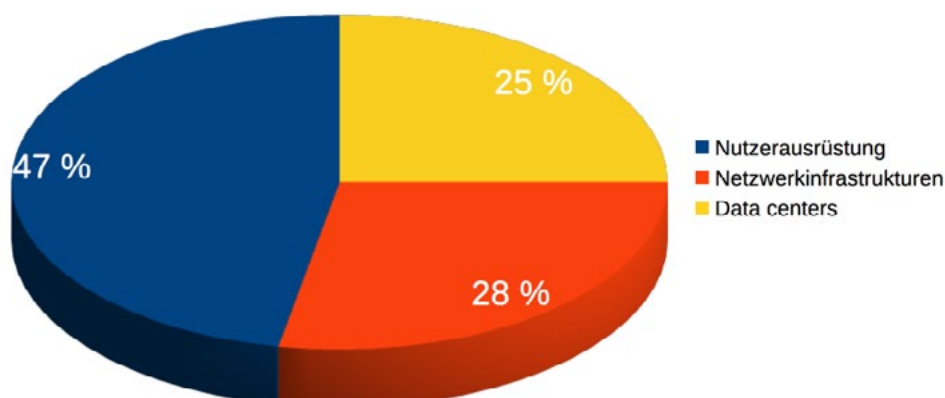
Digitale Verschmutzung bezieht sich auf die Verschmutzung durch alle neuen Technologien. Nach Angaben der ADEME (Französische Agentur für Umwelt und Energiemanagement) ist die Hälfte der CO₂-Emissionen in diesem Sektor auf den Betrieb des Internets (Transport und Speicherung von Daten, Herstellung und Wartung der Netzinfrastruktur) und zur Hälfte auf die Herstellung unserer IT-Geräte (Computer, Smartphones, Tablets usw.) zurückzuführen.

Das Netz hat eine Auswirkung auf die Umwelt, die pro Person und Jahr auf mehr als 200 kg Treibhausgasemissionen geschätzt wird. Außerdem wird eine sehr große Men-

ge Wasser verbraucht, nämlich fast 3.000 Liter pro Jahr (die Herstellung der Geräte, die Erzeugung von Strom und die Kühlung der Rechenzentren benötigen alle Wasser). Zusammenfassend lässt sich sagen, dass alle Aktionen, die über das Internet durchgeführt werden können, einen evidenten Einfluss und einen negativen Impact auf die Umwelt haben: z. B. soll das einfache Versenden einer E-Mail bis zu 19 Gramm CO₂ ausstoßen!

Angesichts dieser großen Umweltprobleme sind viele Menschen auf der Suche nach technologischen Lösungen, die unsere Umwelt schonen könnten. Die ADEME schlägt einige Möglichkeiten vor, um die Auswirkungen der Technologie auf die Umwelt zu reduzieren. Zum Beispiel in Bezug auf E-Mail lädt die Agentur dazu ein, eine E-Mail nur an Personen zu senden, die wirklich Empfänger der Nachricht sein sollten, d.h. wirklich betroffen sind. Das Senden einer E-Mail an 10 Personen belastet nämlich viermal weniger unseren Planeten als das Senden einer E-Mail, die an 100 Personen geschickt wird.

Treibhausgasemissionen durch Digitalisierung



Sustainable fishery

What is sustainable fishery in general and what does it look like in Poland?

An idea of a sustainable fishery means leaving enough fish in the oceans, lakes and rivers. That consists in avoiding overfishing through techniques such as individual fishing quotas, curtailing destructive and illegal fishing practices by lobbying for appropriate law and policy, setting up protected areas, restoring collapsed fisheries, incorporating all externalities involved in harvesting marine ecosystems into fishery economics, educating stakeholders and the wider public, and developing independent certification programs.

We measure sustainability according to several points such as **sustainable fish stocks**, which means that fishing must be at a level that ensures it can continue indefinitely and the fish population can remain productive and healthy. Another point is **minimising environmental impact**. The fishing activity must be managed carefully so that other species and habitats within the ecosystem remain healthy. The human activity should go unnoticed.



Effective fisheries management is also crucial. MSC-certified fisheries must comply with relevant laws and be able to adapt to changing environmental circumstances.

Why is sustainable fishery good?

First of all, this kind of fishery takes care of our planet. We ensure species survival by catching them in a controlled quantity. Many species of fish caught by sustainable fisheries are high in protein, vitamins, minerals, and heart-healthy omega-3s while containing low amounts of harmful chemicals, so eating them makes us healthier.

We also support local economies. A lot of coastal fishing towns all over the world depend on small-scale fisheries for both income and food. By purchasing locally-caught wild fish (caught where you live) or third party-certified farmed fish, you directly support such people and local economies.

Sustainable fishery helps endangered species. More than 85 percent of the world's fisheries are fully exploited, resulting in many endangered fish species (1,098 to be exact, according to the International Union for

Conservation of Nature). Choosing sustainably farmed fish helps reduce the pressure on wild fisheries and allows populations to rebuild.

How sustainable fishing looks like in our country?

The Vistula is the longest and the largest river in Poland. Moreover, Poland is also known as Vistula Land (in Polish: kraj nad Wisłą). Vistula has its source in Barania Góra, a mountain located in southern Poland and it flows through the entire country and it's largest cities such as Kraków, Warszawa and Płock which is our hometown. It discharges into Vistula Lagoon or directly into Gdańsk Bay of the Baltic Sea in northern Poland.

In addition, the river forms a wide delta called Żuławy Wiślane. It starts about 50 km from the river's mouth, where another river - Nogat - splits off. Various reasons have caused many floods of the Vistula down the centuries. These days it may happen again because of the ice jams as you can read in another article.

The Vistula river is known for its wide range of different fish species. There is a surprising number of at least 34 breeds swimming in the river. That is quite an impressive amount considering other Polish rivers. Due to relatively high water quality and accurate climate the fish are thriving. Experienced fishermen say that in some cases the fish caught can weigh up to 70 kg and be at least 2 meters long! But let's talk about some facts. In the Vistula river one can mainly catch bream and certa fish.

Certa is a carp migratory fish. It migrates upstream to spawn from its feeding grounds in coastal, brackish sea waters. Spawning grounds are located in shallow sections of rivers with clear water, rocky and gravel



bottoms and a strong current. For the Vistula population, the spawning grounds were the Carpathian tributaries of the Vistula.

Bream has the largest share in biomass in the waters of the Vistula River in the Warsaw region. Under favorable conditions, it reaches a weight of over 6 kg, but usually does not exceed 3 kg. The body of the bream is strongly arched and laterally compressed. The head of the bream is relatively short and ends with a small, semi-bottomed mouth. The dorsal fin is short but tall, the anal fin is long. The color of the fins is grayish-brown with a blue tinge. The color of the bream changes with age. Bream is a species resistant to changes in the environment and quickly adapts to new conditions. As a result, it inhabits rivers, dam reservoirs and lakes.

There should also be mentioned other breeds of fish swimming in the river such as: bleak, bream, carp, catfish, cod, crucian, gudgeon, herring, perch, pike, pikeperch, salmon, sturgeon, trout.

Vanessa Rochowicz,
Wiktoria Witkowska,
Martyna Pstrągowska



Sag nein zu Verpackungen!

Nachhaltigkeit im Alltag

Lebensmittel ohne Verpackung? Ist das überhaupt möglich? Nun, es stellt sich heraus, dass es tatsächlich Geschäfte gibt, die ihre Lebensmittel ganz ohne unnötigen Kunststoff verkaufen. Und sie werden immer beliebter. Geführt werden sie von umweltbewussten Menschen, die dazu beitragen wollen, den Verpackungsmüll zu reduzieren. In Polen gibt es bereits in vielen Städten solche Läden.

Typisch für die Unverpackt-Läden sind sogenannte Spender, aus denen man sich die Ware selbst abfüllen kann. Die Behälter dafür muss man selbst mitbringen: Gläser, Flaschen, Plastikdosen, Beutel oder Kartons für Eier. In solchen Geschäften finden wir eine Vielzahl von Produkten: von zahlreichen Gewürzen, Kaffee oder Tee bis hin zu Bio-Hautpflegeprodukten oder Reinigungsprodukten. All das, natürlich, ohne unnötiges Plastik.

In Polen wurde das erste Geschäft ohne Verpackung in Warschau gegründet. Sein



Name - „Nagie z natury”, das heißt „Von Natur aus nackt“- bezieht sich auf die Tatsache, dass alle Produkte so präsentiert werden, wie sie die Natur bietet. In diesen Geschäften gibt es Bio-Produkte nach Gewicht, direkt aus den Originalbeuteln und Kunden können mit ihren eigenen Behältern kommen -



gleichzeitig kümmern sie sich um die Umwelt. Die Verpackung dient uns nur für kurze Zeit, wirkt sich jedoch sehr lange negativ auf die Umwelt aus. Kaum jemand merkt, dass der durchschnittliche Pole jährlich über 300 Kilogramm Müll produziert. Die Mehrheit vom Abfall geht auf eine Mülldeponie und nur ein Teil zum Recycling.

Geschäfte ohne Verpackung sollen nicht nur zur Reduzierung der Abfallmenge beitragen, sondern vor allem unsere Denkweise im Umgang mit Kunststoffschalen, Behältern oder Plastiktüten ändern.

Ein weiteres Problem heutzutage ist die Verschwendung einer großen Menge von Lebensmitteln. Weltweit werfen Menschen Lebensmittel weg, die noch gegessen werden könnten. Es gibt nun nicht nur eine Lösung für sowas: man organisiert sich in Vereinen und holt die Lebensmittel von verschiedenen Orten, wie zum Beispiel Restaurants, Bäckereien oder Supermärkten ab. Dann gibt man diese kostenlos an andere Menschen, eventuell man isst sie selbst. Oder man stellt in vielen Orten Foodsharing-Kühlschränke, oder Foodsharing-Schränke, wo man Essen

für andere lassen kann. Die entstehen zum Glück seit einiger Zeit in vielen großen und kleinen Städten in Polen.

