GLOSSARY

Key concepts when working on Development Education and Raising Awareness

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2030 AGENDA FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

The 2030 Agenda is a 15-years master plan, which aims to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs – see definition) throughout the consideration of the three dimensions of sustainability – economic, social and environmental. The agenda was formally approved in the 70th annual General Assembly at United Nations headquarters in New York in September 2015 and it will run on until 2030.

A

ALTERNATIVE ENERGY

Alternative Energy is any form of natural energy that replaces and contrasts the use of fossil fuels energy. It is non-traditional energy and it has a low environmental impact. Alternative energies are for example solar energy, wind energy, hydroelectric energy and ocean energy, biomass energy and geothermal energy.

B

BIOLOGICAL CAPACITY OR BIOCAPACITY

Biological capacity is the capacity of a geographical area (e.g. country, region…):
   a) to generate and produce the biological materials and renewable resources needed by its human population;
   b) While absorbing the waste materials produced.

These procedures are carried out by the leading agricultural practices and by the predominant technologies. An equally significant aspect linked to the biocapacity of a specific geographical area is its possibility to change from year to year according to the climate or to the biological materials required by the human economy.

BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY OR BIODIVERSITY

Biological Diversity refers to the coexistence of a variety of living organisms (e.g. plants, animals, environment…) in a common specific geographical area.

C

CARBON FOOTPRINT

10 TIPS FOR REDUCING YOUR CARBON FOOTPRINT

1. Carpooling at least once a week.

2. Go one week without using disposable cups given to you at coffee shops.

3. Try turning off the lights in an empty room at home or in your dorm.

4. Instead of eating lunch on campus try packing a waste-free (meaning no plastic) lunch .

5. Unplug your computer every night for one month if you have a computer.

6. Use only cold water to do your laundry for one month.

7. Try skipping a trip to the store and shop online.

8. Try reducing your printing a little bit each day and only print what is absolutely necessary.

9. Cut your shower time by two minutes for one month.

10. Reduce your bottled water consumption for seven days.

http://sundial.csun.edu/2014/04/how-to-reduce-your-daily-carbon-footprint/

Carbon Footprint is the measure which estimates the use of carbon dioxide and the resulting environmental impacts.

This measurement is assessed in order to identify the impact on the climate of each individual or group of people (e.g. organisation, community, country, etc.) taken into consideration. Several websites were established in order to not only make people aware of their own impact in the world, but also to encourage them to take some provisions for reducing their effect in the environment.

Try to measure your own Carbon Footprint in the link below and if it is generally high try to reduce it following the 10 tips suggested in the picture:

http://www.nature.org/greenliving/carboncalculator/index.htm

See also Land Footprint, Ecological Footprint, Water Footprint.

CIRCULAR ECONOMY

RAW MATERIALS

DESIGN

PRODUCTION, REMANUFACTURING

RECYCLING

CIRCULAR ECONOMY

DISTRIBUTION

RESIDUAL WASTE

COLLECTION

CONSUMPTION, USE, REUSE, REPAIR

http://epnetwork.tumblr.com/post/123113312207/circular-economy-the-importance-of-re-using

Circular Economy is an economic model in which the potential use of goods and materials is optimised.

In other words, not only it employs durable goods produced by repairable materials and it seeks to extract the maximum value out of them whilst in use; but also, it avoids the use of materials that can results harmful to the environment. As can be seen, this economic model supports a sustainable economic approach and it represents the diametrically opposite of the so called Linear Economy which follows the 'take, make and dispose' approach.

To have some more information about this economic model,
the new book "*The Circular Economy: A Wealth of Flows*" by Ken Webster is suggested!

CITIZENS' PARTICIPATION

The term Citizens' Participation indicates the participation of ordinary citizens to a process which aims to influence a public decision. This process can be organised by the civil society (e.g. public assembly, citizens' committee…), or by decision makers (e.g. referendums, parliamentary commissions and mediation…). In addition, the choice of taking part in it can be on a voluntary or obligatory basis. The issues taken into account and discussed involve several significant and substantial matters connected to the community.

