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Pupils coming from high schools located all around the world (in Spain, Sweden, Portugal and Wales) are participating to an Erasmus project with our high school in Reunion island. One of this project's goals is to find solutions to contemporary problems such as climate change. In order to do so, pupils from our high school organised a survey, asking the teenagers from the partner schools questions about what they do to live sustainably. These questions, such as "Do you buy locally ?" aim to evaluate how youth feel about climate change and what it does concretely in order to make a difference.

It is indeed very important to act concretely and soon in order to assure sustainable development in developed european countries. As a matter of fact, we consume and pollute more and more than the planet can bear. The natural resources are also coming to an end : if every human consumes like we do, we would need two more planets!

In order to stop that, the European Union created Sustainable Development Goals. For example, they want to add measures concerning climate change in politics, strategies and national planifications.

We are going to study what the pupils in the partner high-schools answered to the question : "Do you purchase fair-trade products?". Fair-trade products are products that respect some social, environmental and economic criterias. It aims to help small producers to survive in a world where enormous companies monopolise the market. For example, fair-trade labels will prevent you from buying coffee produced in Amazonia by a big company that does not treat its employees well and that decided to destroy the rainforest to plant coffee trees, but help you to choose the coffee produced by a small farmer who chose to not use pesticides. However, the question of whether we can trust these labels or not remains.

Légende :

