

INTERVIEW WITH TUTOR

TOPIC: Is waste a problem or a resource?

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Do you think our generation could make a big change?

Yes, I think each generation can make a considerable change if they are properly educated and if they have the will to do it. But this generation especially has a lot of responsibility on their shoulders because we now know the full extent of the problems of climate change, for example, not to say that this is the only issue that presents dangers in our time. There is no more doubt scientifically speaking that humans have disrupted the natural and environmental balance, equilibrium, terribly and selfishly, and that we need to act in every profession and as a society in general.

From what you've seen, are we able to defend our opinions?

I can see, from our activities here in Zagreb on the CiELO project, that you are completely capable of participating in this big change. Your debates were well argued and eloquent, and you cooperated closely all of you, which was great to see for us teachers. But, of course, you need to keep educating yourselves in all areas that are important to make you not only excellent professionals but also responsible citizens who can stop politicians when they are doing something bad for the general wellbeing of humanity and our world ecosystem. And not only politicians, governments, and multinational companies, but also individuals, etc. And you need to continue developing your skills of speaking, debating, and putting together different kinds of digital materials so you can reach larger audiences. But you definitely have the potential to do a great job in school and later at university or when you start working.

Should these activities be put in the school curriculum or extracurricular classes?

Definitely, we need to have all the teachers include environmental issues into the curriculum, in their special subjects, but we also need projects in schools and field trips like we had in Zagreb, because that's a great way of learning, in the field. And we also need interdisciplinary international projects like Erasmus and Cielo so students can see that we all have similar problems and that we have to work together, like one big community of people, experts later in life, who care about each other and the environment, Earth in general. Also these issues need to be put in the curricula as early as possible, because we can learn about our problems at all age levels. Caring about the environment has to become almost automatic (like recycling for example) from a very early age. Maybe then we have some hope of a better future for all...