

Toolkit - Resources for trainers

Good Practice - SDG Nr. 9

The initiative “Polish Plastic Pact”

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), also known as the Global Goals, were adopted by the United Nations in 2015 as a universal call to action to end poverty, protect the planet, and ensure that by 2030 all people enjoy peace and prosperity.

Goal number 9 relates to sustainable cities and communities. It aims at building resilient infrastructure, promoting inclusive and sustainable industrialization and fostering innovation.

Social Goals

The initiative The Polish Plastic Pact is a cross-sector partnership linked by a common vision of a circular economy for plastic packaging.

The challenge of The Polish Plastic Pact is to change the way plastics are used and close the loop so that plastic circulates in the economy and does not end up in the environment.

What need does it cover?

Since the 1950s, we have produced as much as 9.2 billion tons of plastic in the world.

Unfortunately, we are not using it in a sustainable way - most of this material remains in landfills and in the oceans after a short time of use, and we extract fossil fuels to produce more tons of it.

Plastics have revolutionized the modern economy. This huge success is mainly due to their several advantages: they are light, durable and cheap. They are perfect for packaging. Today, however, we use plastic in a linear way: we produce it, use it and throw it away. In the EU, we produce 25.8 million tonnes of plastic waste annually.

31% of plastics are landfilled. 39% of plastics are burned. 30% of plastics are recycled. Overall, only 10% of the plastic produced in the last 70 years has been recycled worldwide. The rest has largely littered the natural environment, endangering many species. It is estimated that 1.5-4% of the world's production of plastics ends up in the seas and oceans each year. As a result, they account for as much as 80% of all marine litter. If the current trend continues, there will be more of them in the water than fish by 2050. Microplastics are found in water, air, soil and food, and their impact on health is not fully understood. In addition, traditional plastic production, based on fossil fuels, is responsible for significant greenhouse gas emissions. By managing plastic in this way, we are wasting resources and destroying the environment.



<p>How was it founded?</p>	<p>The Polish Plastic Pact is part of the global Plastics Pact network coordinated by the Ellen MacArthur Foundation. This network is made up of the European Plastic Pact and local Plastic Pacts in Chile, France, the Netherlands, Portugal, South Africa, Great Britain and the USA. Led by the Ellen MacArthur Foundation, in collaboration with the UN Environment Programme, the Global Commitment has united more than 500 organisations behind a common vision of a circular economy for plastics. Driven by the goal of tackling plastic pollution at its source, companies representing 20% of all plastic packaging produced globally have committed to ambitious 2025 targets to help realise that common vision.</p> <p>The Polish Plastic Pact is the first such initiative in Central and Eastern Europe and the eighth national pact in the world. Together with him, this network is made up of the European Plastic Pact and local Plastic Pacts in Chile, France, the Netherlands, Portugal, South Africa, Great Britain and the USA.</p> <p>The Pact aims to change the current model of using plastics in packaging on the market towards a circular economy. All these initiatives share a common vision of a new economy in which plastics remain in a closed loop all the time.</p>
<p>How does it relate to SDGs</p>	<p>The practice accomplishes the SDGs goal Nr 9 – Industry, Innovation, Infrastructure</p>



Good practices

BIOECO
BIOECO is a material that consists of 60% corn fibers, and the remaining 40% of the composition is recycled PET. Thanks to this combination of raw materials, a product with a lower environmental impact is created, which does not differ from microfiber parameters. As befits the lining - it absorbs and wicks away moisture keeping the feet in comfortable conditions, it is very durable, breathes and also has the Oeko-Tex Standard 100 certificate, i.e. it is free from harmful chemicals, so antiallergic and of course - vegan.

Bioeco material is used by Fairma Ethical Design - a Polish company established in April 2016 in Krakow.

Fairma Ethical Design emphasizes local production to provide all employees in the supply chain with decent living and working conditions. Already in 2017, the company received the vegan PETA Approved Vegan certificate confirming the absence of animal components, and 10% of the margin on product sales is donated to charity.

Due to the sector in which the company operates, Fairma Ethical Design seeks more sustainable materials for the production of vegan shoes and accessories. This is how the BIOECO lining was created!

How to work on it

The Fairma Ethical Design company's products are hand-made in small, family-owned plants in Poland, they are 100% vegan (i.e. no animal materials were used to make them) and are made of innovative environmentally friendly materials.

The company's philosophy is: Quality = Sustainability, which means that sustainable fashion is not only about innovative materials, but most of all the durability of the product. A long-life product reduces waste and slows down consumption - thus reducing the consumption of environmental resources. That is why the company carefully selects all suppliers to guarantee the highest quality of shoes and accessories.

