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TUTOR INTERVIEW

Question 1

What are the most popular traditions that aren't sustainable?

"I think the traditions that create unnecessary food waste.

For example, in my country, during national and especially religious holidays, we have big lunches with relatives and friends, when we often prepare too much food, that ends up in the trash."

Question 2

Which of the three debates did you find the most "heated" and why?

"I think the most heated debate was the second one, "Is water pollution the biggest threat to humankind?", because there are many good reason to consider water pollution the biggest threat, but, on the other end, there are so many other threats that are much more urgent and much more serious than water pollution, like, in my opinion, climate change or overpopulation. Anyway water pollution is linked to many other issues so it is difficult also to draw a line among different environmental issues.

For example water pollution affects water scarcity that in turn affects human health and food production and poverty, and so on.."

Question 3

Do you think younger people are more susceptible to changing traditions, especially ones that aren't sustainable?

"I really think there are, and, in generally, younger people are more aware of environmental issues. Anyway, many of them they seem to be environmentally "friendly" only in their messages, on their blogs and in social media… but there are no real "actions" taken. So they really need to change their habits and, why not, change a little bit those traditions that can be harmful to the environment."

Question 4

What elements, from your experience here in Zagreb, do you think are absolutely necessary to effectively teach circular economy and sustainability to young people?

"I think we should start from example from our daily life, and show how a product impacts the environment both during its use end after its end life, and consider how many products could be designed in a way that they can use less energy, less resources, and how they could be made to be totally or partially reused or recycled.

So basically "bad" products are those who were bad designed at the beginning.

For example, it makes sense to design a piece of a washing machine in plastic (a very resistant and long lasting material), because it is designed to last 10 years or more. But it was a design mistake to use plastic for bottle that should just contain water that, once out of the shop, are used for just one hour or less.

So students should be made aware of the consequences of the production and of the use of things, they should be aware of the influence of commercial spots, and oriented to a eco design, which is basically common sense based design and not profit oriented design."