See also Public Involvement, Global Citizenship and Global Citizenship Education.

CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS - CSOS

Civil Society Organisations is a term that includes organisations, charities, trusts, networks, national and international associations, foundations, groups and movements which are characterised for being independent from the government and no profit organisations. They are formed by people belonging to the civil society who decide to take part in it on a voluntary basis. CSOs are various: for instance, they can differ in terms of focus, in terms of membership which can be local, national or international, or in terms of number of members.

CSOs can sometimes collaborate together in order to reach or advance a common interest through the members' collective action. CSOs can also create good collaboration with decision-makers; indeed, CSOs are in close contact with the population thus they are more aware of their needs and they can provide a wider perspective of the community's point of view.

See also NGO and Non-state actors.

CLIMATE CHANGE

Climate Change indicates the change in the atmospheric conditions (e.g. temperature, precipitation, extreme weather, wind etc.), which last for a considerable period of time. This phenomenon can cause relevant alterations in the natural ecosystem which will automatically affect the human economies and cultures that are determined by it. The main cause behind the phenomenon of the climate change is the increase of the greenhouse effect (see definition).

See also Global Warming

COLLABORATIVE CONSUMPTION

Collaborative consumption is a business approach based on an interdependent peer-to-peer model. In this system, roles change from the capitalist model and the passive consumer also becomes an active producer or goods' provider.

This business model is built on different methodologies such as renting, lending, bartering, gifting, swapping and sharing. These procedures can be supported by internet and other technologies which help people to get in touch and to express their needs/their offers.

COLLABORATIVE ECONOMY

Collaborative Economy is an economic system of decentralised networks composed by connected individuals and communities who match their needs and haves avoiding in this way the traditional institutions.

D

DEAR - DEVELOPMENT EDUCATION AND AWARENESS RAISING

DEAR stands for Development Education and Awareness Raising and it aims at:

1. Informing EU citizens about development issues;
2. Mobilising greater public support or action against poverty
3. Providing citizens with tools to engage critically with global development issues;
4. Foster new ideas and changing attitudes towards global challenges.

The EU has dedicated a specific program coordinated by DG DEVCO (International Development and Cooperation) to reach these objectives, the DEAR programme which supports actions and projects on DEAR, implemented by civil society actors and local authorities in EU and acceding countries.

For more details: https://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/sectors/human-rights-and-governance/development-education-and-awareness-raising_en

DIRECT DEMOCRACY

Direct Democracy (also referred to as *pure democracy*) is a form of democracy in which the legislative power is not only held by the government, but also by the citizens. Members of the communities are allowed to propose specific statutory measures or constitutional reforms to the government. The tools used by the citizens in order to exercise this power are: petitions, referenda, proposals of popular legislative initiatives which, if successful, can force a public vote.

E

ECO-INNOVATION

Eco-innovation referred to methodologies, tools, technological procedures which allow an institution to renovate its products and its services while reducing their impact on the environment. In other words, the goal is that business meets environment. The Eco-innovation is a cornerstone for the green-economy and for the European policies which advance towards the goal of sustainable development.

ECO-FRIENDLY

Eco-friendly is a term, which indicates products, services, goods, laws, guidelines, policies and practices that are characterised for being earth-friendly or not harmful to the environment. This term is mostly used to indicate products, which contribute to avoid air, water and land pollution, or to products, which contribute to practices that help to conserve water or energy.
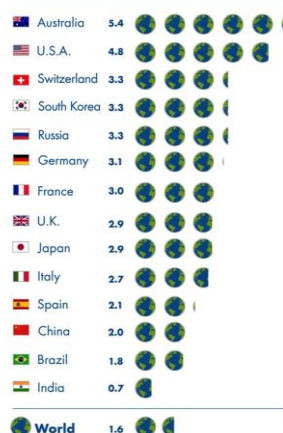
ECOLOGICAL DEBT

