



Eco-Explorers in France: Outdoor Learning Guide and SDG 12



Cofinanțat de
Uniunea Europeană

Liceul Teoretic Novaci - Romania
Lycée Lavoisier - Mayenne France

Purpose

This guide supports teachers and students in implementing outdoor learning activities, promoting the principles of SDG 12 Responsible Consumption and Production. It provides practical methods and examples to develop environmental awareness, critical thinking, and responsible, sustainable behaviors.



This guide can be used by teachers, students, and educators interested in outdoor learning and sustainability as a practical resource for planning and implementing activities. It offers adaptable ideas, methods, and examples that can be integrated into lessons, projects, or extracurricular activities in different educational contexts.

Project Context

This Erasmus+ project focused on promoting outdoor learning as an innovative educational approach, encouraging students to actively engage with the environment while developing sustainable habits and key competencies.

The mobility activities took place in France, offering a rich natural and cultural setting, for 15 students and 2 teachers.

The project was carried out over a defined period. (12-22 december 2025)

Outdoor learning was chosen to provide hands-on, experiential education, helping students connect theory with real-life situations, improve teamwork, and develop a deeper understanding of nature and sustainability.



What is outdoor learning?

Outdoor learning is an educational approach that takes place outside the traditional classroom, using natural or real-world environments to support experiential and hands-on learning.

Outdoor learning helps improve physical and mental well-being, increases engagement and motivation, and fosters environmental awareness and responsible behaviors, especially in connection with SDG 12 Responsible Consumption and Production.



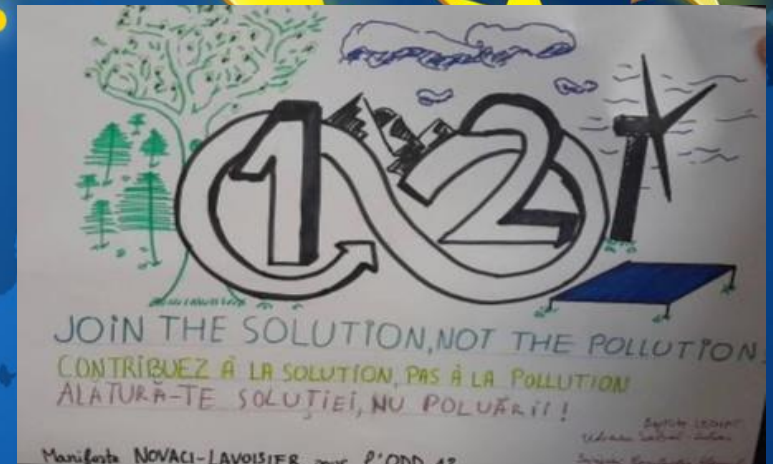
SDG 12 Explained for Students

SDG 12 Responsible Consumption and Production focuses on using resources responsibly, reducing waste, and making choices that protect the environment.

It helps reduce pollution, protect natural resources, and create a more sustainable future for everyone.

Recycling systems in public spaces, reduced use of single-use plastics, local markets with seasonal products, and the use of reusable packaging.

Students can recycle, reduce food and material waste, use reusable items, and take part in activities that promote sustainable habits and environmental responsibility.



Activity 1: “Explore Mayenne” (Treasure Hunt)

Educational Goal: Teamwork and discovering local heritage.

Description: Mixed Romanian-French teams explored the old town, castle, and riverbanks through a treasure hunt.

Outdoor Learning: Fully outdoor, based on exploration and observation.

SDG 12 Link: Observing local sustainable practices (clean spaces, preservation).



Activity 2: Visit to an Organic Farm / Cooperative

Educational Goal: Understand sustainable agriculture and food sources.

Description: Students learned about local production.

Outdoor Learning: Direct experience in a real farm setting.

SDG 12 Link: Promotes local consumption and responsible production.

Activity 3: Fougères & Rennes Outdoor Activity

Educational Goal: Connect heritage with sustainable behavior.

Description: Castle visit + outdoor activity in Rennes identifying eco-friendly practices.

Outdoor Learning: Exploration of real urban and historical environments.

SDG 12 Link: Focus on recycling, green transport, and daily habits.



Activity 4: Workshop - "Life of a Product"

Educational Goal: Understand product life cycles.

Description: Students analyzed products and created posters/presentations.

Outdoor Learning: Includes discussion and reflection activities outside.

SDG 12 Link: Focus on waste reduction and sustainable choices.

Activity 5: “Novaci-Lavoisier for SDG 12” Manifesto

Educational Goal: Encourage responsible behavior and teamwork.

Description: Students created a multilingual sustainability manifesto.

Outdoor Learning: Creative brainstorming partly outdoors.

SDG 12 Link: Promotes awareness and responsible consumption.



Learning activity sheets For more activities click [here](#):

3.