Vielleicht sollten wir alle darüber nachdenken, einen solchen Ort zu besuchen oder weniger Essen zu verschwenden und es uns zur Gewohnheit machen, weniger schädlichen Kunststoff zu verwenden. Lassen wir uns unsere schlechten Gewohnheiten ändern, um einen nachhaltigen und umweltfreundlichen Lebensstil zu führen.

No more plastic!

Food packaging without the use of plastic is something that has become very popular among European countries in the course of the last few years. Poland is obviously one of them. Now we can buy various items in special stores, where the products are sold by weight, without unnecessary plastic! It obviously requires having some sort of container or bag of our own. Such stores usually use paper wrapping or recyclable materials, which are more beneficial for the environment. Nowadays we can find those kinds of stores in almost every big city in Poland. What's more, the products they offer, are mostly organic and



raw, which is undoubtedly an advantage for our health. Another problem we face is wasting a large amount of food that is being constantly thrown away by either restaurant chains, companies or regular people. A solution for that problem is a phenomenon called food sharing. It is basically an initiative, where all the food, that would have been thrown away, is handed out to people who will use it. That is obviously profitable for both sides.

Vanessa Rochowicz



Biodiversity

Biodiversity means existing many different forms of life on Earth. It's important for sustainable development. We can consider three levels of biodiversity: genetic, specific and ecosystemic. Biological diversity is constantly changing. Nowadays, there is a huge danger for biodiversity, caused by damaging human's activity.

Biological diversity is the variety of all living creatures on Earth, living on land, in seas, oceans and ecological groups. It concerns diversity within species, between species or diversity of ecosystems. The most popular gauges of biodiversity are: **specific diversity** - a number of all species of eukaryotes existing on Earth is about 8,7 million; **a variety of rare species** - a number of species found in a tiny proportion; **gauges of Shannon, Simpson, Margaleff, Pielou and others.**

Biodiversity levels are genetic specific and ecosystemic. Genetic biodiversity is connected with existing a lot of alleles of one gene. Specific biodiversity concerns a number of species living in the ecosystem and ecosystemic biodiversity is connected with a variety of natural habitats and ecosystems.

Our lack of knowledge often leads to biodiversity poundings because people burn off meadows and stubbles. They also throw away settled leaves where animals have their

lodges. In their gardens they prefer to have neatly cut lawns instead of meadows. Other biodiversity dangers are natural disasters and adversarial attitudes between populations. People are responsible for the conditions of animals' lives.



In our city we are trying to preserve biodiversity. A few years ago, Płock took part in the EU project called 'Biodiversity protection and restriction of negative influence of tourism for naturally valuable areas'. Within the project our city was protecting endangered species by reinventing infrastructure necessary to make better conditions of natural habitats. There were also led activities to raise public awareness for the problem of biodiversity dangers. In our region we have different forms of environment protection such as nature reserves and landscape parks. We think that protecting specific diversity is really important to make the environment better.

Aleksandra Kośmider



Vogelschutz

Warum ist das wichtig?

Die Menschen verändern ständig ihre Umgebung: Sie fällen Wälder, entwässern die Sümpfe, bauen Straßen, Städte und verschmutzen die Umwelt. Meistens sind die neuen Bedingungen ungünstig für in der Natur lebende Tiere, zu denen auch Vögel



gehören. Einige Arten haben sich zwar perfekt an die Veränderungen angepasst zum Beispiel der Spatz, viele andere sind jedoch stark gefährdet. Ihre Zahl nimmt alarmierend ab. Wenn Menschen endlich nicht handeln, können sie sogar aussterben.



Wie wird geholfen?

Die Förster leisten einen großen Beitrag zum Schutz der Vögel. Ihre Aufgabe ist es, Nistkästen und im Winter Futterhäuschen einzurichten. Dank der Nistkästen können sich Vögel vermehren. Sehr viele Arten stehen in Polen aufgrund ihrer Seltenheit ganz oder teilweise unter Schutz. Nicht nur die Vögel selbst, sondern auch ihre Nester werden geschützt. Es ist ein Verbrechen, Vogelnester zu zerstören.

Jeder sollte sich um die Vögel kümmern, es gibt aber auch Organisationen, die sich damit beschäftigen, unter anderem Polnische Gesellschaft zum Schutz der Vögel. Das ist eine Organisation, die sich dem Schutz der Vögel und ihrer Lebensräume widmet. Eine ihrer Initiativen ist die Wintervogelzählung. Es ist eine Vogelbeobachtung, die jedes Jahr Ende Januar stattfindet. Aufgrund der vorherrschenden Pandemie wurde dieses Ereignis diesmal als Wintervogelzählung aus der Ferne bezeichnet.

Wie wird bei uns gehandelt?

In Polen gibt es außerdem andere Organisationen und Initiativen für den Vogelschutz, in unserer Stadt Płock können wir uns aber einer der interessantesten und ungewöhnlichsten rühmen, die ein zunehmendes öffentliches Interesse geweckt hat. Das ist nämlich die Beteiligung von PKN ORLEN, einem großen Mineralöl- und Petrochemie-Konzern, seit 1999 am Programm zur Wiederherstellung der Wanderfalkenpopulation, einer Art, die im polnischen Roten Buch der Tiere als extrem gefährdet eingestuft ist. Alles begann, als ein Wanderfalken in der Nähe gesichtet und dann mehrmals beobachtet wurde. Deswegen wurden 1999 bei PKN ORLEN zwei Nistkästen auf hohen Schornsteinen aufgestellt.

Wie erfolgreich sind die Maßnahmen?

Die erste Vogelbrut wurde im Mai 2002 registriert. In den Jahren 2002-2020 zogen zwei Falken 51 Küken auf, davon 3 aus der Adoption. Die Existenz von Falken innerhalb des Unternehmens unterliegt einer ganzjährigen Beobachtung, die aus der Inspektion von Nistkästen wie auch der Erstellung einer Film- und Fotodokumentation der nistenden Wanderfalken besteht. Dank



der Online-Überwachung können sogar alle Menschen regelmäßig „unsere“ Falken beobachten.

Martyna Buks
Alicja Ludwicka
Marta Zacharska

In the article, we bring up an unusual but important topic which is the protection of birds. We focus on the dangers these animals are exposed to. We write about institutions in Poland that care about their safety and we mention an incredible association in Płock that takes care of falcons in cooperation with one of Polish largest companies.



Farming - not harming

A few words about sustainable agriculture

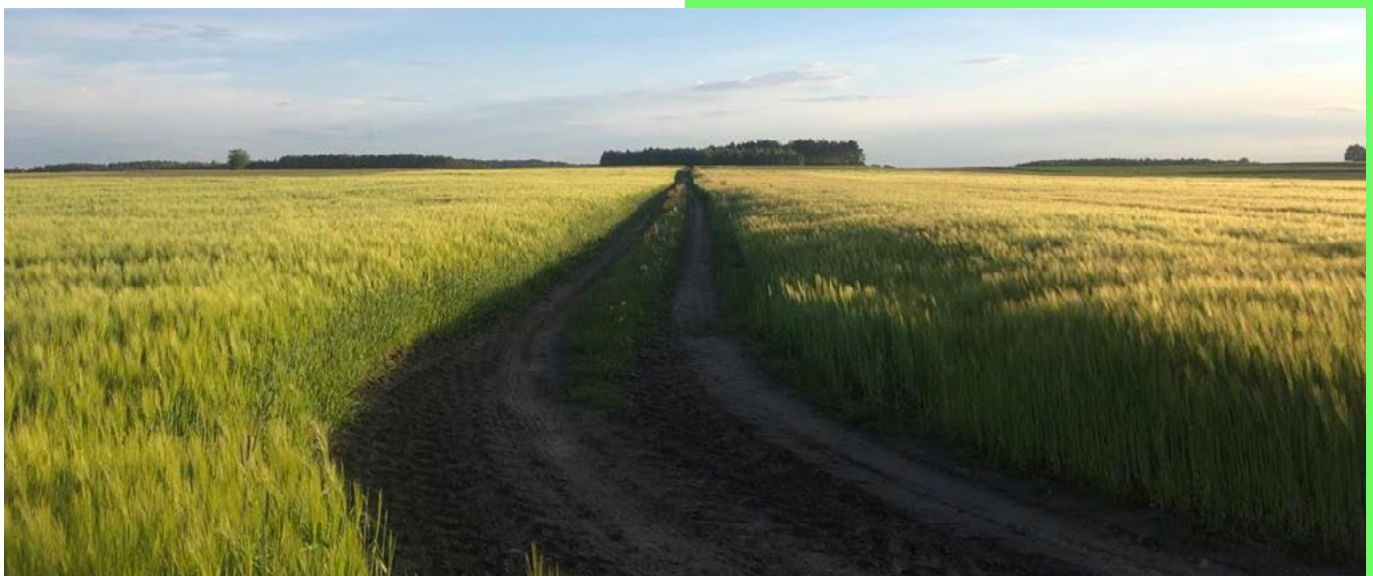
Declining land resources, climate changes, and the possibility of feeding another 2 billion people in 2050 with progressively limited access to water and arable lands are the biggest challenges for modern agriculture. It is already required to find effective solutions that won't influence negatively on using natural resources and the environment. Sustainable agriculture fully responds to these problems. This solution is about reducing as far as possible the negative effects on the environment. Also allowing for the rational and careful use of natural resources. It focuses on three categories: a **healthy environment**, **economic profitability**, and **social, economic equity**.

There are several rules of sustainable agriculture. One of them is care for the condition of soil and improvement of its productivity, preventing erosion, regular analysis as well as fertilization according to the farm's fertilization plan. Another important point is adherence to the rules of integrated agricultural production, supporting local social initiatives as well as developing expertise, sharing knowledge



and experiences with others, complying with the farm safety codes and taking care of the financial account of the farm.

There are numerous benefits of sustainable agriculture. One of them is helping to replenish the land as well as other natural resources such as water and air. Promoting sustainable fertilizers as a better alternative to using chemicals. Sustainable agricultural systems have also reduced the need for fossil fuels or nonrenewable energy sources and allows us to cultivate without damaging natural resources. It also reduces



the overall costs involved in farming. Animals are better cared for, as well as treated humanely and with respect.

