

# Sustainable Development Goals for Pupils

## #14 LIFE BELOW WATER



2022-1-FR01-KA220-SCH-000087085

## Imprint

Published by:

Ecole Primaire Publique Piton La Ravine Blanche (France), Eco - Logic (Macedonia), OOU Malina Popivanova (Macedonia), Centro per lo Sviluppo Creativo Danilo Dolci (Italy), European Multicultural Association (Bulgaria), Yenimahalle Istiklal Ilkokulu (Turkey).

Design and layout: Eco Logic

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This curriculum is part of the Erasmus+ project Sustainable Development Goals for Pupils

Co-funded by the Erasmus+ Programme of the European Union:



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# Sustainable Development Goals for Pupils



**To be interested in the 17 Sustainable Development Goals** is to make the choice to represent the world in a different and more thoughtful way.

In 2015, 193 member states of the United Nations voted in favor of the Sustainable Development Goals. In 2016, 17 objectives and these 169 targets were created. This ratification aimed to put in place strategies and modules so that all of us could take part and succeed in achieving them on a global scale.

It is therefore all together that we participated in the production of this guide which supports all those who participate in the achievement of these 17 sustainable development objectives. It is obvious that to achieve these objectives by 2030, the training of adults and especially of the youngest, is the most effective way to change representations and raise awareness.

This guide, which has been the subject of careful consideration between the partners, provides complete learning units intended for stakeholders in the educational community as well as the students themselves.

This reflection cannot be done alone. Different actors therefore came together to look at these objectives and put in place actions to achieve them.

The Piton La Ravine Blanche school in Reunion has therefore joined forces with Eco Logic, which is an organization which works for the protection of the environment, and with the European Multicultural Association, which has experience in adult training and young people. In addition, the Centro Per Lo Sviluppo Creativo Danilo Dolce, is responsible for putting our educational platform online and populating each tab with the product tools.

In these organizations, it is not possible to carry out this project without involving the schools and involving the teaching team, the students and all the other actors who revolve around the student. Thus, a secondary school in Macedonia, OR Malina Popivanova Kocani and Yenimahalle Istiklal Ikkokulu.

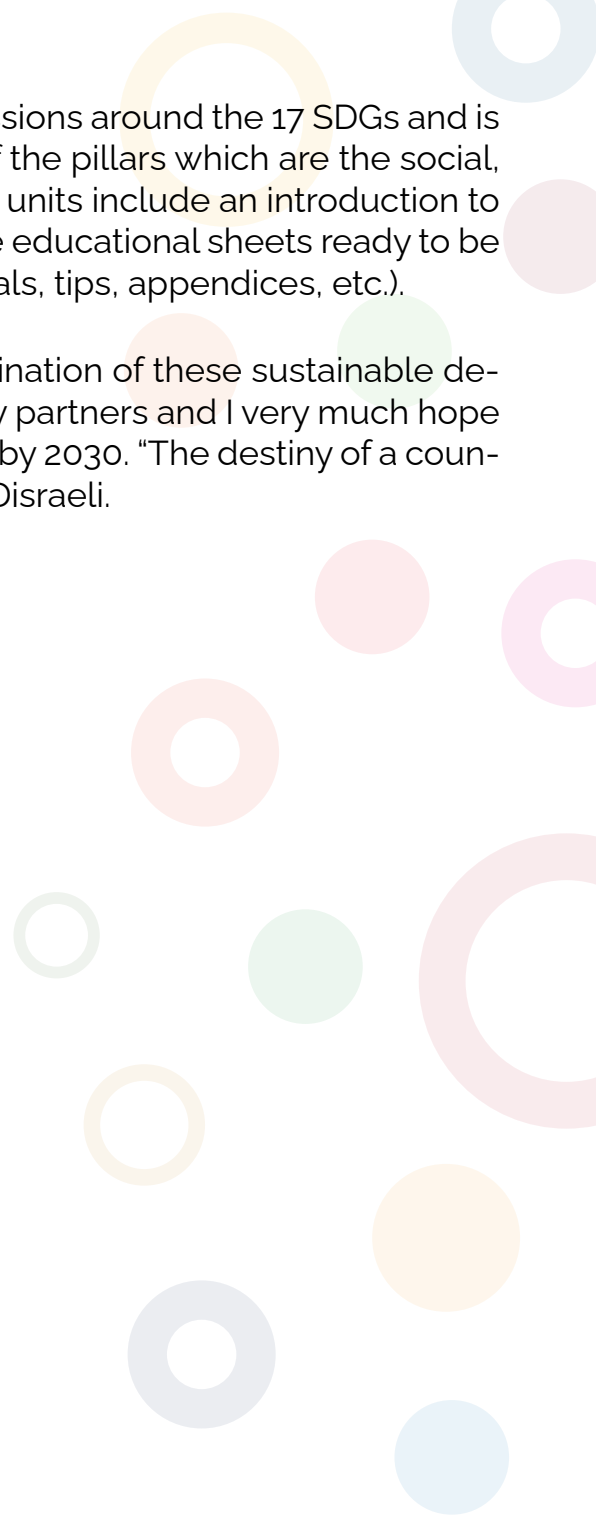
Just like the Piton La Ravine Blanche school, these secondary and primary establishments mentioned above have the mission of testing the lesson plans designed by all the partners and of leading the sessions with their students.

