

ERASMUS PROJECT

Let's talk about the context

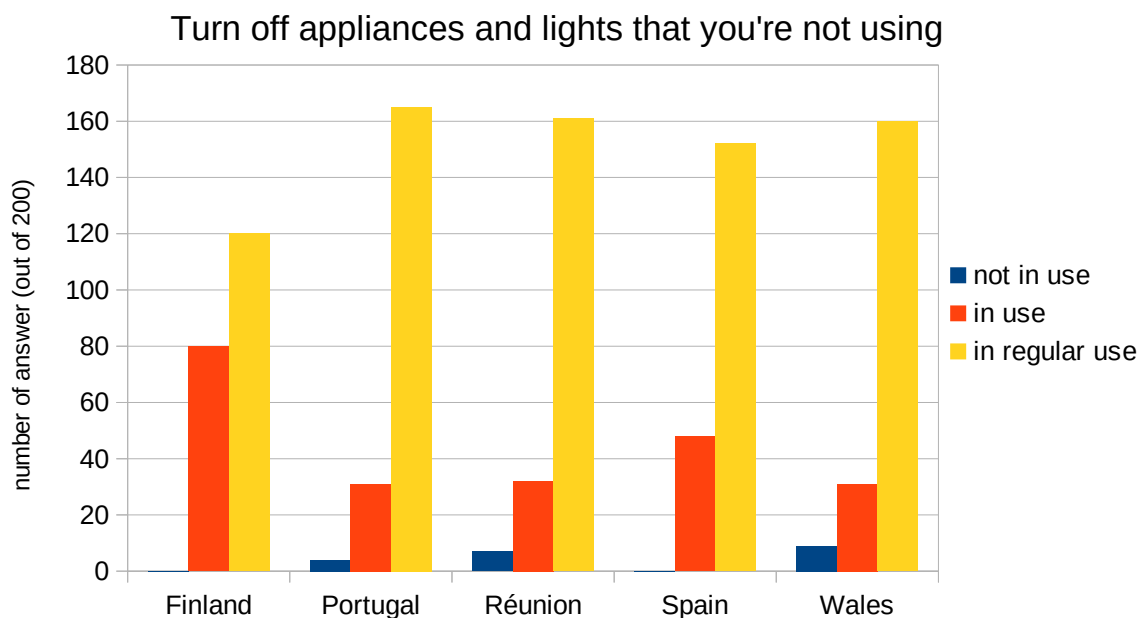
The questions were put to European high school students in the framework of an Erasmus project in order to get an idea of the behaviour of tomorrow's citizens. Indeed, in the context of global warming, every little gesture counts. When we know that each inhabitant emits an average of 5 tons of CO₂ per year through his or her electricity consumption, and when these emissions have threatened thousands of species since 2000, the usefulness of turning off the lights no longer arises.

Initiatives have been taken at the supranational level since the publication of the Meadows report in 1972, such as the COPs, the Paris Agreement of 2015 and the Kyoto Protocol since 1995, aimed at reducing greenhouse gas emissions. However, citizens also have a role to play, at their own level. They can mobilise (Citizens' Convention, associations) or act on an individual scale, by changing polluting habits.

Students from different regions (Finland, Reunion Island, Wales, Spain and Portugal) informed about their consumption habits by answering this survey, proposed by their high school. So we will see how young people in developed countries are dealing with the ecological issue (which will affect them all their lives) in their everyday life.

We will focus on two specific surveys:

A. Turn off appliances and lights that you're not using.



This document is a graph, which presents the intensity of high school students in several countries to turn off appliances and lights when they are not using them. We put the data collected on the same denominator (200) because the number of respondents to the survey varied by country.

We can immediately notice that the majority of young people in Finland, Portugal, Reunion, Spain and Wales, regularly turn off the appliances and lights they are not using (160/200 people for Reunion, Portugal and Wales). Moreover, Finland and Spain are the only two countries that never leave appliances and lights on when they are not using them. However, in Portugal, at the meeting and in Wales, about 30/200 teenagers voted "in use", so we can think that they are on the right track, and that they are going to take more and more this good habit. The young people who do not have this habit are less, in fact about 5/200 in Portugal, Reunion and Wales.