The term Ecological Debt was firstly used in 1992 from the Chilean Instituto de Ecologia Politica and it rapidly took hold worldwide. The notion of ecological debt focuses on the unbalanced situation created by northern industrial countries and third world countries in their contribution to ecological crisis. In other words, rich countries have been conducting a raid of resources, an overexploitation of the global commons and an abuse of poor countries' areas used to deposit wastes which produce remarkable environmental damages within the entire world.
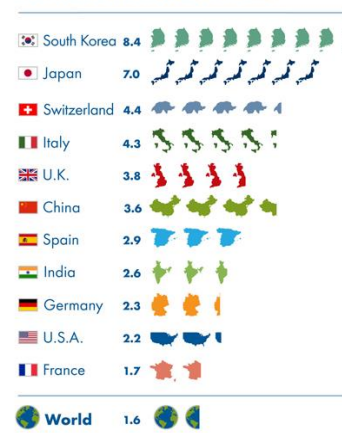
Nowadays, these phenomena are still implemented by rich people who exceed goods; to do so, not only third world countries are hit by rich countries, but also some northern industrial countries overtake their own sources.

See also Ecological Debt Day – Overshoot Day.

How many Earths do we need
if the world's population lived like...

Australia	5.4	
U.S.A.	4.8	
Switzerland	3.3	
South Korea	3.3	
Russia	3.3	
Germany	3.1	
France	3.0	
U.K.	2.9	
Japan	2.9	
Italy	2.7	
Spain	2.1	
China	2.0	
Brazil	1.8	
India	0.7	
World	**1.6**	

Source: Global Footprint Network National Footprint Accounts 2016

How many countries are required
to meet the demand of its citizens...

South Korea	8.4	
Japan	7.0	
Switzerland	4.4	
Italy	4.3	
U.K.	3.8	
China	3.6	
Spain	2.9	
India	2.6	
Germany	2.3	
U.S.A.	2.2	
France	1.7	
World	**1.6**	

Source: Global Footprint Network National Footprint Accounts 2016

ECOLOGICAL DEBT DAY – EARTH OVERSHOOT DAY

The Ecological Debt Day, also referred to as Earth Overshoot Day, is a day established by the New Economics Foundation (NEF) and the Global Footprint Network (GFN). This date marks the moment in which natural resources used by the world's population are exhausted for that determined year. In other words, the world is no more able to reproduce and replace the resources used within the year. The calculation in order to identify this date is made comparing the biocapacity of the world with our ecological footprint. In 2016, the Ecological Debt Day was on 8 August.
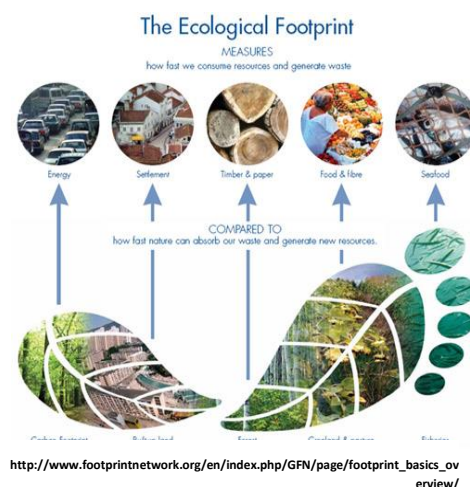
Overstepping Ourselves

As our Ecological Footprint continues to exceed Earth's biocapacity, we overdraw from our future.

1961	1985	2012
74% of biocapacity	114% of biocapacity	156% of biocapacity

Source: Global Footprint Network, Earth Overshoot Day, 2012

ECOLOGICAL FOOTPRINT

The Ecological Footprint is a measure, which calculates the impact of the population's activities on the planet in relation with the resources provided by it. To put it in another way, it is the amount of the environment needed in order to provide people with the goods and services necessary to support their lifestyle. This measure allows each individual to understand its own impact to the world and, at the same time, it should contribute to encourage people to manage ecological assets more wisely and to be engaged in individual and collective actions
in order to not damage or destroyed our planet.

http://www.footprintnetwork.org/en/index.php/GFN/page/footprint_basics_overview/

To measure your own Ecological Footprint:
http://www.footprintnetwork.org/en/index.php/GFN/page/calculators/

See also Carbon Footprint, Land Footprint, and Water Footprint.

