

Projet Erasmus : Waste Reduction : Responsible students, responsible Citizens

1/ Do we reduce our waste ? Document with photos.

All over the world, people don't produce waste at the same rate. But *we* can and *should* reduce part of our waste. Indeed, we do reduce our waste but we do not do that all of the time. Many food brands don't take part in the effort : they continue to use lots of plastic and cardboard to pack their foods eventhough it's a problem for the environment and it creates more waste. For example, fruits and vegetables are packed in plastic therefore producing more waste. Plastic is one of the main problems for waste and it's complicated to reduce it because we use it in big quantities and most of the time, for single use. As a consequence : 8 million tons of plastic go into the ocean each year. Then marine animals eat the plastic because they think that it is food.



We don't think that globally, the world population is reducing waste production.

2/ Do we try to re-use items ?

Yes, but not a lot, eventhough some actions are really easy to do : you can give objects and clothes that you don't need, to an association instead of throwing them away. There are also lots of second-hand sales in villages and towns in the area, where you can purchase a piece of clothing which has already been worn. It's cheaper than bought new and it's more respectful of the environment : it's a good solution to limit mass consumption. We can re-use items such as fabric bags instead of plastic ones and it's a good solution to reduce plastic pollution.

3/ Do we recycle at home and at school ?

Yes, many efforts have been done, through various incitation policies initiated by governments since decades, to stimulate the willingness of each citizen to recycle his own wastes through selective sorting. Some plastics, paper and cardboard, glass bottles are collected in special bins to be recycled. This initiative allows to reduce a part of our waste that would otherwise be burnt or buried. Moreover, we recycle batteries and electronic devices. We can put them in a container at supermarket, most of the time.

At school, after lunch, we are required to separate the waste of our meal trays according to the same selection principal (for example : leftover food in one bin, other waste in another).

4/ Do we repair and/or repurpose ? Do you repair things that are broken or do you throw them away and buy new ones ? Instead of throwing something away because it has ceased to serve its purpose, do you use it for a new purpose ?

No, generally not, repairing or repurposing often requires qualified skills and cannot be done by most people. Electronic devices are repaired for re-use afterwards (for example, reconditioned smartphones) but sometimes when a part of our smartphone is broken, it's more expensive to repair that to buy a new one. This is one of the reason that people don't repair.

However we re-use our jars, shoe boxes, plastic bottle .(to store or carry stuff like food or items).