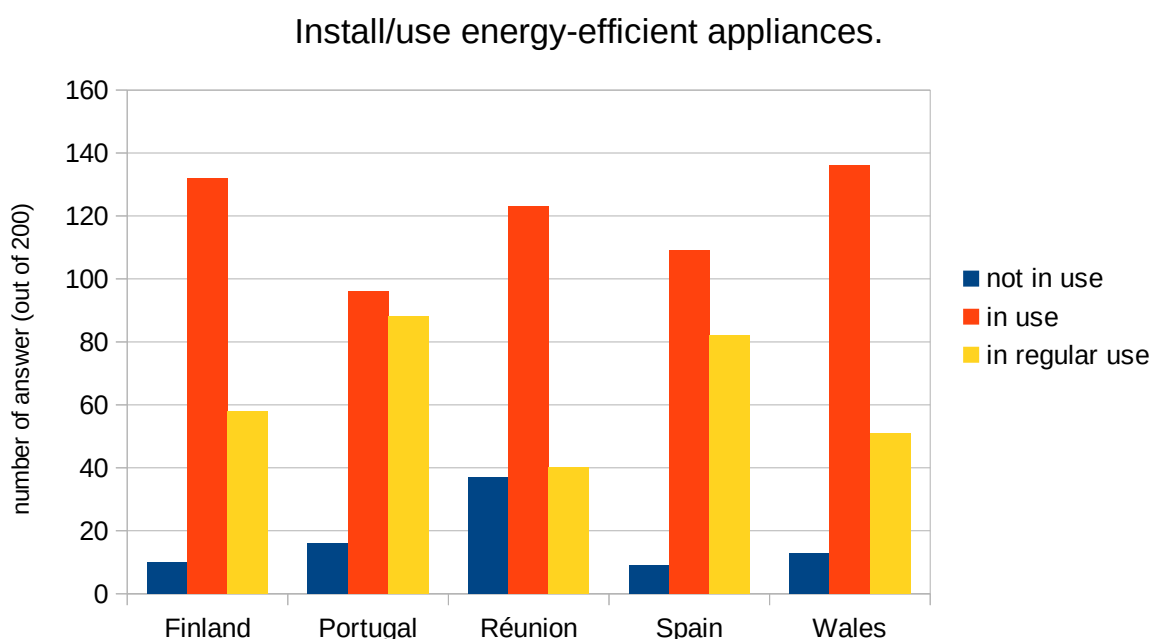
But, what is the link with the SDG's ?(Sustainable Development Goals)

Turning off the appliances and lights we don't use is one of the goals of sustainable development. And more precisely the Goal 7: Ensure access to reliable, sustainable, modern and affordable energy services for all.

Leaving an appliance on standby can account for up to 70% of the appliance's total electricity consumption. Adopting the reflex of turning off electrical appliances rather than leaving them on standby, as well as remembering to turn off the light when you leave a room, helps reduce unnecessary energy consumption. It allows to spend less and to pollute less.

The positive point is that progress is already to be noted since energy is more widely available and sustainable according to the official website of SDG's.

B. Install/use energy-efficient appliances



This document is a graph that, this time, presents the intensity of students' use of energy-efficient appliances. And unlike the first graph studied, the majority of young people position themselves as modest users of this type of device (in use). In fact, about 130/200 students in Finland, 95/200 students in Portugal, 125/200 in Reunion, 110/200 in Spain and 135/200 in Wales.

We can however notice that, as seen on the previous graph, the people voting "not in use" represent a very small part of the totality of the people voting.

Portugal is again at the top of the graph, with 90/200 students who regularly use their devices, with Spain following closely behind with 83/200 students.

We can therefore conclude that the majority of students in each country studied are on the right track. They should not decrease their efforts and should try to adopt more and more energy-efficient appliances.

However, Reunion Island is a bit out of step with the others, perhaps because it is not on the mainland, it is less developed and the population cannot necessarily afford energy efficient appliances (which are often more expensive than others). We don't think it's a question of unwillingness because when it comes to turning off lights, the results are similar to other countries.

But, what is the link with the SDG's ?(Sustainable Development Goals)

Installing or using energy efficient appliances is part of the same goal as "turn off the appliances and lights we don't use", i.e. goal 7.

To quote some figures: Energy is the main contributor to climate change, accounting for about 60 percent of global greenhouse gas emissions according to the official website of SDG's. Opting for this type of device is opting for the good of all.

In a world where we are more dependent than ever on electricity, especially with new technologies, being careful with its use is not an option.

By Soha Souidi and Emma Fontaneau