Work together around these objectives and put every chance on our side to achieve them, reflect and propose tools to share with a wide audience, question representations and expectations; define objectives to be achieved, set challenges to "give all students the means to understand the ecological transition in order to become actors in it".

In addition, this project echoes the 20 measures of national education, plays the interdisciplinarity card and allows schools from kindergarten to high school to prepare students for this ecological transition by giving them the opportunity, once moreover, to give a European dimension to this approach.

This guide is the essential tool for organizing learning sessions around the 17 SDGs and is structured as follows: a definition of the concept, a list of the pillars which are the social, economic and ecological issues, units of learning. These units include an introduction to each objective, a presentation of each of them, complete educational sheets ready to be used (unit objectives, target audience, necessary materials, tips, appendices, etc.).

It is therefore with great enthusiasm and a serious examination of these sustainable development objectives that this guide is offered to you. My partners and I very much hope that together we will be able to achieve these objectives by 2030. "The destiny of a country depends on the education of its people. » Benjamin Disraeli.



## Introduction



The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, adopted by all United Nations Member States in 2015, provides a shared blueprint for peace and prosperity for people and the planet, now and into the future. At its heart are the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which are an urgent call for action by all countries - developed and developing - in a global partnership. They recognize that ending poverty and other deprivations must go hand-in-hand with strategies that improve health and education, reduce inequality, and spur economic growth – all while tackling climate change and working to preserve our oceans and forests.

The SDGs build on decades of work by countries and the UN, including the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs

In June 1992, at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, more than 178 countries adopted Agenda 21, a comprehensive plan of action to build a global partnership for sustainable development to improve human lives and protect the environment.

- Member States unanimously adopted the Millennium Declaration at the Millennium Summit in September 2000 at UN Headquarters in New York. The Summit led to the elaboration of eight Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) to reduce extreme poverty by 2015.

- The Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development and the Plan of Implementation, adopted at the World Summit on Sustainable Development in South Africa in 2002, reaffirmed the global community's commitments to poverty eradication and the environment, and built on Agenda 21 and the Millennium Declaration by including more emphasis on multilateral partnerships.

- At the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in June 2012, Member States adopted the outcome document "The Future We Want" in which they decided, inter alia, to launch a process to develop a set of SDGs to build upon the MDGs and to establish the UN High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development. The Rio +20 outcome also contained other measures for implementing sustainable development, including mandates for future programmes of work in development financing, small island developing states and more.

In 2013, the General Assembly set up a 30-member Open Working Group to develop a proposal on the SDGs.

- In January 2015, the General Assembly began the negotiation process on the post-2015 development agenda. The process culminated in the subsequent adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, with 17 SDGs at its core, at the UN Sustainable Development Summit in September 2015.

- 2015 was a landmark year for multilateralism and international policy shaping, with the adoption of several major agreements:

- Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (March 2015)

- Addis Ababa Action Agenda on Financing for Development (July 2015)

- Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development with its 17 SDGs was adopted at the UN Sustainable Development Summit in New York in September 2015.

- Paris Agreement on Climate Change (December 2015)

- Now, the annual High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development serves as the central UN platform for the follow-up and review of the SDGs.

Today, the Division for Sustainable Development Goals (DSDG) in the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA) provides substantive support and capacity-building for the SDGs and their related thematic issues, including water, energy, climate, oceans, urbanization, transport, science and technology, the Global Sustainable Development Report (GSDR), partnerships and Small Island Developing States. DSDG plays a key role in the evaluation of UN systemwide implementation of the 2030 Agenda and on advocacy and outreach activities relating to the SDGs. In order to make the 2030 Agenda a reality, broad ownership of the SDGs must translate into a strong commitment by all stakeholders to implement the global goals. DSDG aims to help facilitate this engagement.