The implementation of the concept of sustainable agricultural development in Poland requires the implementation of technological progress, a certain moderate, rationally and ecologically justified production intensification and limiting the degradation of soil production potential. It is also necessary to expand and modernize the technical infrastructure of rural areas and farms themselves. The condition conducive to the implementation of sustainable agriculture in Poland is the achievement of income in agriculture as a branch of the economy for payment of labor and provision of funds for modernization and development. Only such a state is conducive to the implementation of new, environmentally friendly technologies of agricultural production. Financial support from the state budget and EU funds granted increased farmers' interest in pro-ecological activities, both in the sphere of production and internal farm infrastructure, and became an impulse mainly for sustainable development. The directions of implementation of sustainable agriculture in Poland are varied due to the specific nature of the areas and the



need to adapt the development paths to the objective, existing natural and socio-economic conditions.

Martyna Buks, Alicja Ludwicka,
Michał Radoliński



...how it all started...

Beekeeping is getting more and more popular nowadays for some reasons: honey, pollination and for fun. I got into beekeeping because it is truly fascinating. Living in the countryside gives me the possibility to do something extraordinary. It can also be a form of stress relief and... truthfully, I'm not afraid of bees. About four years ago me and my husband took up beekeeping as a nature-related hobby. It all started with one hive in our back garden. Little had we known about beekeeping until we joined the local beekeeping association. Thanks to it, we got real support from experienced beekeepers who let us watch as they work their own hives.



Our apiary is very small as beekeeping is a really time-consuming activity. This hobby makes us busy mostly in spring when the hive is starting to come alive and in summer when we harvest the honey. There are only three hives but it gives us lots of self-satisfaction. We also know that bees are an essential part of growing plants such as



rape, apples, strawberries and other crops.

There are a lot of types of honey available depending on the area where the apiary is located. Each type of honey has specific unique characteristics that differ in flavour, colour and intensity. I'm a real fun of wildflower honey with mild, floral flavour (we mostly get this sort of honey from our apiary)



As everybody knows there are benefits and advantages of honey that have been valued since ages. I use honey because it is a great natural remedy to soothe colds, coughs, or sore throats.

Agata Piekarska



Winter floods

Since 8th Feb 2021 in Płock and neighboring commons there was the flood state, due to the ice jam that formed on the Vistula river. The water level rose by half of a meter an hour. Above 100 people had to be evacuated.



The authorities tried to solve that huge problem. The president of Płock - Andrzej Nowakowski, asked the Mazovia province governor to use icebreakers (special boats used to break the ice on the river). This idea was impossible to realise

because of very low temperatures, even down to -20°C . From the night 9th to 10th February, water flooded the boulevards and the lower streets of the city including the pier which is one of the main tourist attractions of Płock.

All of the local services including the police and firemen were trying to prevent the Vistula from bursting its banks again as it happened in winter of 1982. Then the winter was also very rough. Suddenly in January the thaw came. All of the snow melted. In neighboring villages the water level in the river increased to the level of the dam in Włocławek. Unfortunately soon afterwards low



temperatures returned. The whole water froze and caused a lot of damage. On January 9th, 1982, at the water level in Płock of 912 cm, the province governor announced the state of natural disaster.

Here are some of the damages caused by the flood in 1982: 10,346 hectares of land



were flooded; 5,250 buildings were flooded, 1,000 animals and 57,000 poultry drowned. The left-bank district of Płock (Radziwie) was flooded including the River Shipyard, warehouses and the harbour. Roads, energy and telecommunications networks have been destroyed as well as the railway embankment from the bridge to the railway station in Radziwie.

Let's hope that such a disaster will not happen again. This, however, shows how important it is to consider carefully all the aspects of regulating rivers. Sustainable development includes thinking about possible future results of present actions. This was something that the authorities of the past often lacked. We should be much wiser now.

School at home

Distance learning in Poland started in mid-March 2020. Each of us thought we were only going home for two weeks and then everything would be normal again. We all enjoyed the two weeks off, but now each of us dreams of returning to school, to friends, to normality ... Remote learning lasted until the holidays in 2020. We had 2 or 3 lessons a day, we had to do the rest of the lessons ourselves. We didn't see each other until the graduation ceremony in June.



We didn't see our classmates for 3 months. After the holidays we went back to school. However, at the beginning of October, we returned home because there were many cases of coronavirus in our country. However, this school year we have classes according to plan as live meetings. We start at 8 am and often finish at 3:30 pm. We have tests and minitests as we had at school. Now we have been learning at home for over 4 months

The youngest classes have returned to classroom teaching, but we do not know if we will be back in April. Hopefully everything is slowly getting back to normal and soon we will go back to school and meet our friends again.



To see what you think about distant learning I prepared a survey. It was implemented on our school instagram. We asked a few questions to find out what students, teachers and parents think about distance learning. 200 people took part in the survey.

From the survey, we can find out that most people have acquired new skills thanks to distance learning, for example: making better and more interesting presentations. Grades are also better for most students. Only 33% did not improve their grades. An amazing fact is that while we don't have to waste time commuting to and from school, we have

Did you learn new skills/habits during distance learning?	
Did your grades improve while studying online?	
Do you have more free time when teaching online?	
Do you prefer lessons at school or online lessons?	
Do you think online lessons can replace classroom lessons?	

	yes	no
Did you learn new skills/habits during distance learning?	58%	42%
Did your grades improve while studying online?	67%	33%
Do you have more free time when teaching online?	34%	66%
Do you prefer lessons at school or online lessons?	74%	23%
Do you think online lessons can replace classroom lessons?	21%	79%





less free time, possibly because of getting up late for lessons. 74% of people prefer learning at school, but there are also some people who like learning online. Fortunately, most people believe that classroom learning cannot be replaced by online learning.

However we can see a lot of advantages of the time we learn at home. For sure we have learnt to use various tools we didn't use or even didn't use before. Some are very simple, as Jamboard or Tricider, but some require more work to learn and take advantage of all the opportunities they offer.

Thanks to distance learning, we have learned to cooperate and help each other. Despite the fact that we are sitting at home and we cannot meet, we can do various amazing things together. For example we record songs and videos together. I invite you to see our fairytale „Snow White”, which was created together, but separately. Everyone of us had to record their scenes at home and then we joined it and made one film. We thought of a fairytale as it's great fun to make and watch.

The beginning of the film is in Polish, so you can listen to us speaking our native tongue. But don't worry! The largest part of the video is in English.

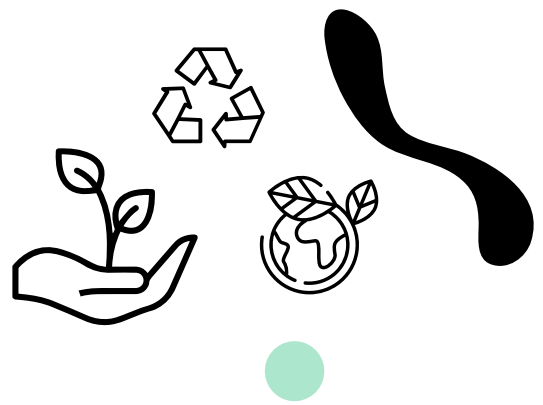
Enjoy!



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IFy-YV7GQd8E>



Breathing life into the environment



Breathing life into the environment



Author:

Lucía Román Honrado

Sustainable management of the environment and natural resources are crucial for economic growth and human well-being. When managed well, renewable natural resources, watersheds, and productive landscapes and seascapes can be the foundation for sustained and inclusive growth, food security, and poverty reduction. The world's ecosystems regulate the air, water and soil on which we all depend and provide a unique and cost-effective defense mechanism against extreme weather events and climate change. Healthy ecosystems are essential for the long-term growth of economic sectors such as agriculture, forestry, fisheries, and tourism. They provide hundreds of millions of jobs.

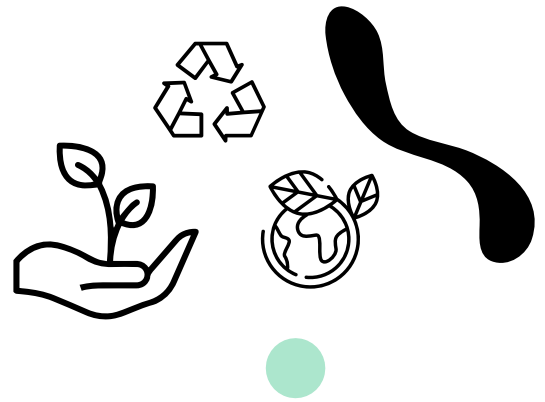
COVID 19

Even in the middle of the COVID-19 pandemic, experts are already considering results that are the guidelines to follow in terms of the environment, once the current crisis has been overcome. Everyone clearly agrees that our best vaccine for the future is to protect nature and biodiversity and the best life insurance we can find.

Until now the biggest environmental problem was single-use bottles and packaging. But now, due to the pandemic the oceans are suffering from a new kind of pollution: at least 1.56 billion masks ended up in the sea in 2020.



Breathing life into the environment



FOOD WASTE

17% of the food available to consumers ends up in the garbage of homes, businesses, restaurants, and other food services. Specifically, around 931 million tons of food ended up being wasted in the world in 2019, not counting the losses generated during production and transport. This is indicated by a report from the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP).



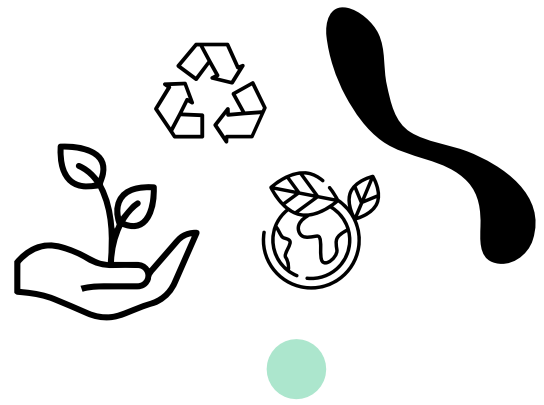
PAPER BAGS

Every day there are more people committed to caring for the environment. The quality of the planet would improve a lot if we all made a small daily gesture. For example, stop using plastic as much as possible. The reasons why they encourage the use of paper bags are the following:

- They reduce CO2 emissions
- They contribute to reducing climate change
- They are biodegradable
- They are reusable



Breathing life into the environment



Breathing life into the environment

“Through this article I would like to educate as many people as possible about the problems that exist in the environment.”