ECOTOURISM

Ecotourism is a responsible way of travelling to natural areas. While visiting these areas, people are characterised by a special attention and respect towards the environment and the welfare of the local people. In order to be recognised as ecotourism the principles which should be considered are: the reduction of the personal impact in the environment visited, the financial sustain needed in order to support the environment conservation and the local people, and the guarantee of positive experiences for both visitors and hosts.

See also Sustainable Tourism and Green Tourism

ENERGY RECOVERY

Energy recovery is a term, which indicates any process that converts waste material into energy. For instance, through the process of combustion some non-recycled plastics can be converted into energy, such as electricity.

EUROPEAN YEAR FOR DEVELOPMENT 2015 (EYD2015)

European Years are established by the European Union and they aim at encouraging the dialogue and the debate within and between countries in the EU regarding a specific topic. 2015 represented the year in which for the first time European Union focused on its external actions (international development policy) and on its role viewed from a worldwide perspective.

The objectives for this year were (1) to inform and make citizens aware about the EU achievement in international development, (2) to foster the citizens and the stakeholders' participation throughout direct involvement, critical thinking and active interest and (3) to raise awareness concerning the benefits of the EU's development cooperation fostering in this way joint responsibility and solidarity among the countries.

For more details: https://europa.eu/eyd2015/en/content/about-2015

F

FAIR TRADE

Fair trade is a market and trading approach which aims at supporting marginalised producers and workers from developing countries. As a result, better working and trading conditions and sustainability should be achieved. The fair trade is characterised by a direct dialogue between producers and consumers, transparency and respect. These three features seek to obtain a greater equity in the trading process, a higher respect for the environment, and the safeguard of the producers and workers' human rights.

What is fair trade? Watch this video to find it out!
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PLKTGWH398Q

FORMAL EDUCATION

Formal Education is the learning that takes place in the traditional "educational system" of a determined country. Formal education takes place in an institutionalised environment such as schools and universities specifically addressed for teaching/training and learning. It is usually organised following a hierarchical structure in which learners are divided by age and, from a certain time, they are sorted according to their specialism (ex: Scientific/Linguistic curriculum in the High

School; Political Science/Architecture/Languages University Department; etc.). Teachers/trainers are often qualified for the sector, level and subject taught.

See also Informal Education, Lifelong Learning and Non-Formal Education.

G

GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP

The term Global Citizenship refers to a person who places her/his identity within a broader community and that is committed to improve the world common humanity. In details, a global citizenship assumes an active role in order to support the creation of a more peaceful, just, sustainable, tolerant, inclusive and secure world.

What is the meaning of the word Global Citizen?
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_yio6kQrlYQ

See also Global Citizenship Education and Citizens´ Participation.

GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP EDUCATION

Global Citizenship Education (GCED) aims to enable learners to develop the main competencies in order to assume active roles and face global challenges. Thanks to this process, people should become proactive contributors to a more peaceful, just, sustainable, tolerant, inclusive and secure world. The concept of GCED is starting to include movements such as multicultural education, peace education, human rights education and international education.

In order to develop GCED, Oxfam (international confederation of 18 charitable organisations which aims at fighting against global poverty) suggests adopting a Learn-Think-Act process with learners. In other words Oxfam believes that - in order to become active citizens -learners should pass through three main steps:

1. LEARN: Exploring the issue and understanding it considering different points of view;
2. THINK: Assuming a critical attitude towards the issue;
3. ACT: Taking individual and collective actions.

For more details: http://www.unesco.org/new/en/education/resources/in-focus-articles/global-citizenship-education/

See also Global citizenship and Citizens' participation.

