

EXERCISE 8 - PRESENTATION OF A SOLUTION TO A SELECTED ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEM



Co-funded by
the European Union



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FOUNDATION



Exercise 8 - Presentation of a Solution to a Selected Environmental Problem

A practical exercise in which participants will prepare and present their solutions to a real environmental problem, demonstrating both critical thinking and communication skills.









Educator, explain to the participants that the objective of the task is to apply the knowledge gained in practice by developing and presenting a solution to a real environmental problem. The task aims to demonstrate how critical thinking and communication skills can support effective problem solving.





Participants will work in multi-person groups to identify an environmental problem, develop a solution and prepare a presentation to convince the audience of the proposed approach.

Divide participants into groups of 3–4 people. Each group should choose or be given an environmental problem to analyse and develop a solution to.





Tasks for the group

-  **Problem identification** – understand and clearly define the environmental problem they will be working on
 -  **Developing a solution** – apply critical thinking to analyse the problem and develop a practical solution. Groups should take into account environmental, economic and social aspects, analysing the benefits and risks of proposed actions
 -  **Presentation preparation** – groups should prepare a 5–7 minute presentation outlining their problem, proposed solution and arguments to justify their choice. The presentation should be organised and clear, supported by data and evidence to convince the audience of the proposed approach.
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-  Each group has 7 minutes to present their solution. Presentations should be dynamic, logically organised and convincing
 -  Participants should use the effective communication techniques discussed earlier to present their arguments persuasively
 -  After each presentation, the other groups and the educator can ask questions to better understand the proposed solution and assess its potential effectiveness
 -  The presenting group should be prepared to defend its position using critical thinking
 -  The educator summarises each presentation, noting the strengths of each presentation and areas that could be improved. The evaluation should address both critical thinking (how well the problem was analysed and how effectively the proposed solution solves the problem) and communication skills (whether the presentation was clear, convincing and well organised)

Reflections for the educator

-  Encourage participants to share their impressions of working on the task. What did they find difficult? What communication techniques do they find most effective? What new skills did they develop during the exercise?
-  Conclude the exercise by emphasising the importance of critical thinking and effective communication in solving environmental problems. Point out that these skills are essential for making real changes to protect the environment and promote green technologies.

Instructions for the educator

-  Ensure the availability of tools that participants may need to prepare the presentation (flipcharts, markers, computers)
-  Make sure participants understand the task and are clear about the expectations of the presentation. Offer support as groups work, but encourage independent problem solving
-  During your presentation, pay attention to the use of critical thinking and effective communication. Ask questions that force participants to deepen their analysis or reflect on their choices
-  Summarise the presentations, indicating how participants used the skills they learned to develop and present their solutions. Point out that the process of solving environmental problems requires both critical thinking and the ability to convince others of your ideas

Materials

- Flipcharts or whiteboards to record the main points of the solution
- Computers or tablets with internet access (optional, to search for data and information to support the argument)
- Examples of data and reports that can assist in developing solutions.



EXAMPLE I

Plastic pollution of water

Plastic pollution of water is one of the most serious environmental problems in the world. Plastic waste, especially microplastics, ends up in oceans, rivers and lakes, threatening aquatic life and infiltrating the food chain. The consequences of this pollution include the death of marine organisms, damage to ecosystems and potential health risks to humans.

Task:

- Develop a strategy to reduce plastic pollution in water, taking into account measures such as reducing plastic production, increasing recycling, public education and water cleaning technology. Your solution should take into account effectiveness, costs and long-term benefits.

EXAMPLE II

Deforestation and loss of biodiversity

Deforestation, especially in tropical regions, is leading to a rapid loss of biodiversity, greenhouse gas emissions and disruption of the water cycle. Rainforests, home to countless species, are being cut down at a rapid pace due to agriculture, the timber industry and urbanisation. The consequences are not only the disappearance of species, but also the deterioration of the quality of life of local communities that depend on these ecosystems.

Task:

- ➔ Prepare a forest and biodiversity conservation plan that includes strategies for the sustainable management of forest resources, the promotion of alternative sources of income for local communities, and legal and educational measures to halt deforestation.

EXAMPLE III

Urban Air Pollution

Urban air pollution, mainly caused by emissions from transport, industry and heating, leads to serious health problems such as respiratory and heart diseases. It also affects the quality of life of residents, especially in areas with heavy traffic and industry. Air pollution is also one of the main contributors to climate change.

Task:

- Propose a comprehensive plan to reduce air pollution in a major city, including the development of public transport, promotion of electric vehicles, regulation of industrial emissions and green urban infrastructure initiatives such as the creation of parks and green roofs.

EXAMPLE IV

Climate change and extreme weather events

Climate change is leading to more frequent and intense extreme weather events, such as hurricanes, floods, droughts and heat waves. These phenomena have severe consequences for communities around the world, leading to damage to infrastructure, loss of crops, health problems and population displacement. Adapting to and mitigating these changes is becoming a key challenge for governments and societies.

Task:

- Develop a climate change adaptation plan for a region particularly vulnerable to extreme weather events. The plan should include measures to increase infrastructure resilience, implementation of early warning systems, community education, and strategies to mitigate climate change impacts by reducing greenhouse gas emissions.