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## Article

### Is waste a problem or a resource?

For a long time, the garbage that humans produce has been harmful to our environment. Humans produce far too much trash and are unable to dispose of it in a sustainable manner. However, there have been numerous initiatives to reduce the environmental harm that has been done to this day.

Participating students of the first LTTA meeting from the Erasmus+ CiELO project, present at V. Gimnazija of Zagreb, were introduced to the concept of garbage being converted into a viable resource through various ways such as recycling and repurposing. They were pushed to exchange their thoughts on the subject in a debate, the thesis being „Is waste a problem or a resource? “. After a brief discussion, both sides picked three persons to represent their views and share them with the others. The first speaker, Vestina Dzemidaviciute from Lithuania, began her argument by briefly expressing their point of view and presenting to the public some crucial data concerning waste. They built their argument based on the fact that waste cannot be reused. The next speaker, Gabija Vasiliauskaite from Lithuania of the opposition, argued against it, claiming that waste can be easily recycled. The following speaker, Jurgita Zdanaviciute from Lithuania, counter argued that recycling requires tons of energy to be efficient, it's expensive and on top of all, very few people decide to recycle even though they are aware of its importance. Further on, Tonko Brebrić from Croatia, representing the opposition, explained that people decide not to recycle based on their belief that it won't affect them, but through education and stimulation basis, their mindset could be changed and they could make a major contribution to increase the number of people who recycle. The last two speakers, Aiva Saldukaite from Lithuania and Jagor Jureković from Croatia, briefly summarized all of the spoken information, each side mentioning the most important issues touched upon by the previous speakers. Their idea was that recycling is not currently fully environmentally friendly through its current methods, however steps into the right direction are being taken. All the speeches were engaging and well thought arguments were brought forward.

The debate was shortly followed by a quick Q&A session and a short speech made by one of the tutors, thanking the students for their quick initiative and wittiness. After that our team conducted an interview to one of the tutors and students relating to their viewpoint of the debate, evaluating who had the strongest argument, best supporting figures and examples, asking them to come up with new teaching methods that could raise students' awareness on this topic.

Having listened to this debate, this has brought me a new perspective upon the issue of waste. I believe it is critical and imperative that we conduct the necessary research on this topic, because education is the only way to find our route to success and prosperity. We must be mindful of our circumstances, and we must act quickly to start taking this matter seriously, as our future is at stake. Effective waste management is crucial for conserving scarce natural resources and ensuring a sustainable future. As global garbage generation increases, so does the urgency with which we must address it. I was happy with the students' initiative and their enthusiasm for the subject matter, as our Earth's future is entirely dependent on our generation.

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