



Summary:

Country: **Portugal**

Region: Algarve

Discussion Group:

Students

5th grade classes





¿What ideas do you have to improve today's education to allow you/ students to live more sustainably?

- More reflexive moments promoted by schools;
- Subjects with daily routine practices;
- School visits to appreciate/enjoy/value nature and natural life.



¿How can we live more sustainably on our planet? What knowledge, skills, attitudes and values are needed?

- Water saving;
- Educate for sympathetic/empathic /tolerant citizenship;
- Eliminate waste;
- Volunteering;
- Reusing clothes;
- Protection of animals;
- Composting to reduce the use of fertilizers.



¿From your experience going to school, what has helped you in particular to live more sustainably?

- Collection of covers for a solidary cause;
- Recycling in schools - teaching and practice;
- Development of environmental and social projects;
- Development of solidarity and sustainability concepts;
- Teaching the practice of planting and sowing;
- Citizenship and Development Classes.



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Parents





¿How can education contribute to building more just, peaceful and sustainable societies?

How can we live more sustainably on our planet? What knowledge, skills, attitudes and values are needed?

- Preserve natural resources (water, forests, oceans);
- Respect moral and social values;
- Be aware of food waste and prevent it;
- Encourage the 3R's policy: reduce, reuse and recycle;
- Provide students reflexive moments, debates throughout the curricula;
- Reduce the number of textbooks for each subject;
- Promote a well balanced parenting participation between school and their jobs.



¿Please share an example of how children's school effectively fosters learning associated with sustainable development. What could your children's school do better?

- The school should present and develop projects adaptable to real life;
- The measure of stopping the sales of plastic water bottles, helped to raise awareness among students and consequently their families;
- The existence of recycling eco points at school;
- Debates are quite motivating and positive for students to participate;
- Outdoor areas for agriculture and gardening;
- Inspire teachers and give them time to develop more proactive projects.



¿What role should parents play in their children's education? What role should the wider community play in education/schools?

- Protection of natural and cultural heritage;
- Make students / community aware to play an active role in respect for each other and for the world in general;
- Search, with the community, partners for the development of activities / projects more oriented to the students' daily life;
- Participate in partner/sharing projects as a way of developing citizenship attitudes.



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Teachers





¿How can education contribute to building more just, peaceful and sustainable societies?

How can we live more sustainably on our planet? What knowledge, skills, attitudes and values are needed?

- Cooperation through a culture of integration ;
- Develop resilience ;
- Experimentation (providing various experiences to learn - action that leads to change) ;
- Create balance in the formation of humanistic values since the beginning of the school career ;
- The flexibility of the curricula and contents would allow more experimental teaching and would give more space for debate, for students to expose their doubts, desires and points of view on different situations .



¿Please share an example of how children's school effectively fosters learnings associated with sustainable development. What could your children's school do better?

- Define the concept; analyze the situation and establish solutions;
- Recycling / reduce / reuse ;
- Abolition of plastics at school, namely the sale of water bottles;
- Valuing nature and ecosystems through practical work - ex. plant plants on the balconies, gardens;
- Water saving at home and at school.



¿What role should parents play in their children's education? What role should the wider community play in education/schools?

- It is necessary to end water waste;
- Choose a very flexible curricula;
- More practical professions (eg. sustainable agriculture) should be valued;
- Create situations that enable the valorization of sustainability (eg vegetable gardens, actions in Nature, such as planting trees or plants);
- Promote actions that value Nature;
- Modify the curricula so that there is more time for practical components ("doing to learn"), namely through project work.



Impact

¿What was the impact or results of ASPnet x Futures of Education discussion into school community?

We think that all participants enjoyed and valued this activity and initiative. In fact, they became more aware of their roles in the future, making sure they are the ones responsible for the improvement and change towards education, in such a way it will be closer to a holistic and humanistic approach.

Portugal Education has already started this journey by approving “The Profile of Students – completed schooling” which is a reference for decisions to be taken by decision-makers and educational actors at the level of education and teaching establishments and organizations responsible for educational policies. Afterwards, this “Profile of Students” will be used as a common matrix for all schools and educational offers within the scope of compulsory schooling, mainly for the curriculum, for the planning, for the internal and for the external evaluation of teaching /learning process.



Is there anything else you wish to relay to UNESCO and/or the International Commission?

The school is the place where students receive most of their training (as long hours are spent in the classroom).

On one hand, it is a privileged way to shape the citizens of the future through experiences. On the other hand, these experiences should provide a guidance for students, mostly because of the humanitarian values mentioned previously which lead these same conclusions by themselves.