Sustainable Development Goal 14 is an essential part of the United Nations' 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. This goal focuses on "Life below water" and it shows the commitment of the world in addressing some of the most urgent challenges societies are facing worldwide.



Sustainable Development Goal 14 is important because it addresses life below water.

The world's oceans – their temperature, chemistry, currents and life – drive global systems that make the Earth habitable for humankind. How we manage this vital resource is essential for humanity whole, and to counterbalance the effects of climate change.

Over three billion people depend on marine and coastal biodiversity for their livelihoods. However, today we are seeing 30 percent of the world's fish stocks overexploited, reaching below the level at which they can produce sustainable yields.

Oceans also absorb about 30 percent of the carbon dioxide produced by humans, and we are seeing a 26 percent rise in ocean acidification since the beginning of the industrial revolution. Marine pollution, an overwhelming majority of which comes from land-based sources, is reaching alarming levels, with an average of 13,000 pieces of plastic litter to be found on every square kilometre of ocean.

The SDGs aim to sustainably manage and protect marine and coastal ecosystems from pollution, as well as address the impacts of ocean acidification. Enhancing conservation and the sustainable use of ocean-based resources through international law will also help mitigate some of the challenges facing our oceans.

## MAIN GOAL TARGETS FOR SDG 14 ARE AS FOLLOWS:

- By 2025, prevent and significantly reduce marine pollution of all kinds, in particular from land-based activities, including marine debris and nutrient pollution
  - By 2020, sustainably manage and protect marine and coastal ecosystems to avoid significant adverse impacts, including by strengthening their resilience, and take action for their restoration in order to achieve healthy and productive oceans
- Minimize and address the impacts of ocean acidification, including through enhanced scientific cooperation at all levels
- By 2020, effectively regulate harvesting and end overfishing, illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and destructive fishing practices and implement science-based management plans, in order to restore fish stocks in the shortest time feasible, at least to levels that can produce maximum sustainable yield as determined by their biological characteristics
  - By 2020, conserve at least 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, consistent with national and international law and based on the best available scientific information
  - By 2020, prohibit certain forms of fisheries subsidies which contribute to overcapacity and overfishing, eliminate subsidies that contribute to illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and refrain from introducing new such subsidies, recognizing that appropriate and effective special and differential treatment for developing and least developed countries should be an integral part of the World Trade Organization fisheries subsidies negotiation
  - By 2030, increase the economic benefits to Small Island developing States and least developed countries from the sustainable use of marine resources, including through sustainable management of fisheries, aquaculture and tourism
  - Increase scientific knowledge, develop research capacity and transfer marine technology, taking into account the Intergovernmental

Oceanographic Commission Criteria and Guidelines on the Transfer of Marine Technology, in order to improve ocean health and to enhance the contribution of marine biodiversity to the development of developing countries, in particular small island developing States and least developed countries

- Provide access for small-scale artisanal fishers to marine resources and markets
- Enhance the conservation and sustainable use of oceans and their resources by implementing international law as reflected in UNCLOS, which provides the legal framework for the conservation and sustainable use of oceans and their resources, as recalled in paragraph 158 of The Future We Want

Sustainable Development Goal 14 (SDG 14), known as Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas, and marine resources for sustainable development. or "Life below water," consists of 10 targets and 10 indicators whose goal is to measure progress towards achieving this goal. They include preventing and reducing marine pollution and ocean acidification, protecting marine and coastal ecosystems, and regulating fishing. The targets also call for an increase in scientific knowledge of the oceans. Some targets have a target year of 2020, some have a target year of 2025 and some have no end year.

The ten targets include:

- reducing marine pollution (14.1),
- protecting and restoring ecosystems (14.2),
- reducing ocean acidification (14.3),
- sustainable fishing (14.4),
- conserving coastal and marine areas (14.5),
- ending subsidies contributing to overfishing (14.6),
- increase the economic benefits from sustainable use of marine resources (14.7), - increase scientific knowledge (14.a),
- supporting small scale fishers (14.b)

and implementing and enforcing international sea law (14.c).

These targets and indicators under SDG 14 are important in addressing issues related to life below water at both the national and world levels. They are useful for monitoring progress of achievement and put pressure on governments and institutions to be more committed to promote peace and to ensure access to justice.



