EXERCISE 3 - RECOGNITION AND AVOIDANCE OF LOGICAL FALLACIES

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GREEN INDUSTRY FOUNDATION

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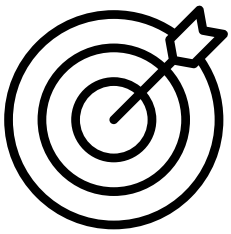
Exercise 3 - Recognition and avoidance of logical fallacies



Purpose of the exercise:
Learning to identify and avoid logical fallacies in the thinking and decision-making process.

Instructions

Presentation of logical fallacies:
The educator briefly discusses the most common logical fallacies, such as:

- **Ad hominem fallacy – a**ttacking the person instead of addressing the argument.
- **The vicious circle (petitio principii) – a**ssuming the truth of what is to be proven.
- **The false dilemma fallacy – p**resenting only two options when there are more possibilities.
- **Post hoc ergo propter hoc – a**ssuming that if something came after something, it was caused by it.

Group exercise:
Participants are divided into small groups and given a set of short scenarios (each scenario contains a logical fallacy related to green technologies or environmental protection). The group's task is:

- To identify a logical error.
- To discuss how this error could affect decisions.
- To suggest ways of avoiding this error.

Presentation of results:
Each group presents its scenario, the identified error and how to avoid it. The educator leads a discussion on the importance of avoiding these mistakes in professional practice.

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Duration

10 minutes for discussion of logical fallacies.

20 minutes for group work.

20 minutes for presentations and discussion.

Materials

- A set of scenarios containing logical fallacies.
- Flipcharts or whiteboards for recording group results.

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SCENARIO I

"Solar energy is the only way"
The company plans to invest in renewable energy sources. During the meeting, the director states: "If we really want to go green, we need to invest exclusively in solar energy. Other forms of renewable energy are simply a waste of time."

Tasks for the group

→ **Identify the logical fallacy**

→ **Discuss how this error could affect decisions**

→ **Suggest how to avoid this mistake**

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SCENARIO II

Bioplastic is always better
During a discussion on waste reduction, one staff member says: "Bioplastic is better for the environment than traditional plastic, so we should switch completely to bioplastic in all our products."

Tasks for the group

→ **Identify the logical fallacy**

→ **Discuss how this error could affect decisions**

→ **Suggest ways to avoid this mistake**

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SCENARIO III

The climate crisis has caused a pandemic
At climate change meeting, manager says: "The COVID-19 pandemic erupted shortly after record global temperatures were recorded. This is evidence that the climate crisis is directly responsible for the pandemic."

Tasks for the group

→ **Identify the logical fallacy:**

→ **Discuss how this error could affect decisions:**

→ **Suggest ways to avoid this mistake:**

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SCENARIO IV

Ecology expert lacks business knowledge
At a sustainability strategy meeting, one director says: " This environmental expert we invited may be an environmental specialist, but he doesn't understand our business. There is no point in listening to his advice."

Tasks for the group

→ **Identify the logical fallacy:**

→ **Discuss how this error could affect decisions:**

→ **Suggest ways to avoid this mistake:**

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