

Educating for Sustainability Citizenship: an introduction

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Notes for reader

Did you take part in the workshop? You can find all links in the presentation. Important notes and information nuggets have been included in the slides.

Would you like to give this workshop? Reach out to myrthe.stienstra@esha.org for a presenter version of the slides



SYNAPSES

Teaching for Sustainability Citizenship

SYNAPSES is one of 16 Erasmus+ Teacher Academies

Objective: Providing continuous professional development for Teachers and School leaders in the field of teaching for Sustainability Citizenship



The **active and responsible engagement** of individuals and communities in promoting sustainability and addressing environmental, social, and economic challenges. It goes beyond being a passive recipient of sustainable initiatives and involves active participation, advocacy, and decision-making in matters related to sustainability. **A sustainability citizen is** someone who understands the interconnectedness of environmental, social, and economic systems and takes actions to contribute positively to sustainability efforts.



**Sustainability
Citizenship**

Climate change-relevant sustainability citizenship skills

- **Recognise** the environmental, social and economic dimensions of climate change
- **Connect** local actions and initiatives to global processes
- **Move** from analysis to systematic action on climate change.



Sustainability
Citizenship

Footprint Calculator



<https://www.footprintcalculator.org/>



Give Away – Summer School



SYNAPSES Aftermovie '24



Small action, big impact

Because 'citizenship' is about day to day actions

We often hear 'education for SC is expensive', or 'we don't have time' or... 'we don't know where to start'
So the aim of today is to set the barrier at a level that EVERYONE can enter.

It is not about big gestures and expensive solutions.
Because 'citizenship' is about day to day actions



Example: Plalking

Plandelen in the Netherlands –

plalking = walking + picking up plastic



In the Netherlands: if all residents pick up 3 pieces of plastic, there would be no litter.
That is the type of impact you can make.

Example: Plalking – No Butts Day



Photo: Annemarieke Celine

Pick up sigaret butts

- *Easy to do*
- *Engaging*
- *Big impact*



No Butts Day (July 5th 2025) – close to 1 milion sigaret butts picked up in 25 countries: most participants only took about 30 minutes of picking. Register for 2026? <https://noplasticfilter.org/no-butts-day/> . This activity is...

- Easy to do
- Engaging
- Makes a big impact: **not only do students help clean the streets, they will also be more alert to littering + parent engagement**
- **Can be an action in itself, can also be encouraged while walking to gym class or during an excursion**

Now you...

Together we are creating a garland of Sustainability Citizenship (SC) inspiration

One small, NOVEL,
action I can take in my
school is ...

5 minutes



Carousel exchange

Inner and Outer circle

30 sec Pitch your idea to your conversation partner

State your 'to do'

Explain how it will promote SC

30 sec Partner to respond and express ideas

1 minute Refine the action point into an actionable sentence – Write it down



Cultivating Collective Efficacy

Teachers stepping on the break?

Give them space for input and USE their input

Ask them this:

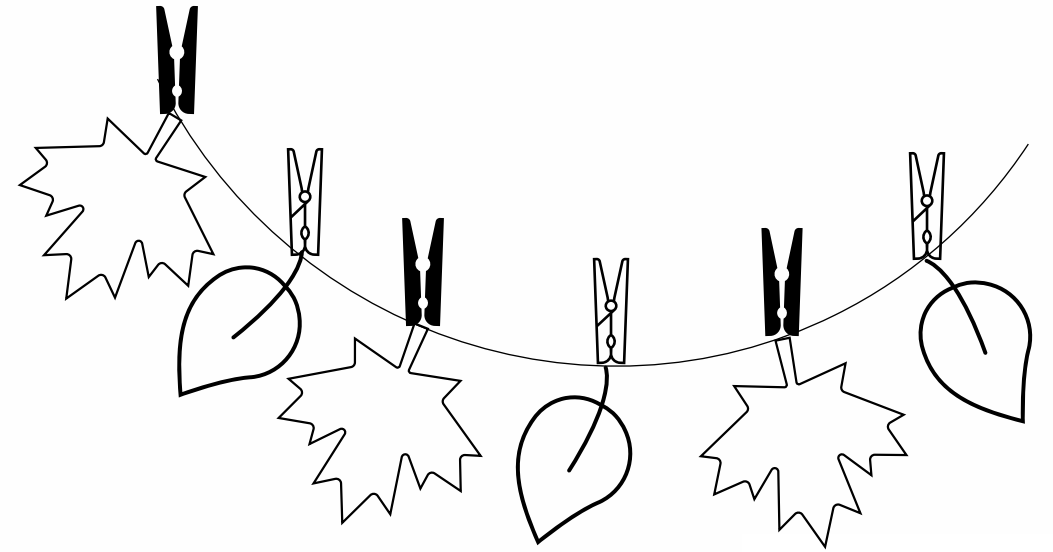
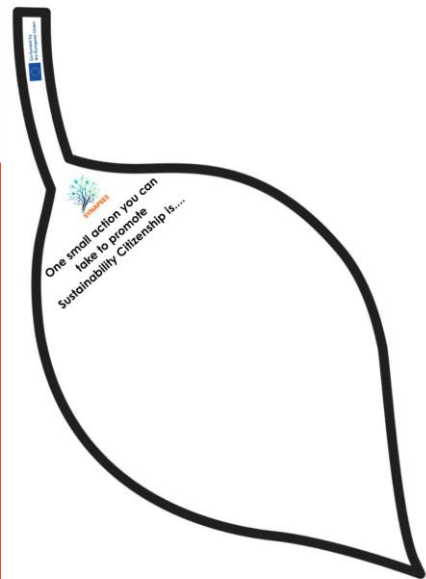
- What would they like to do on SC?
- What are their worries?
 - Maybe they are based on false assumptions
 - Discuss how you can take these worries away
- Make a plan/vision together, give freedom for teachers on how to shape this, while showing your support.



Garland Lottery

- Give Away

1. Write your action down
Fill out your details
2. Hang it on the garland
3. TAKE YOUR LOTTERY TICKET



Worksheet available

Thank you!

Want to stay in touch?
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Website



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Portal