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Sustainability from the Elementary School Perspective

The paper will give insight into how sustainability is practically taught and fostered among children at the elementary school level. One of the four goals of our institution's development is sustainability. That is why, over the past ten years, it has been the topic of school Erasmus, eTwinning, Blue School, and cross-curricular projects. The aim was to raise awareness among students about environmental protection and social inclusion.

The first part of the paper presents a practitioner's perspective on implementing teaching methods, such as project-based learning (PBL), content and language integrated learning (CLIL), and ICT, in the context of sustainability. The paper will present best practices, including creating e-books, projects aimed at reducing waste, upcycling, recycling, promoting healthy food, incorporating ethical components in fair trade, and addressing greenwashing in the fashion industry. Additionally, it will be demonstrated how the school has achieved sustainable goals structurally, both by design and through the installation of solar panels.

The second part of the paper will elaborate on projects and lesson plans aimed directly at strengthening students' empathy towards each other and all beings, and raising awareness of wellbeing and mental health. Finally, examples will be provided of cross-curricular activities designed to promote the social inclusion of students from diverse ethnic, linguistic, and religious backgrounds, as well as those with different abilities.

Keywords: sustainable school, project-based learning, social inclusion, elementary level

Links to the activities:

https://www.canva.com/design/DAF4wlryTJA/shGlQZqYnVy1izEtkOZPg/edit?utm_content=DAF4wlryTJA&utm_campaign=designshare&utm_medium=link2&utm_source=sharebutton

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