

THE RIGHT TO WATER: A SUSTAINABILITY CHALLENGE

After the right to water has been made explicit among the objectives of the 2030 Agenda with Goal 6 of the United Nations: "To guarantee everyone the availability and sustainable management of water resources and sanitation", everyone must work so that an International protocol can regulate significant and procedural aspects.

In particular, the aspects to be regulated are:

- the right to water to quench your thirst;
- the right to water for personal hygiene;
- the right to water for domestic use;
- minimum quantitative and qualitative levels;
- the right to access to water (physical and economic accessibility);
- the right to participate in decisions relating to water;
- the right to take legal action in relation to water;
- mandatory nature of the right to water even in case of war.

We need to train students and insist on education in the responsible use of water by creating culture and promoting sustainable behaviors.

Some simple rules to avoid wasting water range from closing the taps while brushing your teeth or shaving, which saves 6 liters of water every minute, to reducing shower time; in fact, every minute spent in the shower consumes 6 to 10 liters of water. From repairing dripping taps, a problem that can cause the loss of 21,000 liters of water per year for each tap, to using washing machines and dish washers only when fully loaded, which decreases water consumption by 8200 liters per year.

Students should be encouraged to have a critical conscience regarding ethical and ecological sustainability on water. Environmental sustainability is closely connected with social sustainability. As happens in the case of the Water Houses, systems that promote sociability in the places where they are installed and help to animate squares and neighborhoods, promoting environmental sustainability and reducing waste and CO2 emissions.

The population should be made aware of drinking tap water, so as to recover as much material and Energy as possible in compliance with the circular economy, reducing CO2 emissions related to the transport of water bottles. In fact, consuming less, consuming better is one of the sustainability challenges that all countries should face as soon as possible.

Furthermore, the waste of drinking water should be cut and the use of purified water for non-domestic uses (irrigation, cleaning) should be encouraged. And it is right on the waste sludge front that one of the most important challenges in a circular economy perspective is at stake. Biomethane and fertilizers and other by-products with high added value for the chemicals sector, such as phosphorus and nitrogen, are the new resources born from the circular conversion process. A good example is given by the Aquasoil company in Apulia, which treats urban waste water and makes it available for irrigation without wasting water and without taking it to the purification plant.

We agree that Water conservation is duty of every citizen of each Country as we are already facing water scarcity issues everywhere on earth. The evidence is based on the latest events in our Countries due to climate change as well as to the impact of the pandemic covid-19. For these reasons we want take some small steps and lead to achievements.

Here we show some guidelines and measures that our schools are committed to follow.

What are the ways to conserve water in schools?

✚ Identify and Repair School Leaks

- ⇒ Are there any dripping faucets, leaky toilet tanks, or leaking hoses? Is there any colour in the bowl after 15 minutes without flushing?
- ⇒ A few drops of food colouring can be used to test toilet tanks. Because a leaking toilet can waste up to 200 gallons of water per day, it is critical to repair running or leaking toilets as soon as possible.

✚ Duty of teachers

- ⇒ Appoint a Coordinator for Water Efficiency: Select at least one school employee to manage all conservation ideas, conservation discussions with school officials, and water conservation meetings.
- ⇒ Students Should Be Taught About Water Conservation: Educate students on water conservation practises such as turning off the water while washing their hands, brushing their teeth, and doing the dishes.

✚ Duty of students

Students can contribute to water conservation in a variety of ways.

⇒ Display Water Conservation Signs

- ⇒ Request permission from teachers to create and post water conservation stickers, signs, and posters in classrooms, bathrooms, cafeterias, and other areas where students congregate.

⇒ Establish an Eco-Friendly Garden

- ⇒ Inquire with teachers about retrofitting your school's existing landscaping. Plants that require a lot of water should be replaced with native plants that are adapted to the local climate and rainfall.

✚ Get Started Ideas

- ⇒ Include water conservation policies and procedures in training programmes.
- ⇒ Utilize office communications (staff meetings, e-mail, newsletters) to distribute policies, ideas, and accomplishment announcements.
- ⇒ Involve financial savings from ongoing water conservation programmes as well as accomplishment announcements.

✚ Motivate Employee Participation

- ⇒ Emphasize the importance of individual responsibility as part of a team effort to reduce water consumption.

✚ Launch a Water Conservation Program for Employees

- ⇒ Provide employees with water efficiency information so that they can incorporate water-saving practises into classroom activities.

✚ Create Water Conservation Incentives

- ⇒ Recognize and reward schools and classrooms that submit water-saving suggestions.
- ⇒ Arrange and encourage inter-school water conservation competitions.

(C5) Mobility of the Erasmus+ KA229
School Exchange Partnerships

Project Entitled: "Water is Life"

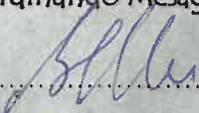
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