Author:

Álvaro Valverde
1º Bachillerato

The now much-touted environment-friendly mantra Reduce – Reuse – Recycle, was simply a way of life in ancient countries. It was taken for granted that everyone used only as much as they needed by conserving the use of natural resources, so that man’s carbon footprint was as limited on the earth as possible. Often, to ensure that these eco-friendly practices were carried out without fail, a religious meaning was given to them. But over the years, the eco-friendliness of the ideals disappeared. Instead of the original goals of conservation and protection, they actually harm nature.

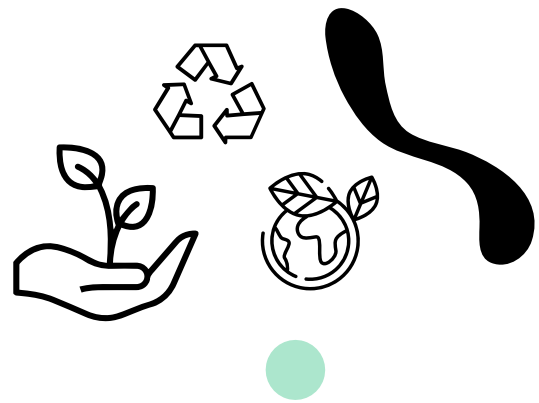
There are too many topics to discuss about the environment, such as marine, climate change, air quality, soil protection, water resources, resource efficiency and so on,

but today we are going to focus on AIR POLLUTION.

Air pollution is caused by solid and liquid particles and certain gases that are suspended in the air. These particles and gases can come from car and truck exhausts, factories, dust, pollen, mold spores, volcanoes and wildfires. The solid and liquid particles suspended in our air are called aerosols. Certain gases in the atmosphere can cause air pollution and damage the Ozone layer. It all depends where it is in Earth’s atmosphere.



Breathing life into the environment



HOW DOES AIR POLLUTION AFFECT OUR HEALTH?

Breathing in polluted air can be very bad for our health. Long-term exposure to air pollution has been associated with diseases of the heart and lungs, cancers and other health problems. That's why it's important for us to monitor air pollution.

SOLUTIONS:

- Replace fossil fuels with renewable energy.
- Reforestation.
- Reduce emissions from agriculture.
- Change industrial processes

The good news is that clean energy is abundant - it just needs to be harvested. Many say a 100 percent renewable / renewable-energy future is feasible with existing technology now.

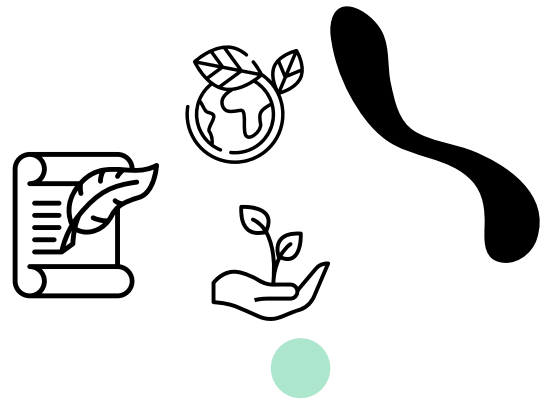
But the bad news is that even though renewable energy infrastructure - solar panels, wind turbines, energy storage and distribution systems - are already widespread, and getting cheaper and more efficient all the time, experts say we're not applying them quickly enough to prevent catastrophic climate disruption. Barriers in policy and finance remain to be overcome.

The World Health Organization recently estimated that one in nine deaths in 2012 were attributable to diseases caused by carcinogens and other poisons in polluted air.

I really believe that all this information that we watch and read every day in the news, should make us think about how we can help to breathe life into our environment.



2 living poetry into nature



Living Poetry in the School Garden “Locus Amoenus”



Author:

Daniel Martín Pallín
1º Bach F

R mountains, valleys, flowers, oceans, have inspired poets all over the world during centuries. One of the most important british poet who composed most of his poems looking at nature was William Wordsworth.

WILLIAM WORDSWORTH

William Wordsworth was born on April 7, 1770, in Cockermouth, Cumberland, England. Wordsworth’s mother died when he was 7, and he was an orphan at 13. Despite these losses, he did well at Hawkshead Grammar School — where he wrote his first poetry — and went to study at Cambridge University. Wordsworth had visited France in 1790 — in the midst of the French Revolution — and was a supporter of the new government’s republican ideals. On a return trip to France the next year, he fell in love with Annette Vallon, who became pregnant.



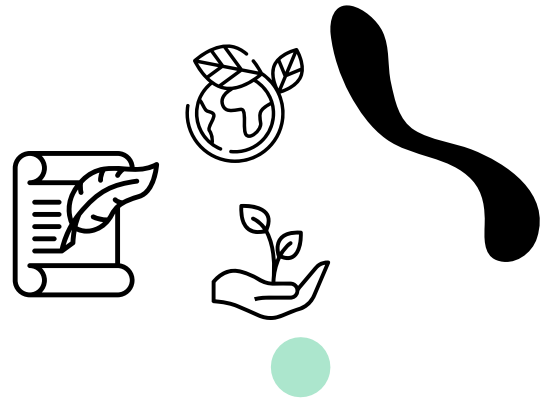
However, the declaration of war between England and France in 1793 separated the two. Left adrift and without income in England, Wordsworth was

influenced by radicals such as William Godwin. As he grew older, Wordsworth began to reject radicalism.

Though Wordsworth continued to produce poetry — including moving work that mourned the deaths of two of his children in 1812 — he had reached a zenith of creativity between 1798 and 1808. It was this early work that cemented his reputation as an acclaimed literary figure. In 1843, Wordsworth became England’s poet laureate, a position he held for the rest of his life.



2 living poetry into nature



At the age of 80, he died on April 23, 1850, at his home in Rydal Mount, Westmorland, England.

In Spain, there were some important poets who also inspired in nature like Federico García Lorca (5 June 1898/ 19 August 1936), Miguel Hernández (30 October 1910/ 28 March 1942) and Garcilaso de la Vega (1503/ 14 October 1536). Garcilaso, Spanish poet belonging to the Golden Age, wrote a lot of sonnets based on the Petrarchistic art, nature and mythology.

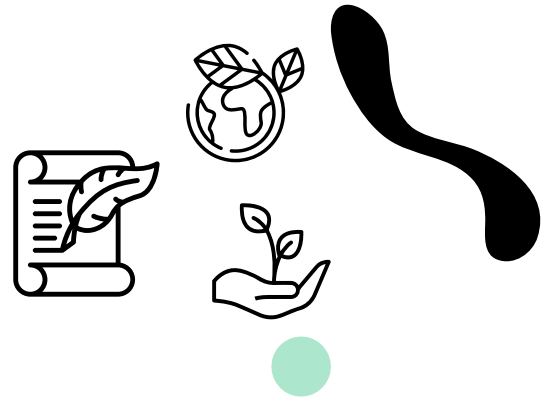
And the most famous is the Sonnet XXIII:

Soneto XXIII

En tanto que de rosa y de azucena
se muestra la color en vuestro gesto,
y que vuestro mirar ardiente, honesto,
con clara luz la tempestad serena;
y en tanto que el cabello, que en la vena
del oro se escogió, con vuelo presto
por el hermoso cuello blanco, enhiesto,
el viento mueve, esparce y desordena:
coged de vuestra alegre primavera
el dulce fruto antes que el tiempo airado
cubra de nieve la hermosa cumbre.
Marchitará la rosa el viento helado,
todo lo mudará la edad ligera
por no hacer mudanza en su costumbre.



2 living poetry into nature



To conclude, I have written a sonnet whose main theme is the idealized nature where the poet take refuge (locus amoenus) in spanish. I hope yo like it.



Bajo la sombra de un roble me hallaba,
intentando encontrar la inspiración
que diera lugar a mi vocación
y que de gran manera deseaba.



La luna en el agua se reflejaba
y allí las ninfas con gran distinción,
susurrando una preciosa canción
que el sonido del viento acompañaba.



Bajo las aguas surgió una sirena
de hermoso cabello, largo, dorado,
y tez blanca como la luna llena.



Aroma del paisaje perfumado,
de mi corazón brotó una gran pena
al verme de belleza rodeado.



3 Smart Cities



An environmentally smart city



Author:
Pablo San José

We can't talk about an environmentally smart-city if we don't know its meaning so ...

What is an environmentally smart city ?

Smart city generally refers to the combination of urban innovation, human networks and the environment. Smart cities are green cities, they should achieve smart and sustainable economic growth while minimizing their impact on the environment. Basically, a city is a collection of networks: networks of people, technologies, infrastructure. When these networks work together well, they enable reduced energy consumption, optimal use of space and improved quality of life.

However smart cities have advantages:

Better transport services



Connected transport systems have one of the greatest potentials to drastically improve efficiency throughout the city.

Safer communities



A smart city is a safer city. Making the most of technology to help reduce criminal activity.

Efficient public services



With a limited supply of natural resources available to human demand, smart technologies are providing cities with the necessary tools to reduce involuntary waste of water and electricity.

3 Smart Cities



Increase in digital equity



To ensure digital equity, people must have access to high-speed internet services and affordable devices. The adoption of public Wi-Fi access places in the city can offer reliable internet services to all residents.

New economic development opportunities



Inversions in smart cities are playing an important role in improving the cities, to attract new residents and businesses by providing an open data platform with access to city information.

Infrastructure improvement



Roads, bridges and old buildings often require massive inversions to be maintained and repaired during their useful life. Smart technology can provide cities with reports to identify areas that need to be solved before an infrastructure failure occurs.

And also disadvantages:

Very limited privacy



The use of security cameras and intelligent systems connected through all different spaces makes it more difficult to maintain anonymity

Social control



The ability to track and centralize data gives great power to the person who handles the information

3 Smart Cities



What city is the most environmental in the world?



The city aims to be completely fossil fuel free by 2050. Stockholm already has a well-laid system that keeps it running without using massive fossil fuel reserves. At present, Stockholm has bio-fuel conversion plants that take sewage to produce biofuel from them.

