

— Recycle —

**RE
CYCLE**



Loop project - National research
INTERVIEWS: Entry # 39



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TEACHER



Kids recycling, pixabay license, <https://pixabay.com/it/illustrations/raccolta-differenziata-immondizia-6203310/>

We met Chiara Perna,

an elementary school teacher who is the scout's leader as a volunteer. She has been a scout since she was a child and she's good at recycling activities. She teaches both the students and the scouts how to preserve the planet and the environment with some projects and tips related to the circular economy.

WHAT recycling activities do you undertake on a regular basis?

"Hi Chiara, nice to meet you! We are exciting to talk with a circular economy activist. So, what can you say about your contribution in that situation?"

"As an Italian citizen, I'm focusing on living most sustainably. For example, at home, I always do a separate collection of rubbish because it is really important. I wear second-hand clothes that I bought on the internet and at vintage shops to reduce the production of new tissues."



Containers recycling, pixabay license, <https://pixabay.com/it/vectors/riciclare-contenitori-ragazza-33605/>

"For the sustainable economy, how do you collaborate with your fellow citizens?"

"I cooperate with my city in order to cultivate a communal biological garden. For some years I avoided using electrical energy from unsustainable sources thanks to the new solar panels which I have recently installed in my house."

"And at school, how do you deal with your pupils to understand this more sustainable lifestyle?"

“At school, where I work every day, I constantly educate my students to live differently: I use the example of climate changes and the consequences of the melting of glaciers to explain to them why it is actually important to collaborate with each other in order to get a better future. However I prefer operating in a practical way, therefore I set up new activities every day for the students which can involve them in the circular economy.”

“Could you give us some examples of the activities you do to increase the thinking of recycling and sustainable economy?”

“For example, today we reuse the center of the toilet paper and the can to make a pencil case for our class, and last Christmas, we made a Christmas tree with plastic bottles. We decorated it with other recycled objects like paper and tissues of old clothes. Another time we’ve built musical instruments with the boxes of cereals and shoes’ laces.

In general, we work in order to point out to the children why recycling is important for our planet in a “fun way”.

“Me and Giuseppe are scouts too, you know ;), therefore we would like to spend some words about how this association educates and helps the children to learn more tips about recycling, reusing, reducing ”.



Children recycling plastic (cc), <https://www.mammastobene.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/fricido-img-bambini-1200x900.jpg>



Child learns to recycle (cc), <https://nara.getarchive.net/media/a-child-learns-about-recycling-from-a-recycling-display-Caf3b8?zoom=true>

“Furthermore, the scouts educate the children and the teenagers to recycle and reuse what is to be transformed into waste: last year, a group of boys built a sofa and an armchair with plastic bottles; some girls built bookshelves with the wood fruits’ boxes; this year some guys built a raft with plastic bottles and someone else with the recycled wood. We have done a lot of activities about recycling and we still do them also at home.”



HOW DID YOU INTEGRATE

knowledge or technological processes to encourage a better circularity of your work?

“What do you think about the role of technology in this situation?”

“In order to know better technological processes to improve the circular economy and recycle, I’ve started watching youtube videos and tutorials and reading some newspapers about this concept, therefore I think it is really important ulizing this type of sources in the right way”.

“What type of sources are you talking about?”

“There are a lot of sources on the internet that every day that inspire and help me, and millions of people, to increase our relationship with the sustainability. In fact, in my opinion, the best way to bust our enthusiasm about this way of thinking is comparing ourself in order to discover new ideas.”

“Many times do you create videos, or do you just spread them out to as many people as possible?”



Separate waste collection, https://it.freepik.com/vettori-gratuito/la-gente-che-ordina-i-rifiuti-per-il-riciclaggio_3425205.htm#page=1&query=waste%20reuse&position=9&from_view=search

“I always share what I have found on the internet with my friends, my students and my family to transmit this knowledge to as many people as possible.”

“What do you think is the most effective way to spread the circular economy quickly and clearly?”

“ In this case I think that the best options to choose are the social networks and the spots on these informatic services (obviously you should always remember to employ a performance compartment). I have also converted this activity of researching and discovering of information and notions into a new hobby. Various times children propose these activities instead of me.”

“Speaking of which, do you think this is a sign of a change in their vision of life?”
“This is a really important thing because it highlights the difference between our generation that had not got a really opened mindset and their generation that is abituded at reuse and recycling because of the role of the school that implants the “green mentality” in their mindset since the firsts years of their lives.”

“Would you suggest to our readers other types of simple works that may can inspire some of them?”

“Other tips that I use are the using of glasses, plates and other dishware that are not made for a single use, but you can wash them and reuse. For example, my scout association has given to the participants an emblematic water bottle made by metallic materials.

One of my favourite idea I found on the internet is the search engine “Ecosia” that uses the ad revenue from your searches to plant trees where they are needed the most. It is an original option to use instead of other search engines to give the possibility to everyone and every time to do their concept to the environment.”



Boy scout, pixabay license, <https://pixabay.com/it/photos/avventura-zaino-borsa-boy-scout-1807495/>



Boy scout, pixabay license, <https://pixabay.com/it/vectors/boy-scout-escursionismo-camminare-311682/>



WHAT INNOVATIVE FUTURE

projects or objectives does it arise in relation to recycling and the potential that this has in its economic activity?

