

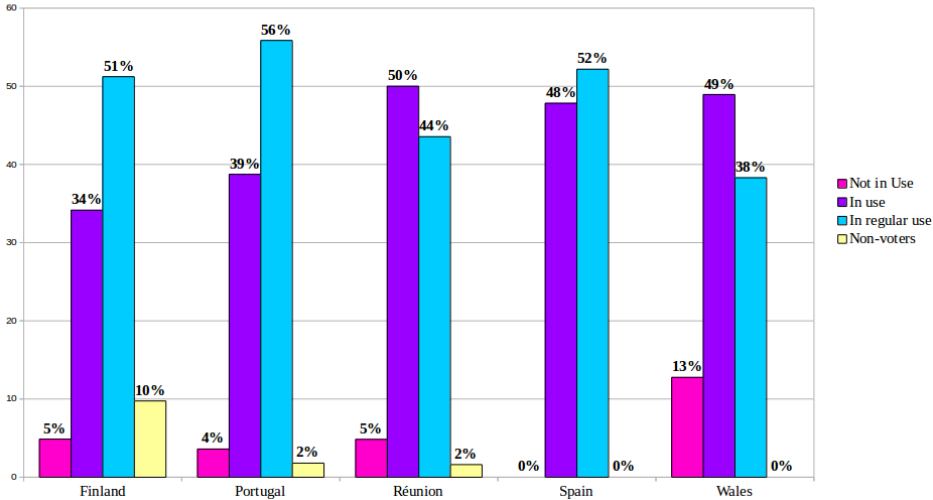


Within the framework of the Erasmus exchange, five high schools from five different countries took part in a survey entitled "living sustainably". The aim is to find out how aware teenagers are of sustainable development, according to these different schools. As we all know, we need to achieve sustainable management of our planet so that we can continue to live on it in good conditions. If we want to achieve this goal, we must comply with the goals set by the United Nations.

We choose two questions from this poll. The first one was the question L: "When you make a purchase, consider the item’s life expectancy: How long can the item be used? Will it have more than one use? When you’re done with it, will it end up in the trash? Start investing in reusable products for the items you most often throw away."

This question focuses on the reuse of products. In order to prevent our planet from being covered by waste, we have to consider the products’ life expectancy, and give a priority to reusable goods. Moreover, if we use only single-use products, we will raise carbon dioxide emissions produced by firms and therefore, we will have a bigger carbon footprint. As a result, buying non-reusable goods is damaging for the environment. We can link this question to numbers 12 (responsible consumption and production) and 13 (Climate Action) of the SDGs.

### Dispose with disposables



We can see that results from Portugal and Finland are really close, with over 50% of the students who are often concerned with the sustainability of what they buy, and only 4 or 5% of people who are not taking care of it.

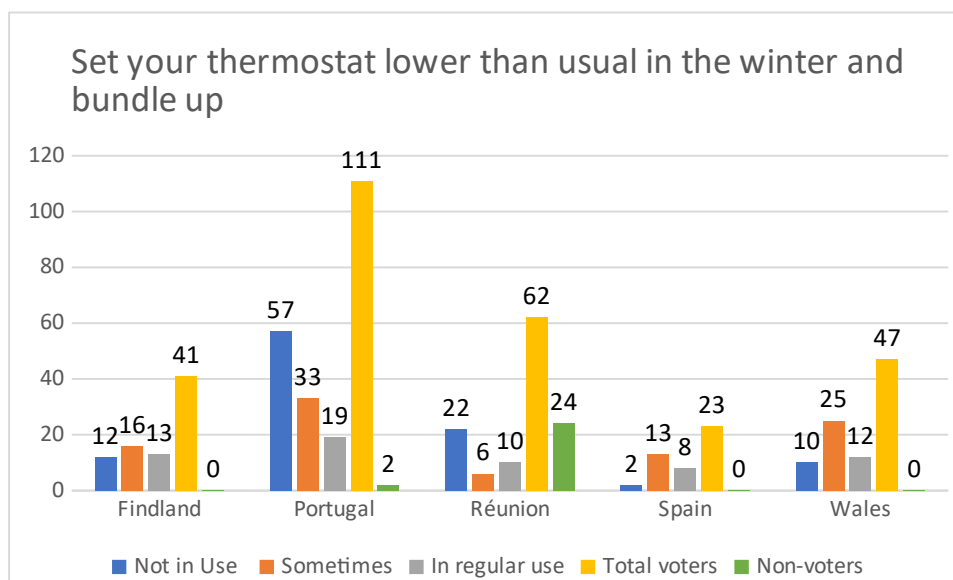
Reunion Island is also really close from those results with 5% of people who are not being cautious of the durability of the goods they are buying. However, half of the Reunion's voters are just occasionally taking care of this criteria, and 44% are regularly thoughtful about it.

In Spain, the results are shared between "in use" and "in regular use" with 48% and 52% respectively. However, we can notice that there is no "not in use" for Spain.

In Wales, the results are a bit more divided with 13% of the students for whom it is "not in use", and 49% for whom it is "in use", and finally around one third of them for whom it is "in regular use".

In a nutshell, we can notice that students globally think about the sustainability of the object. However, we still have to consider, while looking at these graphs, that these figures are not the perfect representation of reality. Only 23 to 111 people participated in this survey which is not representative of the global population. Nevertheless, these results are encouraging in terms of the next generation environmental awareness.

The second one was the question D: "Set your thermostat lower than usual in the winter and bundle up". This question is linked to numbers 11 (sustainable cities and communities) and 13 (climate action) of the SDGs.



We can notice from this graph that in Portugal and Reunion Island students mainly voted "not in use": 57 out of 111, or more than half for Portugal and 22 out of 62 for Reunion Island. Therefore, we can see that Reunion Island has the highest number of non-voters for this question (24 out of 62).

In Finland, it is quite the same for the 3 possible answers: 12 out of 41 for “not in use”, 16 out of 41 for “sometimes” and 13 out of 41 for “in regular use” (with 0 non-voters).

Spain has a little more of “sometimes” (13 out of 23) than “in regular use” (8 out of 23) and quite nothing for “not in use” (2 out of 23), with 0 non-voters for this question. Which means that people are careful of what they are doing.

Wales has approximately twice more “sometimes” (25 out of 47) than “not in use” (10 out of 47) and “in regular use” (12 out of 47).

Moreover, we know that the climate during winter is cooler in Finland and Wales, than in Portugal and Spain, and more specifically in Reunion Island. This may explain why people from these places set their thermostats less low than usual during winter. People in Reunion Island may simply don't have to use a thermostat because of the mild temperature.

Furthermore, in countries where the winter is cooler, inhabitants might be more aware of the thermostat's consequences on the environment. And so, setting the thermostat lower allows them to save more energy.

To sum up, we cannot really conclude something general from these graphs as there were not a lot of voters. However, it seems that students pay attention to living in a sustainable way (for the environment), by taking actions to protect it, such as considering the item's life expectancy and setting the thermostat lower than usual in winter.