The head of the Grow Smarter Project, Gustaf Landahl said : “One hundred people going to the toilet powers one car, but if we add organic household waste, that goes down to 60 people.”

Another smart move by the city is a project that will make use of waste heat produced by data centers, shops, and stadiums to be used for providing heating to the residents of Stockholm. The city of Sweden is also one of the cleanest cities in the EU.



3 Smart Cities



Smart Cities



Author:

Gemma Veganzones
1ºF

The term Smart City refers to a type of urban development, based on sustainability, responding to the basic needs of institutions, companies and the inhabitants themselves. The Smart City concept includes several important industries with the power to transform. The terms for the Smart City are numerous: smart city, digital city, green city, connected city, eco-city, sustainable city...

Smart cities have efficient and durable infrastructures, such as water supply, emergency and security services, public facilities, smart offices and residential buildings, etc. They should be aimed at improving the comfort of citizens. In addition, they have to respect environmental aspects as much as possible. All this entails a prudent and declining use of non-renewable natural resources.

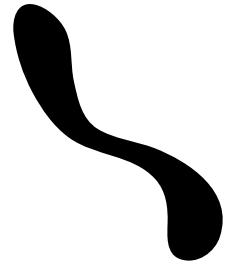
The public space itself, that is, the streets and parks through which we walk, can also be integrated into smart city networks, thus achieving a very evident improvement for urban mobility: the information collected at street level allows us to provide practical real time data, so that citizens facilitate make their decisions on the move and can do so as quickly as possible.

The smart city cannot be conceived without smart buildings. The real estate sector has incorporated more and more advanced technological and interactive elements for decades to make buildings more efficient.

Spain has been one of the leading countries in creating smart and sustainable cities for the future. and more comfortable for residents.



3 Smart Cities



These 4 cities appear in the world and European list of Smart City made by IESE Business School - University of Navarra (2016). They are the 4 best Smart Cities in Spain:



BARCELONA

This city aims to become the most intelligent from three points: social, economic and urban. Barcelona Smart City is a benchmark in connectivity solutions applied in cities; in 2015 it was named as the best smart city in the world by the Juniper Research institute.



MADRID

The last of Madrid's smart city projects is the creation of the first Smart Integrated Space (EII) in Spain with the aim of improving social integration through accessibility in the business, industrial and service fields.



MÁLAGA

This city is trying to reduce CO2 emissions and improve energy efficiency. In 2009 Malaga launched its Smart City Malaga project, which aimed to integrate renewable energies into the electricity grid.



VALENCIA

We can highlight Valencia for being the first to launch its Smart City technology platform in Spain called VLCi.



3 Smart Cities



As for all the Smart cities in the world, a few stand out because they have fulfilled the characteristics of a smart city.



LONDON

ENGLAND

It stands out especially with high levels in international projection and technology.



PARIS

FRANCE

It is the most popular tourist destination in the world. It excels in international projection, technology, and mobility and transportation.



MANCHESTER

ENGLAND

Manchester is a traditional industrial city. Today many eco-friendly projects are springing up everywhere in the city.



ZURICH, SWITZERLAND

It is the main city of Switzerland, and is the financial engine and cultural center of the country. It stands out in the environmental aspects and mobility and transport.

The topic of the smart city is becoming a topic of great interest and relevance. The key element that characterizes the smart city is technology. Smart cities are a positive change for the development of cities since they will improve the quality of life of the people who live there, in every sense.



Almost more Plastic than Fish in the Ocean

Right now, our planet is drowning in plastic. In the poorest parts of the world, trash is thrown on the streets and forms large toxic dumps. In lakes and rivers, where it used to be crowded with fish, there are just tons of plastic swimming around.

This is a crucial problem. Currently, not everyone has the opportunity to sort and recycle their waste. High levels of microplastics have been measured in the Swedish lakes Vänern, Vättern Mälaren and Hjälmaren, from which millions of Swedes get their drinking water from. The plastic fragments come from everything from tire wear, synthetic textiles, paint and large debris that breaks down into small particles. The light particles float on the surface and the heavier ones settle and end up on the seabed. Once these microplastics have ended up in the watercourses, there is no possibility of getting them up.¹

This debris pollutes nature and poses a danger to the biodiversity of the ecosystems. However it is possible to turn this around if we work together!

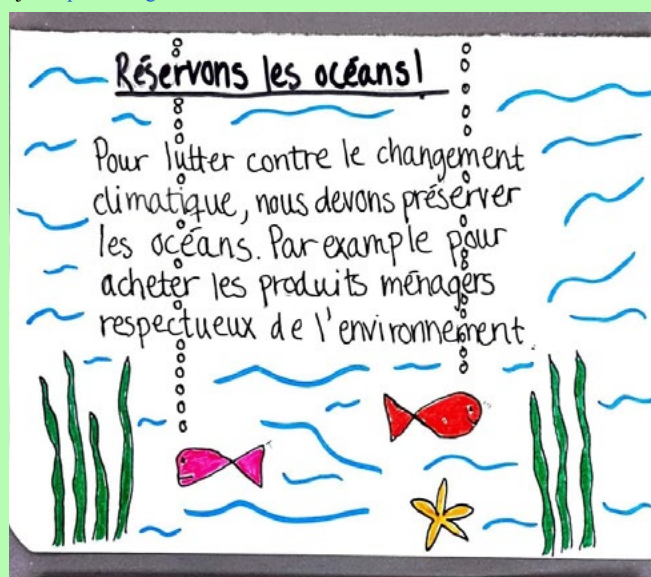


Another problem is that rich countries dump a lot of non-recyclable waste in poor countries.² Recently, proposals for strengthened laws regarding plastic dumping have been made, and there are many indications that these will be implemented. But the plastic that has already been thrown away must be taken care of by someone. Whose responsibility is that?³

The small town Kamikatsu in Japan has proved that a society without waste is possible. In 2003 the town, with a population of 1500 people, decided it was time to make change. Due to the increase of plastic waste, the surrounding environment had gotten severely affected.

Therefore they implemented a system which has reduced their waste to almost zero.⁴ We have a responsibility to ensure that our planet has a

1 Sveriges Radio (2017-02-13) Stora mängder mikroplast i finsk sjö. <https://sverigesradio.se/artikel/6628841> w



2 Reuters. (2019-05-31) Philippines sends trash back to Canada after Duterte escalates row. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-philippines-canada-waste-idUSKCN1T10BQ>

3 CNN(2019-06-29) By exporting trash, rich countries put their waste out of sight and out of mind <https://edition.cnn.com/2019/07/29/opinions/by-exporting-trash-rich-countries-put-their-waste-out-of-sight-and-out-of-mind-varkey/index.html>

4 Great Big Story (201712-21) Japan's Town With No Waste. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OS9uhASKyjA&t=2s>



sustainable future. A future where biodiversity thrives.

A future where our children and grandchildren can live on for generations. A future where life is possible!

It is not going to be easy. Plastic is a good long-lasting product that has improved our way of living in many ways. For example, Plastic packaging helps protect and preserve goods and in the medical industry, plastics are used to keep things sterile.⁵ However, because it is so durable it is nearly impossible to decompose.

Every year, 8 million tonnes of plastic end up in the oceans, and almost all of it will stay there forever. If it continues like this, there will be more plastic than fish in the oceans by 2050. According to the global sustainability goals, we must have reduced our pollution in the oceans by 2025.⁶

What we have to do now is reuse the plastic we already have, recycle what we can't use and reduce our use of plastic.

5 Eco and beyond (2021-03-25) Why Plastic Is Good! (Some of the Time) <https://www.ecoandbeyond.co/articles/why-plastic-is-good/>

6 Sustainable development goals (2019-02-15) Plastic Ocean. <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/blog/2019/02/plastic-ocean/>



This is urgent. So help make a change, for the sake of our only planet!

Klara Persson

Fünf Fragen an...

Oliver Svensson, Västervik

Was machst du für die Umwelt?

- Ich trenne Müll jeden Tag und esse ökologisch. Ich habe ein Auto aber ich fahre mit dem Fahrrad im Sommer.

Was bedeutet das Klima für dich?

- Das Klima ist sehr wichtig für unsere Zukunft und die nächste Generation. Anderfalls werden die Gletscher schmelzen.

Kaufst du klimafreundlich ein?

- Ja, ich kaufe ökologische und regionale Produkte, die nicht viel Transport haben.

Hast du ein Elektro-Auto?

- Nein, aber meine Eltern wollen vielleicht ein Hybridauto kaufen.

Magst du Kernkraftwerke oder Windkraftwerke mehr?

- Ich denke Kernkraftwerke, aber ich weiss nicht.

Getting dressed for success -

How can we sustainabilize the fashion industry?



Every year, the worldwide water consumption in order to make clothes amounts to about 79 trillion litres, producing approximately 92 million tonnes of waste.¹ These are almost incomprehensibly large numbers, showcasing just how resource-demanding today's fashion industry really is. But can we do something about it? What actions are necessary to turn these worrying numbers around?

To do that, it takes work on many levels - both locally and globally. On the local scale, we can first and foremost begin with ourselves and our personal fashion consumption. Just switching from buying new clothes to second-hand shopping can do a lot. However, even continuing to buy new clothes can help, as long as you make sure to choose clothes from fair and environmentally aware brands. Since brands always seek to cater to customers' interests, a higher demand for eco-friendly products will result in a greater supply of these same products. Also, we may need to find new ways to repair and reuse the old clothes we've got instead of throwing them away to be incinerated. Maybe you can use parts of that old shirt to make a new one? And should

1 Chalmers.se, <https://www.chalmers.se/en/departments/tme/news/Pages/The-vast-cost-of-fast-fashion.aspx>, 2021-03-16

that garment really be damaged beyond repair, recycle it!²

Globally, there are other sorts of work to be done. For example, manufacturing methods, worker safety and transportation methods must be looked over and improved. The UN Alliance for Sustainable Fashion works to support coordination between related UN bodies as well as to promote projects in order to reach the Sustainable Development Goals. Suchlike organized projects are needed to overlook the industry and spur companies and countries in the right direction. Legislation to improve the workers' situation is also needed, since many brands move their production to other (often poorer) countries for economic purposes. Many aspects of the production of a piece of clothing can be directly harmful to the workers' health, and the salaries are often very low. Sustainability isn't just about protecting the environment - protecting the people is just as important. A fashion industry that relies on exploiting poor people (and in some cases, child labourers³) can of course never be sustainable.