“What are the roles of the international governments for the circular economy, especially for recycling?”

INTERVIEWS: Entry # 39

“In my opinion the governments should spread more information to the population in order to give them the possibility to discover how they can play a role in this match by recycling.”

“What would you do if you were a minister or some important and influential person?”



Green world, pixabay license,
<https://pixabay.com/it/vectors/terra-globo-mondo-ecologia-verde-159123/>

“For example the minister of instruction could employ the scholastic programmes by adding a subject that prepares the future’s population in order to be more “green citizen” and to provide better awareness. If I were a famous influencer such as Chiara Ferragni and so on, I would start a project of awareness, because a lot of people, especially the youngest, follow them and appreciate what they publicize and what they spread on social networks”

“Could you give us an example of some activists that you admire and that you follow on social networks?”

“The most important activist that I have been appreciating during the last years is obviously Greta Thumberg, a young student that had the braveness to challenge the governments highlight what are the climate changes and how the people are underestimating the problems that the climate changing is carrying to the world. She is brave and strong and her interventions at the European Parliament are really deep. Some of her citations that have got me are:



Green world, pixabay license,
<https://pixabay.com/it/vectors/terra-globo-mondo-ecologia-verde-159123/>

“You are never too small to make a difference”, a motto that emphasises how is important saying the own opinion and doing the own contribution instead of doing nothing.”

“I don’t want you to be hopeful. I want you to panic. I want you to feel the fear I feel everyday. I want you to act. I want you to act like you would in a crisis. I want you to act like your house is on fire, because it is”, a phrase rich of strong and realistic words that don’t need of any explanation.”



Greta Thunberg (cc), https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Greta_Thunberg_Lausanne_-_Palais_de_Rumine_17_Janvier_2020_copie.jpg

“You are right, Greta is a great example of all of us. Another question: what would you do to improve recycling at school?”

“We could institute some bonus to the students who do the projects in green, for example if they put their old exercise books in a specific place, they receive a discount for some new exercise books.

Another tip is about school's books: in Italy we usually buy at libraries new books that sometimes we sell to other students at the end of the scholastic year. I would like to suggest to create a circular exchange business: in fact, instead of buying and selling the new books, the students can give and receive the books that are given by the scholastic system; in this way there is not a waste of resources of paper.”

RECYCLE

QUESTIONNAIRE

1. What is the so-called “circular economy”?

A	B	C
30%	30%	40%

2. Do you believe that a more sustainable economic system can be equally productive than the current one?

A	B	C
10%	20%	70%

3. Which of these consumer choices have you decided to implement in the last 10 years to protect the environment?

A	B	C
55%	35%	10%

4. How will the so-called “circular economy” affect the job market?

A	B	C
5%	65%	30%

5. In your work, how many strategic choices related to sustainability have been made in the last 10 years?

A	B	C
80%	1%	19%

6. Which of these 4 “Rs” is more important to ensure a better future for humanity?

A	B	C	D
76%	4%	6%	14%

7. Which of these 4 “Rs” is most present in your family’s daily life?

A	B	C	D
32%	8%	40%	20%

8. In your opinion, what link is there between technology and the “circular economy”?

A	B	C
88%	12%	0%

9. Do you think we will be able to change the way we consume so as not to affect the environment and its limited resources?

A	B	C
20%	60%	20%

10. Are you familiar with the UN 2030 Agenda or have you ever heard of SDGs?

A	B	C
12%	12%	76%

QUESTIONNAIRE

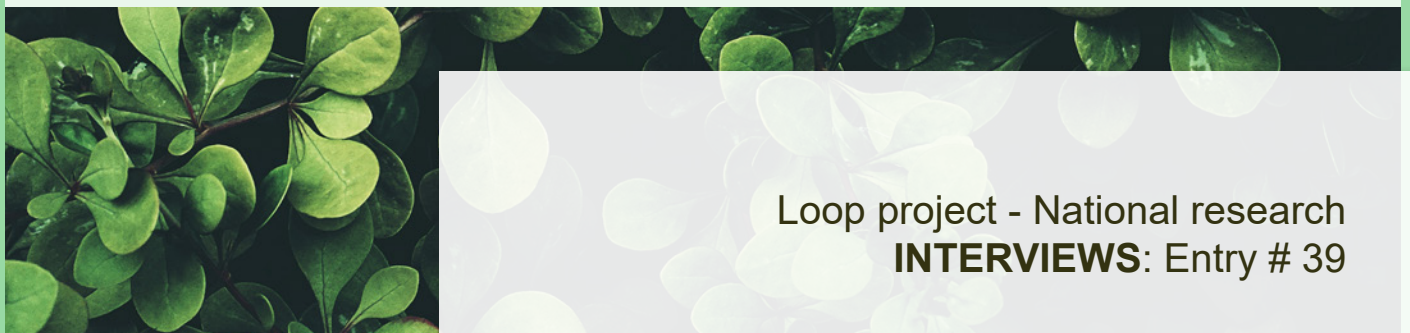
QUESTIONNAIRE

11. Do you think that the economy in the past was more sustainable than it is today?

A	B	C
43%	7%	50%

12. Which of these 3 statements do you consider the most true and important?

A	B	C
43%	50%	7%



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