GLOBAL WARMING

Global warming is the current and rapid increase of the temperature of the Earth's surface (both land and water) which is happening in the past century. In details, it can be seen that average temperatures around the world have considerably risen (an increment of 0.75°C = 1.4°F was verified in the last 100 years and especially from 1975). Formerly, increases in temperature were determined by natural causes, nowadays this phenomenon is caused by the accumulation of greenhouse gases which are created by human activities.

See also Greenhouse Effect and Climate Change

GLOBALISATION

Globalisation is a phenomenon and a process in which the barriers between different countries are progressively eliminated. As a result, a deeper interaction and a broader integration between world's cultures, governments and economies are gradually created.

"GLOCALISATION"

« Think global, act local » or how to combine global trends and local realities. This slogan invites people to consider the health of the entire planet while taking action in their local communities and cities. With this intention, some actions can be taken by the municipalities and these include: banning plastic bags in stores, implementing urban water-use reductions, transitioning to electric buses, and designing streets for walking and biking. Obviously, this concept can apply also to some individual actions. One of the resolutions adopted could be to support small businesses. By doing so, higher local economy stability is promoted and a living wage to well-qualified workers rather than abusing cheap, foreign labour is defended.

GOOD GOVERNANCE

Governance is a concept, which indicates the processes related with decision-making and implementation of decisions. Governance applied to international, national or local contexts. Good Governance indicates the act of making and implementing decisions proceeding in the best way as possible. Good governance is characterised by 8 major features:

- It is *participatory*: each individual who is somehow affected by or interested in a decision should have the opportunity to participate in the process of decision-making;
- It is *consensus oriented*: each decision should reach the broadest interests of a community; considering not only the people and the actors within the determined society, but also the historical, cultural and social contexts;
- It is *accountable*: all the decisions taken by the government must be ready to be explained, reported and justified;
- It is *transparent*: All the procedures which stand behind the taking-decision process must be followed rules and regulations and all the information regarding them must be available and directly accessible;
- It is *responsive*: All the community and stakeholders' needs must be served by good governance in a reasonable timeframe and in an appropriate and responsive manner;
- It is *effective and efficient*: The decisions taken must not only meet the needs of the society, but also get the best out of the resources at their disposal using them in a sustainable way (including natural resources and protection of the environment);
- It is *equitable and inclusive*: In decisions taken, the needs of all the members (including vulnerable people) of a determined community must be taken into account;
- It follows the *rule of law*: Decisions must be consistent with the community's legislation, plus impartial and corrupted decisions are avoided.
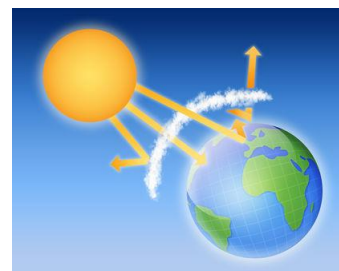
GREEN ECONOMY

Green Economy aims at integrating economic and environmental policies in order to create an economic growth and, at the same time, supporting sustainability. In this economic model technology and scientific research play an essential role and the traditional energetic sources are replaced by alternative and renewable energies. Moreover, this model fosters the implementation of green building, energy-efficient infrastructure/transportation, and recycling/waste-to-energy.

GREENHOUSE EFFECT

The greenhouse effect is an atmospheric and climatic phenomenon by which greenhouse gases – such as water vapour, carbon dioxide, and methane – trap heat within the Earth's atmosphere.

In other words, greenhouse gases allow sunlight to enter through the atmosphere but they block the radiation inside the Earth's atmosphere and they reflect them back on the planet's surface. The greenhouse effect was firstly created by natural causes, but nowadays it is increased

http://www.scienceclarified.com/photos/greenhouse-effect-3059.jpg

by the pollution created by human beings.

I

INFORMAL EDUCATION

Informal Education is a form of education based principally on lifelong observations and direct experiences. It is a non-purposive educative process that takes place in the person's daily-life environment (family, neighbours, work, leisure, mass media, society, etc.). From this kind of education, each individual learns attitudes, values, skills and knowledge, which are neither recorded and certified, nor immediately visible for the learner.