Right, some may say (who perhaps happen to be more economically inclined), we need to buy and throw away less clothes and we need to implement legislation overlooking businesses. That's all very well, but the fact remains that the fashion industry accounts for very much money and a great many jobs - where would all this go, should the production decrease due to more people shopping secondhand and the demand for newly produced clothes get smaller?

While it is true that the industry generates a lot

2 Fibre2fashion.com, <https://www.fibre2fashion.com/industry-article/8520/5-ways-to-make-fashion-industry-more-sustainable-in-the-year-2020>, 2021-03-18

3 Theguardian.com, <https://labs.theguardian.com/unicef-child-labour/>, 2021-03-18



of money (the value of the global fashion industry being estimated at approximately \$3 trillion, according to Fashion United⁴) and provides a lot of jobs (86 million jobs worldwide, mostly for women), there's also profit to be made in recycling. According to the UN Fashion Alliance, \$500 billion of value is lost annually due to clothing underutilization and lack of recycling.⁵ There's also a lot to be gained in improving the working environments for labourers, as healthier workplaces would mean that less people got ill, consequently needing medical care. Additionally, healthy people can work more efficiently and for longer periods of time than ill people, which would increase production efficiency. Safer workplaces and raised salaries would result in a healthier, happier and more productive population.

Lastly, it is unfair to place all responsibility on regular people without much power to execute it, but that doesn't mean that every one of us shouldn't do what they can in helping the cause. For my own part, I've cut down the frequency with which I buy new clothes, and I have a long-term goal consisting of buying exclusively second-hand clothes. The fashion industry is a massive one to change, but the way it works isn't set in stone.

Ella Hultqvist

Just because it has been set up to work one way doesn't mean it has to. If everyone does their share, we may be able to pride ourselves in the future on having created a sustainable fashion industry that can last for a very long time.

4 Fashionunited.com, <https://fashionunited.com/global-fashion-industry-statistics/>, 2021-03-23
 5 Unfashionalliance.org, <https://unfashionalliance.org/>, 2021-03-23



Here you can see two oral presentations about sustainability – Fashion Industry and Food Production – by Ella and Ingrid

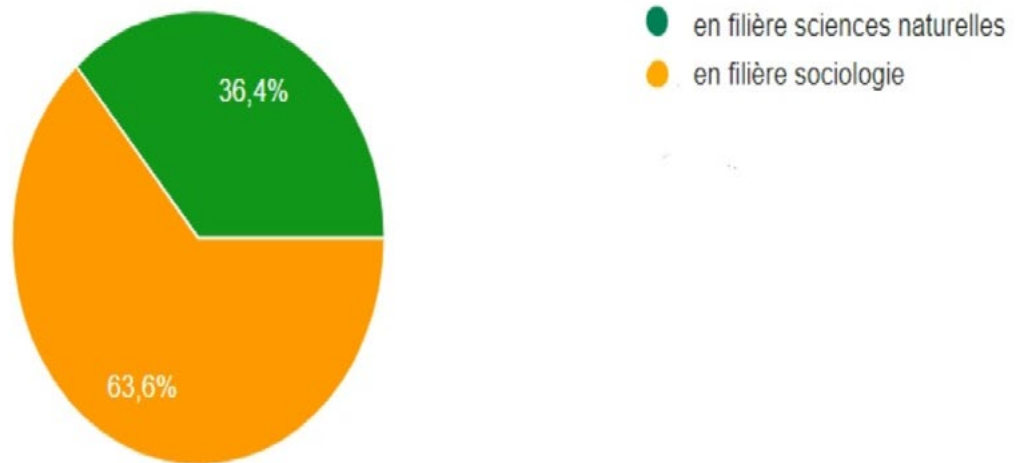
<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1CB2hjaueLHjbt-PV0YWhIPmyX4X8thNoL/view>



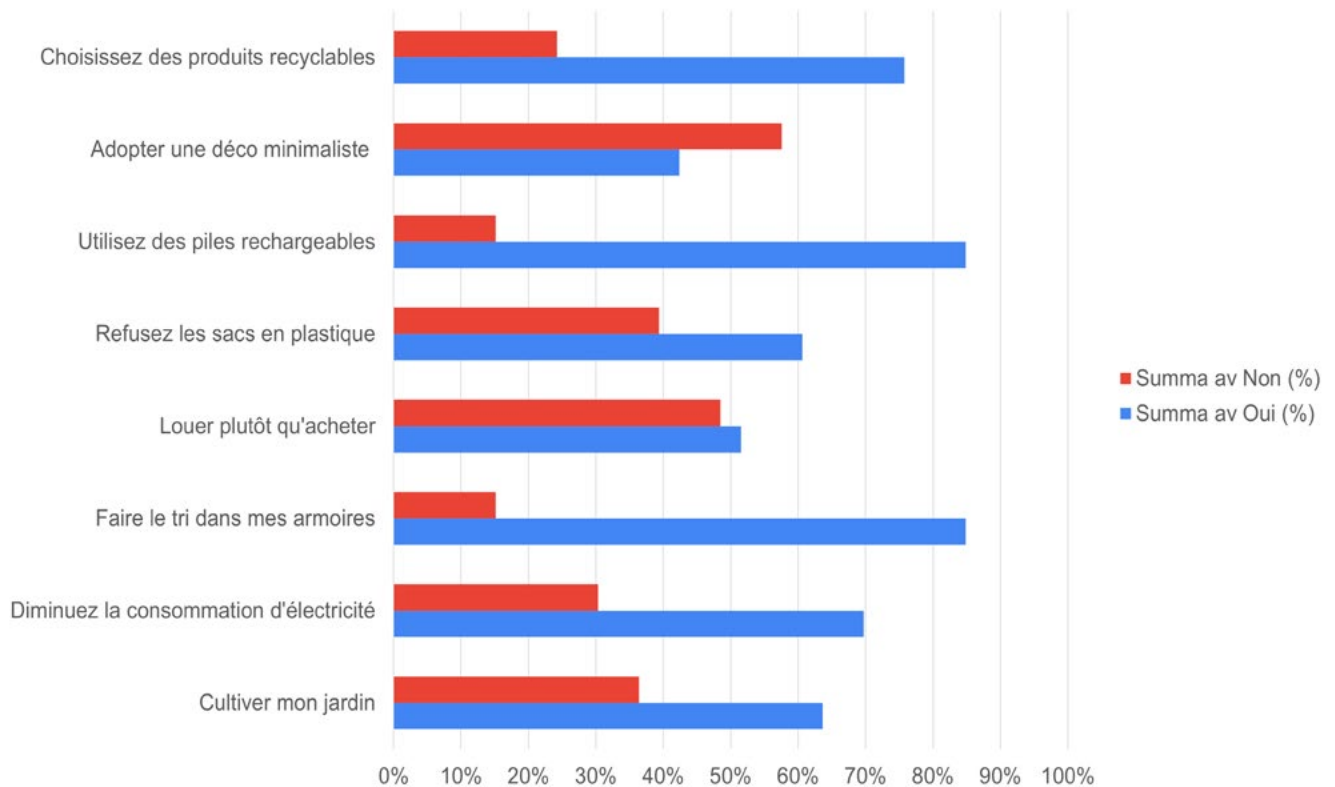
Un questionnaire

Vous êtes étudiant/étudiante...

