

# SUSTAINABILITY IN THE CLASSROOM AND BEYOND – ENGAGE THE WHOLE SCHOOL!

Using the knowledge and ideas that you've gathered from the course, you will create an **action plan** in three chapters:

- **background**, where you provide some basic information about yourself and your school
- **preparation**, where you brainstorm about the role of sustainability in your class
- **action**, where you come up with a project and map out the steps needed to complete it

Don't forget to check the evaluation criteria by which your plan will be assessed.

## CHAPTER 1: BACKGROUND

Introduce yourself. Simple as that!

<b>My name:</b>	Sofia Poulioti
<b>My country:</b>	Greece
<b>My role:</b>	Kindergarten teacher
<b>My school:</b>	<p><i>1<sup>st</sup> Kindergarten of Ierapetra, Crete.</i></p> <p><i>My school consists of 46 pupils of ages 4-6. We are 5 kindergarten teachers, the one of us is also the administrator of the school. We have 2 classes of 23 pupils each. Our school is open from 7:45 to 17:30. We have a cleaning lady some hours a day. We are all new to this school. It's our first year and we are planning to engage the parents more. This year we are taking part to an e-twinning project "Friends with Nature".</i></p>



## CHAPTER 2: PREPARATION

Think about a class that you currently teach, or a single lesson if you prefer. How can you add more sustainability elements to it?

**You don't need to fill in all the blanks!** Only fill in what is relevant to your subject, needs and goals. The point of this exercise is just to help you brainstorm and set priorities.

**You can simply write 'N/A' if some cells are not relevant to your objectives.**

<b>My class/lesson:</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Kindergarten of Ierapetra</b>
<b>Environment</b>	
<i>Some related Sustainable Development Goals: affordable and clean energy; climate action; responsible consumption and production</i>	
<b>Knowledge already in my class:</b>	<b>Elementary knowledge limited to recycle and reuse of things.</b>
<b>Knowledge I would like to add:</b>	<b>I would like to make clear the 3 R's (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle).t I would like to add 2 more R's to their knowledge... Refuse and Recover!!!!!!!</b>
<b>Local issues already in my class:</b>	<b>Not yet</b>
<b>Local issues I would like to add:</b>	<b>I would like to add the issue of the cleaning of the beach just in front of our school, and the sea life in the canal next to our school.</b>
<b>Competences already in my class:</b>	<b>My pupils are too young...Most of them are 4 years old...But I think they have already managed to not waste too much paper when they wash their hands. They know that they should take one piece of paper.</b>
<b>Competences I would like to add:</b>	<b>I would like them to be able to use water more wisely.</b>
<b>Society</b>	
<i>Some related Sustainable Development Goals: gender equality; reduced inequalities; peace, justice and strong institutions</i>	

<b>Knowledge already in my class:</b>	<b>Elementary knowledge</b>
<b>Knowledge I would like to add:</b>	<b>'N/A'</b>
<b>Local issues already in my class:</b>	<b>'N/A'</b>
<b>Local issues I would like to add:</b>	<b>'N/A'</b>
<b>Competences already in my class:</b>	<b>'N/A'</b>
<b>Competences I would like to add:</b>	<b>'N/A'</b>
<b>Economy</b> <i>Some related Sustainable Development Goals: no poverty; affordable and clean energy; industry, innovation, and infrastructure</i>	
<b>Knowledge already in my class:</b>	<b>None</b>
<b>Knowledge I would like to add:</b>	<b>I would like to make them understand some things about economy, how money moves.</b>
<b>Local issues already in my class:</b>	<b>Some of my kids are children of immigrants. They have faced poverty in their countries, and they came here for a better future.</b>
<b>Local issues I would like to add:</b>	<b>I would like to deal with my pupils' experiences.</b>
<b>Competences already in my class:</b>	<b>Generosity and sharing in a good level for 4–5-year-olds.</b>
<b>Competences I would like to add:</b>	<b>I would like to make solidarity an important value.</b>

### CHAPTER 3: READY, SET... ACTION PLAN!

Think about a class that you currently teach, or a single lesson if you prefer. How can you add more sustainability elements to it?



Now that you've identified some gaps and needs in your curriculum, try to think of a **whole-school sustainability project** that you can carry out to further them.

The project can be anything from a **pedagogical innovation** (e.g., using issue analysis in your lessons, building a school garden) to an **organisational change** (e.g., setting up an eco-committee, collaborating with colleagues on a series of lessons) to a **community effort** (e.g., painting a 'Cut X%' mural, contacting a local NGO for workshops). There are many paths to the same destination!

If you're not sure what project you want to carry out, you can write down a few possibilities on a sheet and give them a score between 1 and 5 based on 'importance' and 'availability of resources'. The project with the highest combined score should be a good candidate. Then...

1. Write the **title and/or summary** of your project in the first row
2. Outline the **steps you need to follow** to carry out the project
3. Note down **who will be involved** in each step and **how long you think it will take**

You can add or remove rows if you wish.

<b>"One man's trash is another man's treasure"</b>		
<b>What?</b>	<b>Who?</b>	<b>How long?</b>
<p><b>1. Discussion and investigation</b>  <i>(On the occasion of some semi-destroyed toys in our classroom, we are having a talk about how we should protect our toys and then what else can we do with them instead of throwing them in the trash. After the discussion we have a lot of ideas, and we are starting with the students to investigate our school in</i></p>	<p><i>Me and my colleague</i></p>	<p><i>3 days</i></p>



<b><i>order to find toys that are not in well shape. We can also go to the beach and clean it and use some of the trash, as well)</i></b>		
<b><i>2. Creating arts and crafts (We are creating arts and crafts with the toys and trash we have found, e.g. a collage with the pieces of the puzzle, purses from old and destroyed books etc)</i></b>	<i>Me and my colleague</i>	<i>1 week max (It depends on the number of the toys we will find)</i>
<b><i>3. Exhibition (We organise an exhibition in the youth centre with the collaboration of the municipality. We send invitations, made by recycled paper to the parents. The proceeds of the exhibition will be donated to an organization which protects the environment)</i></b>	<i>Me, my colleagues, and the school head</i>	<i>2 weeks (1 for the preparation and 1 for the exhibition)</i>

This worksheet is adapted from UNESCO's [Education for sustainable development toolkit](#). We hope you will find good use for this action plan in your school.

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*European School Education Platform and eTwinning are initiatives of the European Union and funded by Erasmus+, the EU's programme to support education, training, youth and sport in Europe. This document has been prepared for the European Commission by European Schoolnet under a contract with the Union, however it reflects the views only of the authors, and the Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein.*

