

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!

My name:	Epure Mihai Traian
My country:	Romania
My role:	Professor of special psychopedagogy
My school:	<i>The School Center for Inclusive Education "Maria Montessori" Constanța is a special and special - integrated education institution, which provides educational and therapeutic services to students with special educational requirements from the Constanța municipality and its neighboring towns, at the primary and secondary education level , with a view to their optimal scholastic and socio-professional integration.</i>



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.

My class/lesson:	<i>Delete this sentence and replace it with the title of your class or lesson</i>
Environment	
<i>Some related Sustainable Development Goals: affordable and clean energy; climate action; responsible consumption and production</i>	
Knowledge already in my class:	The students already know what water and air pollution means.
Knowledge I would like to add:	Ways to prevent pollution and elements related to soil pollution.
Local issues already in my class:	I am talking about a class of children with intellectual disabilities. It does not follow rules to avoid soil pollution.
Local issues I would like to add:	Unfortunately, in some families there is no such education and the behavior is formed by imitation.
Competences already in my class:	They know ways to prevent water pollution, they clean the beach and the water from the aquarium.
Competences I would like to add:	Sorting the garbage, using household bags for collection, bags of different colors.
Society	
<i>Some related Sustainable Development Goals: gender equality; reduced inequalities; peace, justice and strong institutions</i>	

"Romania is a country that has gone through a transition, a country hard-pressed with various social, economic and political problems. Despite these arguments, gender equality is present and accepted especially in big cities. There are also various programs that aim to integrate young people with disabilities into society and the labor market. Thanks to the collective effort, society is in continuous development, it relies a lot on education, being the key to a better future."

Knowledge already in my class:	Students know social rules, gender equality;
Knowledge I would like to add:	Reducing social exclusion regarding the integration of young people with disabilities, ways to prevent school dropout.
Local issues already in my class:	Using language that may be offensive.
Local issues I would like to add:	Empathy as a way of universal language.
Competences already in my class:	Respecting girls and boys, offering help in situations where it is needed.
Competences I would like to add:	Providing support to people in difficult situations, creating institutions that support families in critical situations and/or single-parent families.
Economy	
<i>Some related Sustainable Development Goals: no poverty; affordable and clean energy; industry, innovation, and infrastructure</i>	
Knowledge already in my class:	The children in my class know how to manage the little they have. From a financial point of view and from the point of view of using some goods or food.
Knowledge I would like to add:	Knowledge about energy, about everything that means recycling, about the use of solar panels.

Local issues already in my class:	There are gaps in terms of innovation and in terms of the general culture they have regarding infrastructure.
Local issues I would like to add:	There are children who come from foster care centers. The lack of family and the use of technology can be a serious problem.
Competences already in my class:	Students know how to do economics. I know the danger of using electronic devices in a wrong way
Competences I would like to add:	To use recyclable materials to build a road or an alley.

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.

"GIVING, YOU SHALL GET!"		
What?	Who?	How long?
<i>The first activity involves the community effort. I will involve other schools and institutions to support children with disabilities. They will come with used educational toys but in working condition and educational supplies to give the little ones a first model. We are happy when we receive, so we will be happy when we give.</i>	<i>Me, students, other schools and students, local community</i>	<i>The activity will take place during 2 weeks, during which we receive visits 3 times a week.</i>
<i>Presentation of specific cases. During this stage, we have the opportunity to watch some documentaries with and about families that need help. A family with a single mother and several children, a victim of a natural phenomenon such as an earthquake or flood and a child who has a special talent but cannot implement it due to material problems.</i>	<i>Me and the childrens using a laptop and a video projector.</i>	<i>3 days</i>
<i>Preparing a charity fair where we will sell items made by us in order to raise funds and later buy what is needed for those who need our help. After we received gifts and we were happy, after we understood that there are many cases of people who need help,</i>	<i>Me, childrens, students from other schools, parents, local community</i>	<i>One week</i>



<p><i>the time has come for us to put into practice everything we have learned and enjoy helping others . During this fair we will make bracelets from used elastic bands, we will decorate metal cans and we will build modern pots and glasses for pens and pencils. We will sell them and go shopping together. We will work as a team and involve the other classes in the school. Buyers can be children from other schools or parents.</i></p>		
<p>In the final phase, we need to mobilize to reach together those who need our help. I mention that those we will help will not be friends or relatives. We must be as objective as possible to help those who really need it. We will take the things we bought for storage, case by case, and at the end we will celebrate the fact that we were able to be of help.</p>	<p>Me and the childrens</p>	<p>3 days, 1 day for each case.</p>

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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