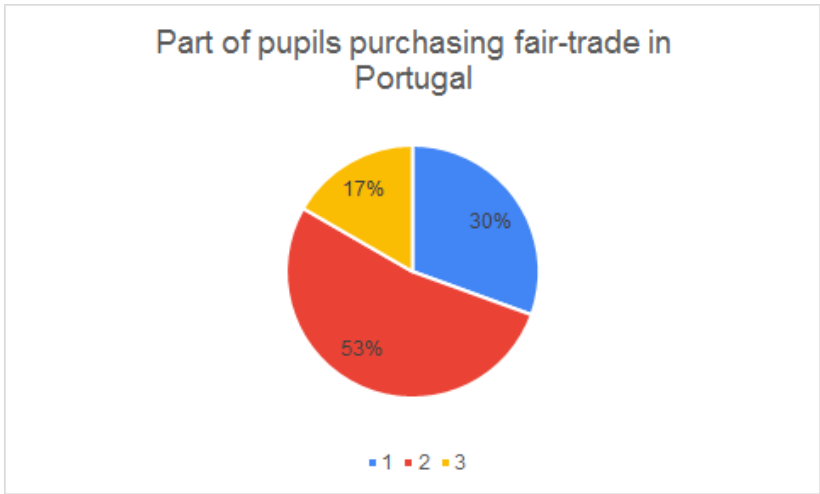
1 (blue) : not in use

2 (red) : in use

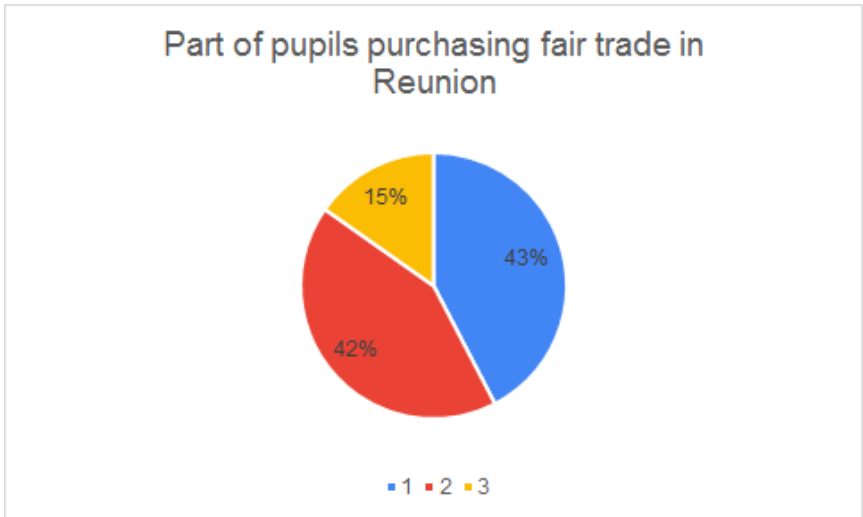
3 (yellow) : in regular use



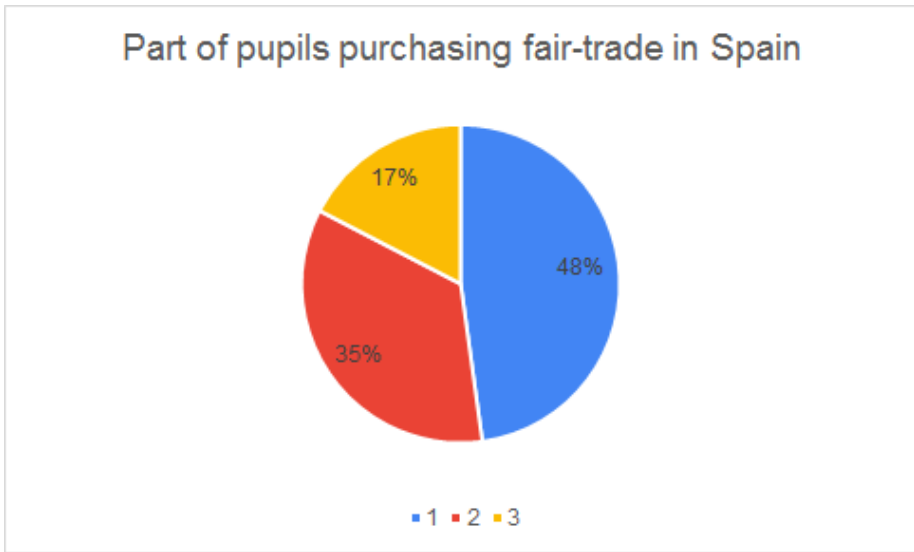
We can see that in Finland, most people purchase fair-trade and less than a quarter of the ones interviewed does not consider doing so at all. The fact that people in Finland are more aware of sustainable development is not surprising as the Finnish government takes this question very seriously. For instance, the taxes on fossil energies are higher in Finland than in most countries of the OCDE. According to Melchior, Finishes also trust the fair-trade labels, which may encourage them to purchase fair-trade products.



In Portugal, we can also see that a large amount of the people interviewed do be aware of climate change and what they can do to encourage sustainable development. This can be explained by the fact that the Portuguese government is making efforts to stop global warming, by being a defender of the 2030 sustainable development program's goals for example. However, we see this time that nearly a third of the people interviewed do not purchase fair-trade. This could be explained by the fact that people in Portugal do not completely trust the fair-trade labels yet.

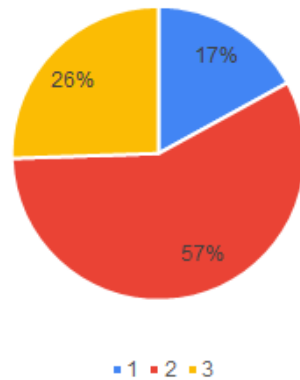


In Reunion, we can see that nearly half of the people never purchase fair-trade. This is a lot more than in most of the other countries interviewed. This may be understandable because there is more poverty on average in Reunion than there is in the mainland countries. The products prices are also always higher. This implies that a consequent part of the population can not afford to purchase fair-trade products, as they are usually more expensive.



In Spain, half of the people do not purchase fair-trade. Thus, Spain seems to be the European country (among the one studied) who cares the least about sustainable development. Nevertheless, we should keep in mind that the pupils interviewed are from a school in Melilla, which is a Spanish autonomous city located on the northwest coast of Africa. Their life conditions are a bit lower than in the mainland, which might imply that an important part of people can not afford to purchase fair-trade, just like in Reunion.

Part of pupils purchasing fairtrade in Wales



We can see that Wales scores the highest percentage (nearly 60%) of its population always purchasing fair-trade products. It is also there that the least amount of people do not do so (only 17% of the people interviewed declared not buying fair-trade products).

To conclude, we can see that European countries are globally aware of the sustainable development goals and that they make efforts to help fight climate change with small actions such as purchasing fair-trade. However, sustainable development concerns are not so important in the places where people already struggle with poverty or lower life conditions.