



How to make
your town
a better place

The Congress



Le Congrès

COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

The United Nations

is a group of leaders from 193 countries who all work together.

They met together and made a big plan to make the world a better place.

This plan is called “Sustainable Development Goals”.

Sustainable development means making the world a better place for everyone now without causing harm for future generations.

In this booklet, we will show you how you can get involved in this big plan in your own town!



First, let's learn more about the plan:
 The plan has 17 goals. The goals help
 us understand how to make the world
 a better place, starting with your town.
 What are the goals about?



Saving the People



Having prosperity



Saving the Planet



Having Peace



Working together



And you can help too!

What does **saving the people** and **having peace** mean?

Saving the people

- ✦ All families should have enough money to live well
- ✦ Everyone should have enough food
- ✦ Everyone should be safe, happy and healthy
- ✦ Everyone should have a good education that teaches them to respect each other and the world around them
- ✦ Everyone should treat boys and girls fairly and give them the same chances

Having peace

Everyone deserves to live somewhere where there is peace and with good laws, with people to protect us.

We need to stop causing violence and harming others.

Equality

Food



Health

Education



What can you do **in your town** to help the people and have peace?

- ➔ If you have toys you don't use, you can find out how you can donate them to children who don't.
- ➔ If you see bullying at your school or in your town, you can talk about it with a trusted adult.

Use this space to **write** your own ideas!



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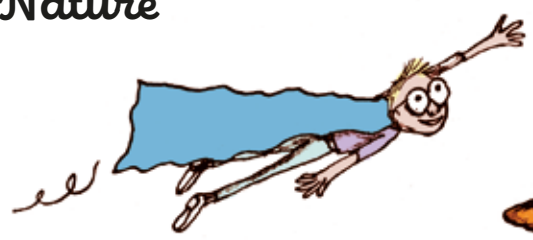


Now, what does it mean to save the planet?

Saving the planet

- ✦ Everyone should have clean water to drink, wash with and soap to keep germs away
- ✦ Everyone should spend their money wisely and use goods wisely
- ✦ Everyone should be aware that we need to save the planet
- ✦ Everyone should protect and care for life below water
- ✦ Everyone should protect and care for life on Land

Nature



Resources



Animals



Water



What can you do *in your town* to help the planet?

- ➔ You can make sure that your rubbish always goes into a bin, not in the street, not in the forest and not in the sea.
- ➔ You can ask your parents to buy things from businesses that care for the planet.

Use this space to *write* your own ideas!



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Prosperity

means that everybody can live a full and happy life

Having prosperity

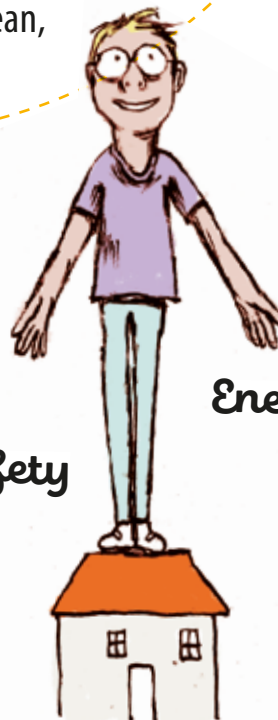
- ✦ Everyone should have access to clean energy and power
- ✦ Everyone should have safe, good work places and should be able to make money and be successful
- ✦ Everyone should have jobs, goods and technology that improve our lives and the place where we live
- ✦ Everyone should get the same chances and feel valued and respected, even though we are all different
- ✦ Everyone should have a good life in a clean, safe and well-organised town

Opportunity



Jobs

Safety



Energy



How can you increase **prosperity** in your town?

- ➔ You can ask your mayor to make sure that there are enough playgrounds and safe ways and transport to go there.
- ➔ You can fight inequalities and make sure you don't treat people badly because they are different or poor.

Use this space to **write** your own ideas!



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Remember, it would be impossible to reach all these goals alone.
This is why there is a special goal called...

...Partnerships!

Working with others is very important **to reach the goals**



Talk about the goals with your **friends and family** and see what you can do together.



Now you can further *develop your ideas!*

CHOOSE

Which goal is interesting to you?
What is going on where you live?

FIND OUT

Gather information on the internet.
Ask your teacher, family, and trusted adults

UNDERSTAND

Discuss what you found with friends. Could this be a problem in your life, for people in other countries?
What needs to change?

GET CREATIVE

If you were a mayor, what would you do?
Get your ideas out. Use words, art, photos or make a video!



If learning about the problems in the world upsets you, you can always talk to your teacher or trusted adult about it. And try to focus on what you can do to make things better!

Now, it's time to *share your ideas!*

- ➔ Find the names of **your mayor and other adults** who work on these problems
- ➔ **Invite** them to come to your school or club
- ➔ Tell them **your thoughts** in a letter, email, or at a face-to-face meeting
- ➔ Ask them **to let you know** what they will do with your ideas!



Two large, empty speech bubbles are arranged horizontally. The left bubble is connected to a cartoon illustration of a woman with dark skin and hair in two buns. The right bubble is connected to a cartoon illustration of a man with light skin and glasses. The bubbles are intended for students to write their ideas for making the town a better place.

As if you were **the mayor**,
write down your own ideas to make your town a better place
and send this postcard to the mayor of your town





The Congress would like to give special thanks to the children from the advisory group, to the experts Michelle Templeton and Stina Heikkilä and to the children and local authorities of Beverwijk (Netherlands), Castel Maggiore (Italy), Chesterfield (United Kingdom), Lutsk (Ukraine) Metz (France), Niš (Serbia) and Poltava (Ukraine) for piloting the booklet, as well as to the Children's Rights Division of the Council of Europe (DGII) for their contribution.

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Documents and Publications Production Department (SPDP),
Council of Europe
Layout: www.insecable.com, Strasbourg
Illustrations: Simon Liberman.

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Printed at the Council of Europe.

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This child-friendly version of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) was produced by the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe in partnership with children. It is a tool to help children aged 6-11 years engage with the concepts and issues related to the SDGs in their town and is not intended to be a definite representation of the SDGs.