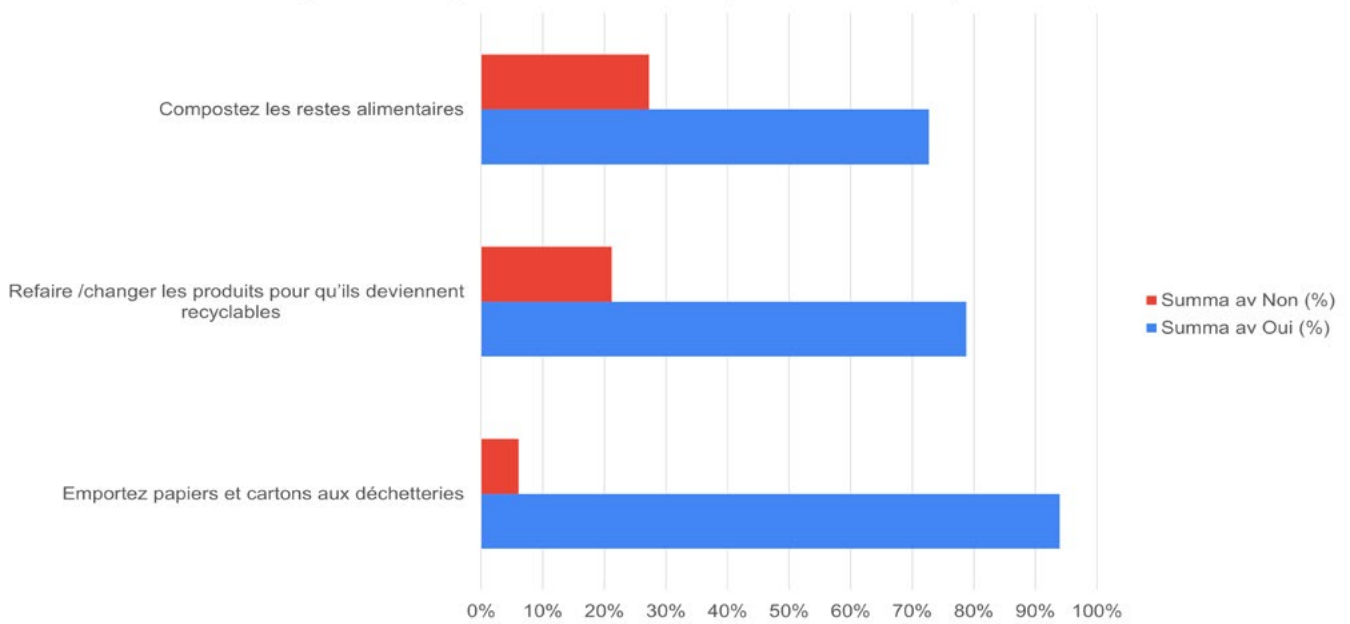
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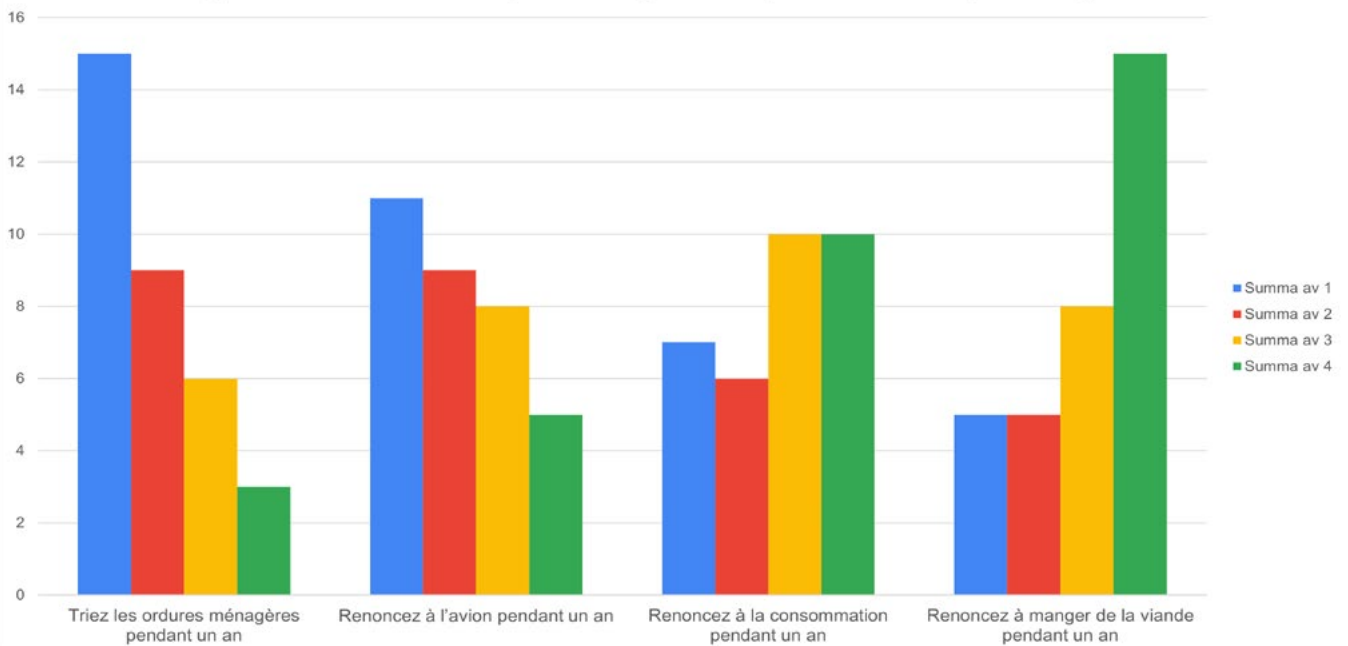
Que pouvez-vous faire pour réduire les produits utilisés et trier les ordures ménagères? Marquez les affirmations que vous faites ou pouvez faire



Que pouvez-vous faire pour réduire les produits utilisés et trier les ordures ménagères? Marquez les affirmations que vous faites ou pouvez faire



Rangez dans l'ordre ce que vous pensez qu'il faut faire pour la planète.



Consommons de l'énergie propre!
 Pour réduire notre impact sur le climat et nos émissions de GES au quotidien, nous pouvons faire le choix d'une énergie propre.



Réduisons notre consommation de viande!

Les protéines ne sont pas uniquement présentes dans les viandes. Soyons curieux et expérimentons une recette végétarienne au moins une fois par semaine.



Die Ostsee - ein ganz besonderes Meer

Die Ostsee- ein ganz besonderes Meer

Die Ostsee ist mit 412 000 km² das größte Brackwassermeer der Erde und erstreckt sich zwischen Skandinavien und die Baltikum. Jetzt ist es sehr bedroht. Die Verschmutzungen von Menschen schaden die Tierwelt der Ostsee. Aber können wir sie noch retten?

In der Ostsee gibt es eine grosse Tier- und Pflanzenwelt. Es ist ein einzigartiges und junges Meer. Das Meer ist brackig, was bedeutet, dass es sowohl süß als auch salzig ist. Hier gibt es Arten wie Kabeljau, Barsch, Ohrenquallen, Muscheln und Robben. Es gibt auch, Blasentang und Seegras. Diese Pflanzen funktionieren als Heimat für kleinere Arten wie Seetanggarnelen, große Ähren und Seetang-Sauen. Zusammen tragen sie zur biologischen Vielfalt und zu einem lebendigen Ökosystem bei.

Die Ostsee ist von Überdüngung, Überfischung und verstärkter Schifffahrt betroffen.

Überdüngung trägt zu Algenblüten, Sauerstoffmangel und Bodentod bei. Überdüngung tritt auf, wenn ein Überschuss der Pflanzennährstoffe Stickstoff und Phosphor ins Meer freigesetzt wird.

Die Emissionen, die die Ostsee bedrohen, stammen aus Kläranlagen, Landwirtschaft, einzelnen



Abwasserkanälen, Verkehr und Industrie. Die Emissionen von Land sind in den letzten Jahren zurückgegangen, aber müssen weiter gesenkt werden, um Algenblüten, Sauerstoffmangel und den Tod des Bodens zu stoppen. Der tote Meeresboden breitet sich immer mehr aus.

Überfischung ist auch ein Problem. Kabeljau ist wichtig für die Ostsee, aber Überfischung führt zu einer starken Reduzierung bestimmter Fischarten - Kabeljau unter anderem.

Was wird jetzt gemacht, um die Ostsee zu helfen? Zum Beispiel wurde die Helsinki-Kommission in 1992 von allen Ostseeanrainerstaaten und der EU-Kommission verabschiedet. Das Abkommen soll für eine gesunde Ostsee wirken. Es gibt auch verschiedene Projekte, die man unterstützen kann, zum Beispiel die Projekte von Naturschutzbund Deutschland. WWF in Schweden haben auch Projekte, um die Ostsee zu helfen, zum Beispiel unhaltbaren Fischfang zu stoppen und gefährdete Arten zu erhalten.

Västervik und die Ostsee

Västervik ist eine Stadt an der Küste der Ostsee. Daher liegt uns das Leben im Meer sehr am Herzen. Etwas außerhalb des Zentrums von Västervik befindet sich das Naturmuseum Naturum. Wir haben den ehemaligen Naturführer, Jan-Olov Persson, bei Naturum interviewt.

Wofür arbeitet Naturum?

Naturum arbeitet um die Leute über die Natur zu informieren. Naturum will Wissen verbreiten, damit Leute nicht der Natur schaden.



Was kann man in Naturum machen?

Man kann Aquarien sehen, und Vögel beobachten. Man kann auch mit einer Schutzrüstung an, den Bienen richtig nah kommen und die Honig von den Bienen probieren. Naturum veranstaltet jedes Jahr eine Wasserschule in der Kinder über die Ostsee lernen können.

Wie funktioniert es jetzt in der Pandemi?

Aufgrund der vorherrschenden Pandemie ist Naturum leider für die Öffentlichkeit geschlossen. Aber Schulklassen und Vorschulklassen können immer noch dorthin gelangen. Es ist sehr wichtig, dass Kinder in jungen Jahren etwas über die Natur lernen. Es legt den Grundstein für ihre Werte und wie sie mit der Natur umgehen werden.

Wie kann man der Ostsee schützen?

Jeder hat die Verantwortung, die Umwelt zu schützen. Wenn Sie weniger Waschmittel und Klarspüler verwenden, mit dem Fahrrad zur Arbeit fahren oder MSC-gekennzeichneten Fisch kaufen, können Sie helfen.

Wie sieht die Zukunft aus?

In der Zukunft gibt es Pläne, Muscheln in größerem Umfang zu züchten. Eine Muschel filtert nämlich 1-3 Liter Wasser pro Stunde. Aber alle Leute haben eine Verantwortung, nicht die Ostsee (und Umwelt) zu schaden. Es gibt viel, was man persönlich machen kann, um die Ostsee zu helfen - und es ist ziemlich einfach. Zum Beispiel, Plastik und Müll nicht in die Ostsee zu werfen. Wenn wir allen zusammenarbeiten können wir etwas verändern.



Fünf Fragen an...

Das Klimaproblem ist ein schwieriges Thema. Jeder kann anders denken. Wir haben vier junge Leute an Västerviks Gymnasium nach dem Klimawandel gefragt. Wir wollten wissen, ob junge Menschen über die Umwelt nachdenken und ob sie etwas dagegen tun.



Klara Persson, Ella Hultqvist, Ellinor Johansson und Saida Haller

Quellen:

Bmu.de, <https://www.bmu.de/media/sitzung-der-helsinki-kommission/>

Nabu.de, <https://www.nabu.de/natur-und-landschaft/meere/ostseelife/24605.html>

WWF.se, <https://www.wwf.se/hav-och-fiske/ostersjon/detta-gor-wwf/>

Albin Hallgren Jonsson, Västervik

Wie oft trennst du Müll?

- Einmal in der Woche.

Wie oft denkst du an das Klima?

- Mehrmals in der Woche, darum fahre ich auch Fahrrad.

Wie denkst du, was ist schädlich für die Umwelt?

- Müll in die Natur zu werfen.

Bist du Vegetarier? Wenn ja, seit wann?

- Nein,

Hast du ein Elektro-Auto?

- Ich habe ein Hybrid, seit letztem Jahr.