See also Formal Education, Lifelong Learning and Non-Formal Education.

L

LAND FOOTPRINT

Land Footprint is a consumption-based indicator, which calculates the land used by an organisation, a region, a country, etc. in order to satisfy its own consumption and needs. Land Footprint can also indicate the land needed in order to produce a certain good.

In 2013 it was highlighted that - in order to cover the European requirements of food, textiles, and other goods – EU uses 1.212.050 square kilometres of agricultural land (Corriere della sera – Ambiente, 2013[1]).

http://www.informarexresistere.fr/wp-content/uploads/2013/03/land_footprint-400x201.jpg

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[1] http://www.corriere.it/ambiente/13_marzo_29/slow-food-coalizione-europea-contro-uso-suolo_3f7b4a5c-9859-11e2-948e-f420e2a76e37.shtml [last accessed: 23/09/2016]

LIFE-CYCLE ASSESSMENT

Life-cycle assessment (LCA) indicates a methodology, which measures the environmental impacts taking place during each stage of a product's life, from its production to its disposal.

Thanks to the realisation of the product's LCA which identifies and highlights its general potential environmental impacts, it is possible to propose some intervention in order to reduce the consume of the resources and the harmful to the environment emissions.

http://www.solidworks.com/sustainability/design/2722_ENU_HTML.htm

LIFELONG LEARNING

Lifelong Learning is defined as a learning process, which happens voluntarily throughout life. It is a concept which distances itself to the formal learning process since it is flexible, diverse and available at different times and in different places. Individuals can acquire knowledge, values, skills and understanding, which apply to their personal and professional development.

See also Informal Education, Formal Education and Non-Formal Education.

LOCAL AUTHORITIES (LAS)

The term Local Authorities (LAs) includes a broad variety of local governing bodies at a various level such as municipalities, communities, districts, counties, etc. They are bodies, which are directly or indirectly elected and possess a degree of autonomy from the central national government.

LOCAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (LED)

Local Economic Development (LED) offers the opportunity to enhance the local economy throughout a cooperation among local governments, private and not-for-profit sectors, and local communities. LED aims to lead local entities to be more competitiveness on the global market and to increase sustainable and inclusive growth. In order to support a LED approach, local communities foster and encourage small and medium sized enterprises, plus informal and newly emerging business; they

requalify some parts of the local areas; they attract external investment (nationally and internationally), etc.

M

MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS (MDGs)

The Millennium Development Goals are eight international development goals established by the United Nations at the Millennium Summit in 2000. All 191 UN member states agreed on achieving these eight goals by 2015. The MDGs are inter-dependent: in other words, it can be stated that reducing poverty, hunger and environmental degradation positively influences, but also depends on, better health. Following the success obtained by the MDGs, 17 new development goals were established in 2015. These new goals are referred to as Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs – see definition).

http://isnblog.ethz.ch/wp-content/uploads/2010/09/millenium-development-goals.gif

To find out more about MDGs have a look at the video below!
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k4FAiI2mdaI

See Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

MUNICIPAL SOLID WASTE

Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) is usually referred as "trash" or "garbage". This term usually refers to common household waste, or office and retails wastes and it includes wastes such as durable and nondurable goods, containers and packaging. However, it excludes industrial, hazardous and construction wastes.

N

NON-FORMAL EDUCATION

Non-Formal Education is a purposive but not compulsory learning that takes place in contexts and situations in which learning is not necessarily the main objective and the only activity proposed. Non-Formal education can last temporarily and it can be led by trainers, facilitators or volunteers (for

instance youth leaders). The activities and courses proposed are usually planned but they are usually not structured as the formal-education rhythms and subjects. Learning in non-formal contexts can be considered as a semi-structured type of learning. Usually these activities are addressed to specific target groups.

See also informal education, formal education and Lifelong Learning.

NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS (NGOS)

Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) are organizations not affiliated with government. In particular, they are non-profit and non-violent organisations structured on a local, regional, national or international level. NGOs are task-oriented and they usually are: advocating, monitoring and influencing policies of governments and international organisations; complementing government services; bringing citizens' concerns to governments; encouraging political participation. The NGOs focus could be on a wide range of themes / areas: human rights, environment, health, education, children, gender equality, public participation, political participation, etc.

See also CSOs and Non-state actors.

NON-STATE ACTORS

Non-state actors (NSAs) are entities or individuals which do not belong to any particular country or state but have economic, political and social power which allow them to influence national and international decisions. In details, NSAs are based in a determined state, however their actions can take place both within and outside that specific country. In other words, they are entities that participate or act in international relations and they have enough power to influence and cause a change even though they do not belong to any established state-institution. They differ considerably among themselves and they are examined in light of international law for multiple purposes.
In addition, NSAs play the essential roles of contributing to the consolidation of a stable and democratic political environment; increasing the ownership of development processes; promoting new public-private partnerships; and ensuring greater sustainability of development programmes.

See also NGO and CSO.

With the financial
support of the EU

P

PEER-TO-PEER ECONOMY

A Peer-to-Peer Economy is a decentralized economic model in which two individuals interact to trade, to buy or to sell goods and services without the intervention of any third part, which would stand as commercial mediation.

R

RENEWABLE ENERGY

Renewable energy is a form of energy that is generated from natural sources such as sunlight, rain, wind, which are renewable. In other words, these forms of energy cannot be exhausted and they can be naturally renewed.

S

SHARING ECONOMY

Sharing Economy is an economic model based on collaboration among people and on sharing of human, physical and intellectual resources, goods or services. The main characters of this socio-economic strategy are normal individuals, who can be either producers or consumers. In this economic and sustainable system, individuals decide to share their own underutilized assets for monetary or non-monetary benefits. Two of the most known apps based on sharing economy are Uber, which allows people to offer a driver service using their own cars, and Airbnb, which instead permits to rent out personal houses or rooms to travellers.

SMART CITY

A Smart City is a developed urban area, which aims at fostering the quality of life throughout the use of urban informatics and technology in support of services' efficiency and citizens' requirements.

In other words, the multiple integration of information and communication technology (ICT) within local institutions such as schools, libraries, transportation system, hospitals, waste management, community services, etc. can improve the community life-style.

The first smart city was Rio de Janeiro, then since 2009 European cities have started to carry on projects and to allocate funds for the implementation of Smart Cities.

To find out which are the 10 smartest cities in Europe, have a look at the article below!
https://www.fastcoexist.com/3024721/the-10-smartest-cities-in-europe

SUSTAINABLE CITY

Sustainable City, also named as eco-city, is a city in which it is taken into account the environmental impact and in which citizens are dedicated to minimise needs in terms of energy, water, food and waste output. Following the definition of Sustainable Development, Sustainable Cities are places in which the current residents are provided with a good quality of life -which includes the four domains of ecology, economics, politics and culture-, but this does not reduce the opportunity for the next generations to live with the same amount of resources and goods.

See also Urban Sustainability.

SUSTAINABLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION (SCP)

Sustainable consumption and production is a term, which defines the process by which both production and services' use are socially beneficial, economically viable and environmentally benign over the whole life cycle. In other words, SCP, which takes into account the full economic implications and the involved activities within the production and consumption process, fosters the population's quality of life while reducing environmental impacts.

The 12th Sustainable Development Goal supports the SCP and it is labelled "Ensure Sustainable consumption and production patterns".

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

The term Sustainable Development has been defined several times, however the most widely used definition is the one proposed by the World Commission on Environment and Development in 1987. It declared that sustainable development is the "development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs." The idea that social, environmental and economic progresses are achievable within the limits of our earth's natural resources is the cornerstone of this concept. Sustainable Development can be applied to several contexts such as: solar and wind energy, sustainable construction, sustainable economy, water conservation throughout water fixtures, etc.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGS)

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), also referred to as the Global Goals, were established on the achievement obtained by the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) (see definition). The SDGs, together with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (see definition), go deeper than the MDGs. In particular, the SDGs are composed by 17 goals, which intend to guarantee universal human rights and to promote a more sustainable way of living.

https://cdn2.sph.harvard.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/13/2015/09/sdg-chart.png

As the MDGs, SDGs are integrated and indivisible, they depend one on the other. In addition, they balance the three dimensions of sustainable development: the economic, social and environmental.

