

Immersive workshops at Oxfam Belgium – Mondiapolis

Belgium

<https://oxfambelgie.be/oxfam-op-school/inleefateliers-van-oxfam>

DESCRIPTION

The *Inleefateliers* (“Immersive workshops”) Mondiapolis is a **roleplay experience introduced in 2015 for students at Oxfam Belgium in Brussels.**

Pedagogically, the aim is not just “to learn about”, but to **experience through a roleplay the invisible side of the clothes industry** (fast fashion) and to **understand the economic exploitation throughout the production chain.**

The workshop starts with a look at the **role of multinational corporations** and the fact that they own most products in the world. Then, the focus is on **resources**, how they are grown or mined, and how this is the first step in exploitation.

Next, students engage in a roleplay where they **take on roles within the production chain**, for example by immersing in environments like an Asian sweatshop or a village of cotton pickers in Burkina Faso, and they learn about the reality of the lives of their workers.

Afterward, all students gather and **exchange perspectives and negotiate for better working conditions.**

Finally, the workshop concludes by discussing **solutions in our everyday lives as European people** and **how we can consume differently.**

Because this role play is very lifelike, with genuine settings, students fully immerse themselves in those realities, significantly increasing the learning potential. **Teachers often report that this three-hour workshop is equivalent to 10 hours teaching to get the same impact.**

Although not originally designed specifically for TVET students, **these immersive workshops have been also adapted specifically for TVET to better fit the relevant learning and teaching practices.**