End Child Labour

According to The International Labour Organisation (ILO), there are approximately 218 million children between the ages of 5 and 17 that are employed in some form of work. Among those millions of children, 152 million are victims of child labour and 73 million of them work in awful child labour conditions such as in mines and with chemicals.¹

Child labour per definition is work that deprives children of their childhood, dignity and potential. It is also harmful to both their physical and mental health. The worst forms of child labour include enslavement, separation from their families, exposure to severe hazards and illnesses and/or being left to fend for themselves on the street. It usually occurs at a very young age.² This environment is extremely dangerous for these children. Due to this situation they are forced to grow up way too fast. They do not get to enjoy being young. They do not get to enjoy their childhood. Instead they are forced to do work that slowly kills them. Don't these children deserve to live a happy life?

Child Labour could also be sexual exploitation. It includes child prostitution, the trafficking of children for the sex trade, child sex tourism, child pornography and the use of children in sex shows (both public and private).³ Victims of child labour are not only forced to do hard work that can cause serious harm but also sexual activities that they do not want to do. Those activities are not solely hur-

1 UNICEF Canada (2020-06-08) Ten things you didn't know about child labour <https://www.unicef.ca/en/blog/ten-things-you-didnt-know-about-child-labour>

2 International Labour Organisation (2021-03-25) What is child labour <https://www.ilo.org/ipecc/facts/lang--en/index.htm>

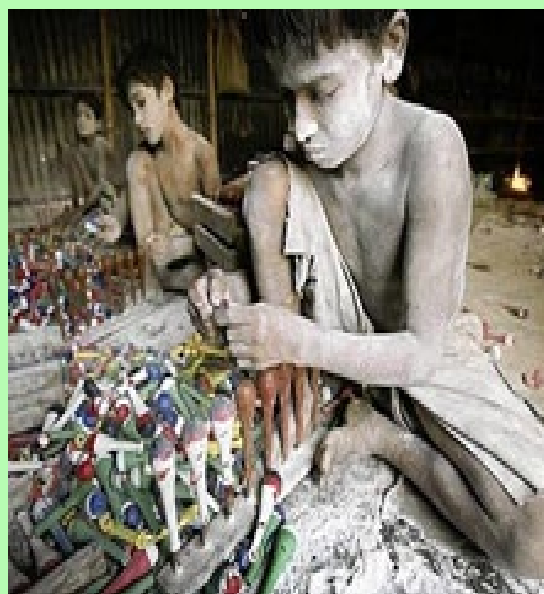
3 International Labour Organisation (2021-03-28) Commercial sexual exploitation of children <https://www.ilo.org/ipecc/areas/CSEC/lang--en/index.htm>

ting them physically but it is humiliating as well.

Some people may argue that these children need to work because their families don't make enough money. That should not however be their responsibility. Children in general should not have to worry about things like money and survival. They should be able to enjoy life without having to worry about responsibilities.

By forcing the children to work, their education will be disrupted. A lot of them have to work during the day when they are supposed to be at school. Interfering with their education makes it harder for them to get a good job in the future and leave their life in poverty.

In conclusion child labour is ruining their chance of getting a good life. The labour is harmful both



physically and mentally. It takes away their childhood way too soon.

Molly Sundin





Unsere eigene Klimaaktivistin - Greta Thunberg

Greta Thunberg ist eine schwedische Aktivistin für das Klima. Sie ist sehr einflussreich. Jeder dritte Schwede ist von ihrem Aktivismus beeindruckt. Ihr Aktivismus hat ihr viel Aufmerksamkeit geschenkt und viele Auszeichnungen verliehen.¹

Greta Thunberg wurde am 3. Januar 2003 in Stockholm geboren und ist 18 Jahre alt. Sie begann über Umweltzerstörung und globale Erwärmung nachzudenken, nachdem sie einen Schulfilm über Plastikverschmutzung in den Ozeanen gesehen hatte. Ihre Angst vor dem Klima ließ sie depressiv werden. Aus diesem Grund wollte sie etwas für das Klima tun. Gretas Klimaaktivismus begann während der Dürre- und Hitzewelle 2018, die weite Teile Europas erfasst hatte. Am 20. August 2018, dem ersten Schultag nach den Ferien, platzierte sie sich mit einem Schild mit der Aufschrift "Skolstrejk för klimatet" (Schulstreik für das Klima) vor dem Schwedischen Reichstag in Stockholm.²

Der Streik breitete sich international aus unter den Hashtags #FridaysForFuture, #Klimastrejka und #ClimateStrike. Bis Ende September 2018 hatte Greta die Aufmerksamkeit der Fernsehmedien in mehreren Ländern und des UN-Generalsekretärs



1 <https://www.expressen.se/nyheter/klimat/var-tred-je-svensk-greta-thunberg-har-paverkat-mig/>

2 https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Greta_Thunberg

António Guterres auf sich gezogen.³ Sie hat viele Reden gehalten, z.B. hielt sie eine Rede, in der sie die Politiker aufforderte, etwas gegen den Klimawandel zu unternehmen.⁴ Wenn sie gereist ist, ist sie nur mit den umweltfreundlichen Alternativen gereist. Zum Beispiel, ist sie mit Zügen und Elektroautos gefahren. Sie ist sogar über den Atlantik gesegelt.⁵

Für eine Rede, die sie bei dem UN-Klimagipfel 2019 hielt, hat sie viel Aufmerksamkeit erhalten. Der damalige US-Präsident Donald Trump schreibt ironisch, nach Gretas Rede, auf Twitter: "Sie sieht wie ein glückliches Mädchen aus, das sich auf eine wunderbare Zukunft freut."⁶ Auf ihren Reisen, hält sie jedoch nicht nur Reden. Ihr Schulstreik hat andere junge Menschen dazu inspiriert, für das Klima auch zu streiken. Obwohl sie auf Reisen war, trat sie jeden Freitag in den Streik. Dann könnten Kinder aus diesen Ländern zusammen mit Greta protestieren.⁷

Greta Thunberg hat mehrere Preise gewonnen und viele Auszeichnungen erhalten. Zum Beispiel, ist sie in die Liste der 25 einflussreichsten Teenager des Jahres 2018 (The Times). The Times ernannte sie auch "Person des Jahres" 2019.⁸ Sie war auch die erste Preisträgerin des Preises für die Menschlichkeit von der portugiesischen Gulbenkian-Stiftung. Der Preis war mit 1 Million Euro dotiert, die Greta zu Klimaorganisationen gegeben hat.⁹

Nach einem Sabbatjahr ging Greta Thunberg im August 2020 wieder zur Schule.¹⁰ Aufgrund der Corona-Pandemie kann sie nicht mehr auf die gleiche Weise Reden halten und protestieren. Sie

3 https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Greta_Thunberg

4 <https://www.zdf.de/kinder/logo/klimagipfel-in-new-york-100.html>

5 https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Greta_Thunberg

6 <https://www.zdf.de/kinder/logo/klimagipfel-in-new-york-100.html>

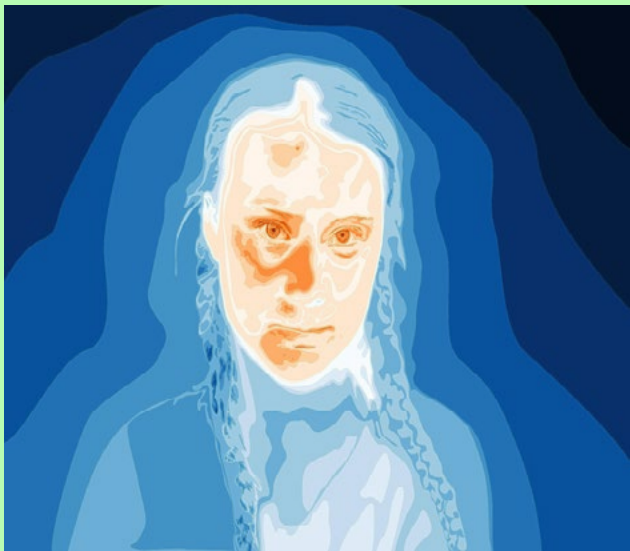
7 https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Greta_Thunberg

8 https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Greta_Thunberg

9 <https://www.merkur.de/politik/greta-thunberg-klimaaktivistin-preis-menschlichkeit-schweden>

10 <https://www.aftonbladet.se/nyheter/a/1A7QMG/efter-sabbatsaret--greta-thunberg>





hat aber Proteste im Internet gepostet.¹¹ In sozialen Medien zeigt Greta ihre Frustration über die Politiker. Sie mag es nicht, wenn Politiker nur sagen, dass Greta inspirierend ist, aber nichts tun und weiter das Klima ignorieren.¹²

Wir persönlich denken, dass Greta Thunberg sehr inspirierend ist. Sie ist nur 18 Jahre alt und hat schon so viel für das Klima gemacht. Es ist schön, eine Aktivistin in unserem Alter zu haben, die so viel Einfluss hat.

Agnes Saari, Clara Jonsson, Moa Fredriksson

Fünf Fragen an...

Gustav Lindblad,

Wie oft denkst du über das Klima nach?

- Einmal in der Woche.

Warum ist das Klimaproblem wichtig?

- Damit die Erde nicht untergeht.

Was denkst du über die Zukunft?

- Ich möchte ein grünes Leben führen, z.B öfter

Fahrrad fahren als Auto.

11 <https://www.merkur.de/greta-thunberg-klima-in-telegram-klimaschutz-umwelt>

12 <https://www.merkur.de/greta-thunberg-klima-in-telegram-klimaschutz-umwelt>



Was machst du für das Klima?

- Ich trenne Müll zu Hause.

Kaufst du Secondhand?

- Nein

Fünf Fragen an...

Mattias Nad, Gamleby

Wie denkst du über Müll trennen?

- Wir müssen Müll trennen. Es ist sehr wichtig für das Klima.

Wie oft trennst du Müll?

- Jeden Tag! Wir haben Mülltrennung sowohl zu Hause in der Küche als auch auf der Strasse. Flaschen recycle ich ebenfalls.

Bist du Vegetarier? Wenn ja, seit wann?

- Nein, ich esse Fleisch! Aber in der Zukunft werde ich weniger Fleisch essen.

Kaufst du secondhand?

- Nein, ich kaufe nicht secondhand. Aber in der Zukunft zu meiner neuen Wohnung.

Welche Transportmittel benutzt du, wenn du ins Ausland reist?

- Ich bin einmal geflogen, sonst fahre ich mit dem Auto.