To get to know more about the SDGs have a look here:
http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/ & https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdgs

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT INDICATORS

The European Union publishes every two years a report named EU Sustainable Development Strategy, which shows the achievements of the EU in terms of sustainability.

The Sustainable Development Indicators (SDIs) are the tools used by the EU in order to monitor and measure the accomplishment reached and the progress obtained towards sustainable development according to the objectives and the targets defined in the strategy.

SUSTAINABLE TOURISM

Sustainable Tourism is a term, which indicates a form of tourism that has only a positive impact towards the environment, the economy and the society visited.

In other words, a sustainable traveller does not overused the resources of the area visited and does not inhibit future travellers from enjoying the same experience.

http://farm5.staticflickr.com/4007/4684029908_9270ba5588_z.jpg

How to be a responsible and sustainable traveller? Follow these tips!
http://www.sustainabletourism.net/sustainable-tourism/travel-tips-responsible-travel-tips/

See also Green Tourism and Ecotourism

T

TWINNING

The twinning is a form of legal or social agreement between cities, towns, villages, etc. that seeks to promote cultural and commercial links. In other words, two or more distant communities create ties in order to take action from a more wider and European viewpoint. In particular, a twinning approach aims at facing similar problems exchanging different views and understanding different perspectives. In creating a twinning partnership, several issues can be taken into account such as: art and culture, young people, citizenship, sustainable development, local public services, local economic development, social inclusion, solidarity…

U

UPCYCLING

Upcycling it is also defined as "creative reuse". This term indicates the practice of transforming waste or useless and unwanted materials into useable products of better quality or with a better

environmental impact. Upcycling aim is to reduce waste and to enhance the efficient use of resources.

URBAN SUSTAINABILITY

Urban Sustainability is the urban plan of a determined area, which ensures long-term, viable and self-sustaining community vitality. The strategies considered in an urban sustainability plan aims to achieve a long-term balance between economic, social and environmental sustainability in terms of transport system, health, education, income equality, work and leisure balance, the quality of green spaces, etc.

See also Sustainable Cities.

V

VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING (VET)

Vocational Education and Training (VET) are courses and trainings which belong to the tertiary education and which are connected to the labour market. Indeed, they provide job related training and technical skills and they cover several fields.

W

WASTE HIERARCHY

Waste Hierarchy is a rank, which shows the preferred environmental option to deal with wastes and the last preferred environmental option to get rid of them.

As shown in the picture, it gives top priority to preventing waste in the first place. When waste is created, it gives priority to preparing it for re-use, then recycling, then recovery, and last of all disposal (e.g. landfill).
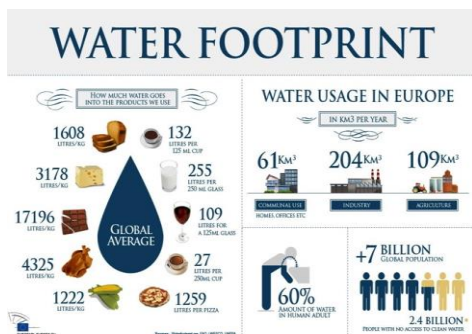
The Waste Hierarchy

Preferred Environmental Option

Reduce
Re-use
Recycle
Energy Recovery
Disposal

Least preferred Environmental Option

http://ecocarbon.it/wp-content/uploads/2013/10/the-waste-Hierarchy.jpg

WATER FOOTPRINT

The Water Footprint is an indicator, which calculates the amount of freshwater consumption and use during individuals or communities' activities.

The Water Footprint is calculated considering the total volume of freshwater needed in order to produce the goods and the services consumed by each individual or community per unit of time.

With the financial support of the EU