

# Thinking Globally, Acting Locally: School Project

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1. Level	Pre-16, FE
2. Pre-requisite knowledge required by educators	A. No background knowledge required
3. Pre-requisite knowledge required by students	A. No background knowledge required
4. Number of students	Any number
5. Length of time required	One year
6. Type of activity	Course outlines and learning goals
7. Discipline	Cross-curricular*
8. Topics covered	All

\* Students from the following subjects were involved: German, English as a foreign language, Chemistry, Religious Studies, History and Culture, Geography and Economic Studies, Textile Technology, Project Management, IT skills, Design and Fashion Illustration, Workshop and Production Engineering.

## OBJECTIVES / LEARNING OUTCOMES

This Responsible Consumption project aimed to enable students to:

- Critically explore a social issue.
- Raise their environmental awareness and awareness of fair wages.
- Identify global interrelations relating to consumption.
- Deal with different kinds of documents such as press articles and official letters.
- Identify dependencies between workers within different working processes.
- Negotiate verbally effectively.
- Realise that not everything is accomplishable.
- Complete an activity for Global Learning as required by the Federal Ministry for Education, Science and Culture.
- Contribute to the 'Decade of Sustainability' (UNESCO).
- Critically and creatively explore ethical labels.
- Apply findings to the individual social environment.
- Be aware of issues relating to responsible consumption.

## PROJECT SUMMARY

120 students and 13 instructors from six school classes (10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade) were involved in a Responsible Consumption project over one year. The main focus of the project was textiles and food related issues referring to sustainability and fair trade criteria.

Students applied for positions such as researchers, managers and multipliers, and were involved in managing the project through weekly meetings with the 13 instructors from different subjects. Students acted as multipliers to ensure that knowledge about issues relating to the aims of the project reached all participating classes. Local organisations, the municipal authority and businesses were all involved in the project.

Various events were held during the project including a school assembly, a public event, a fashion show (detailed below) and workshops for students. A panel discussion was held with politicians from all parties in Hallein and representatives of consumer protection, fair trade and animal welfare organisations. In addition, 25 project members presented the project at 'Go fair', a competition initiated by the province of Salzburg and other cooperation partners (such as Südwind) to encourage pupils to present projects/activities based on political development issues. In addition, the students developed a label for local businesses, which is described in more detail here.

## LABEL FOR LOCAL BUSINESSES

The label was created by 11<sup>th</sup> grade students from different subjects (German, Project Management, Design and Fashion Illustration) and processed by 12<sup>th</sup> grade computer students. Using a questionnaire, 20 businesses in the Hallein area were questioned to find out if, and to what extent, stores offered products that were organic and fairly traded. These questionnaires were evaluated by a committee consisting of students. 16 of the companies interviewed were publicly presented with a logo, chosen from several designs by Fashion Design and Fashion Marketing students. The final logo for the label, designed by Lisa Winkler, aimed to express a close affinity to nature and concern for future generations. The logo consists of one tall figure and one to four small figures depending on the rating; the more small figures, the better the company was considered to be.

## FASHION SHOW: LA LUCHA SIGUE

For the fashion show, the criteria for textiles included:

- a. Linen, flax and cotton: pesticide-free.
- b. Wool: responsible livestock husbandry.
- c. Dyes: organic.
- d. Fair wages and no child labour.
- e. Local sourcing of products (reduced transportation).
- f. Silk: production in accordance with animal welfare standards
- g. Weaving: wax, fats and dirt to be removed with biodegradable detergents.

The students were not able to find bio-fair fabrics in Austria for their fashion show and therefore had to reduce their expectations and source the fabric from a German company. The students firstly participated in the workshop, 'Cotton and Fashion: The long journey of my jeans!', organised by Südwind, part of the Clean Clothes Campaign Austria. Students then designed, produced and presented evening gowns made from organic fabrics, dyed according to their taste, in a fashion show (second year Design and Fashion Illustration, Workshop and Production Engineering students)

<sup>1</sup> Eine Schule des Vereins für Bildung und Erziehung der Halleiner Schwestern Franziskanerinne (known as 'Höhere Lehranstalt für Mode und Bekleidungstechnik der Schulschwestern von Hallein-Salzburg' until September 2008)

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Edited by Liz Parker on behalf of Fashioning an Ethical Industry, UK, and Marsha A. Dickson on behalf of Educators for Socially Responsible Apparel Business, USA.

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