Creative Reuse Workshop – T-shirt Tote Bags

Objectives:

- To promote sustainable consumption and awareness of textile waste
- To develop students' creativity through upcycling
- To build practical life skills (cutting, knotting, designing)
- To encourage teamwork and collaboration
- To introduce the concept of circular economy

Steps for Implementation:

1. **Introduction (10–15 min)**
 - Discuss fast fashion and textile waste
 - Introduce the idea of reuse and upcycling
2. **Demonstration (10 min)**
 - Show how to transform a T-shirt into a tote bag
 - Explain safety rules (scissors handling, workspace organization)
3. **Practical Activity (30–40 min)**
 - Students choose their T-shirt
 - Cut sleeves and neckline
 - Turn the shirt inside out and tie the bottom with knots
 - Flip it back and decorate (optional)
4. **Presentation & Reflection (10–15 min)**
 - Students present their bags
 - Discuss what they learned and how they can reuse other items

Required Resources:

- Old T-shirts (one per student)
- Scissors
- Chalk or fabric markers (optional)
- Rulers (optional)

- Decorations (fabric paint, patches, etc. – optional)
- Workspace tables

Recommendations for Teachers:

- Encourage students to bring T-shirts from home
- Prepare a sample tote bag in advance
- Adapt instructions for different skill levels
- Emphasize safety when using scissors
- Promote creativity rather than perfection
- Facilitate discussion about environmental impact

For High School :

- Include deeper discussion on **fast fashion industry impacts**
- Introduce basic data (e.g., water usage, pollution)
- Ask students to calculate how much waste is reduced
- Encourage more complex designs (e.g., braided handles, no-sew variations)
- Add a short reflection essay or presentation on sustainability

Evaluation Indicators:

- Active participation in the activity
- Ability to follow instructions
- Creativity and originality of the final product
- Understanding of reuse and sustainability concepts
- Collaboration with peers
- Reflection quality (oral or written)

This activity supports **SDG 12** by:

- Promoting **reuse of materials** instead of disposal
- Raising awareness about **waste reduction**
- Encouraging **sustainable habits** among students

Good Practices Observed in France

Examples of organization

Well-structured schedules, strong collaboration between schools and local partners, and active involvement of host families in the educational process.

Pedagogical methods

Interactive, student-centered approaches such as learning by doing, teamwork, field observation, and project-based activities

Sustainability elements

Recycling systems, reduced use of single-use plastics, promotion of local products, and everyday eco-friendly habits integrated into school life.

What can be adapted in Romania

Introducing more outdoor activities, encouraging practical learning, implementing recycling and waste reduction programs, and promoting responsible consumption behaviors aligned with SDG 12 Responsible Consumption and Production.



What students learned

Students gained a deeper understanding of cultural diversity, daily life in another country, and the importance of making informed choices as consumers.



Skills developed

Communication in a foreign language, adaptability, collaboration in international teams, critical thinking, and decision-making in real-life contexts. Students also improved their autonomy and confidence.

Recommendations for Implementation in Other Schools

Simple steps to start

Begin with small outdoor activities connected to the curriculum, involve motivated teachers, build partnerships (local/community or international), and gradually integrate sustainability topics into lessons.

Resources needed

Basic materials (worksheets, notebooks, digital tools), access to outdoor spaces, support from teachers and school management, and collaboration with local organizations or partners.

Possible difficulties and solutions

Limited time → integrate activities into regular lessons

Lack of experience → start with simple activities and teacher training

Low student involvement → use interactive, team-based tasks

Logistical issues → plan ahead and collaborate with partners

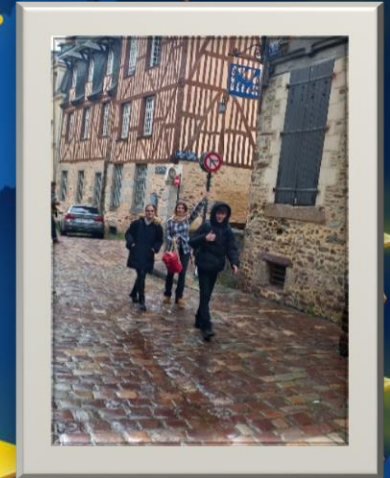
Suggestions for sustainable outdoor activities

Nature observation and eco-walks, recycling or clean-up campaigns, visits to local farms or markets, “zero waste” challenges, and projects focused on responsible consumption aligned with SDG 12 Responsible Consumption and Production.



A Few Student Testimonials

“I believe myself to be one of the luckiest people, as by participating in the Erasmus project I was given the opportunity to explore new cultures, create new relationships with our French mates throughout the organised activities about nature and sustainability.” - *Valentin*



“The Erasmus+ project has been one of the most beautiful experiences of my teenage years. It helped me improve my communication skills and become more independent, even in an unfamiliar city like Mayenne. At first, I felt unsure, but thanks to the students at Lycée Lavoisier and my host family, I quickly felt at home. I left a part of my heart in France—a different yet surprisingly familiar culture. It was a transformative experience I will always cherish.” - *Casiana*

“My Erasmus+ experience in France was a truly memorable opportunity that helped me grow both personally and socially. Living in Mayenne, I learned to adapt, communicate more confidently, and embrace a new culture. Thanks to the kindness of the student and teachers I felt welcomed from the very beginning. This journey made me more open-minded and independent, and it’s an experience I will always cherish.” - *Roxana*

Conclusion

This experience showed that learning goes beyond the classroom and becomes more meaningful through real-life interaction, collaboration, and cultural exchange. Students developed a stronger sense of responsibility, not only for their own actions but also as active European citizens who value diversity, cooperation, and shared values.



Erasmus+
Enriching lives, opening minds.

The mobility highlighted how everyday choices can contribute to a more sustainable future. By understanding and applying the principles of SDG 12 Responsible Consumption and Production, students are better prepared to adopt responsible behaviors and support long-term environmental and social well-being.

Useful links:

- [□ About Erasmus+](#)
- [□ About sustainable development goals \(SDG\)](#)
- [□ About eTwinning](#)
- [□ Erasmus Liceul Teoretic Novaci](#)
- [□ Final Product 1st Year](#)
- [□ Link to the movie](#)

**QR code for our
movie!**



LICEUL TEORETIC NOVACI
ACREDITARE

ACCREDITATION CODE:

2024-1-R001-KA120-SCH-
000295317

ANUL I

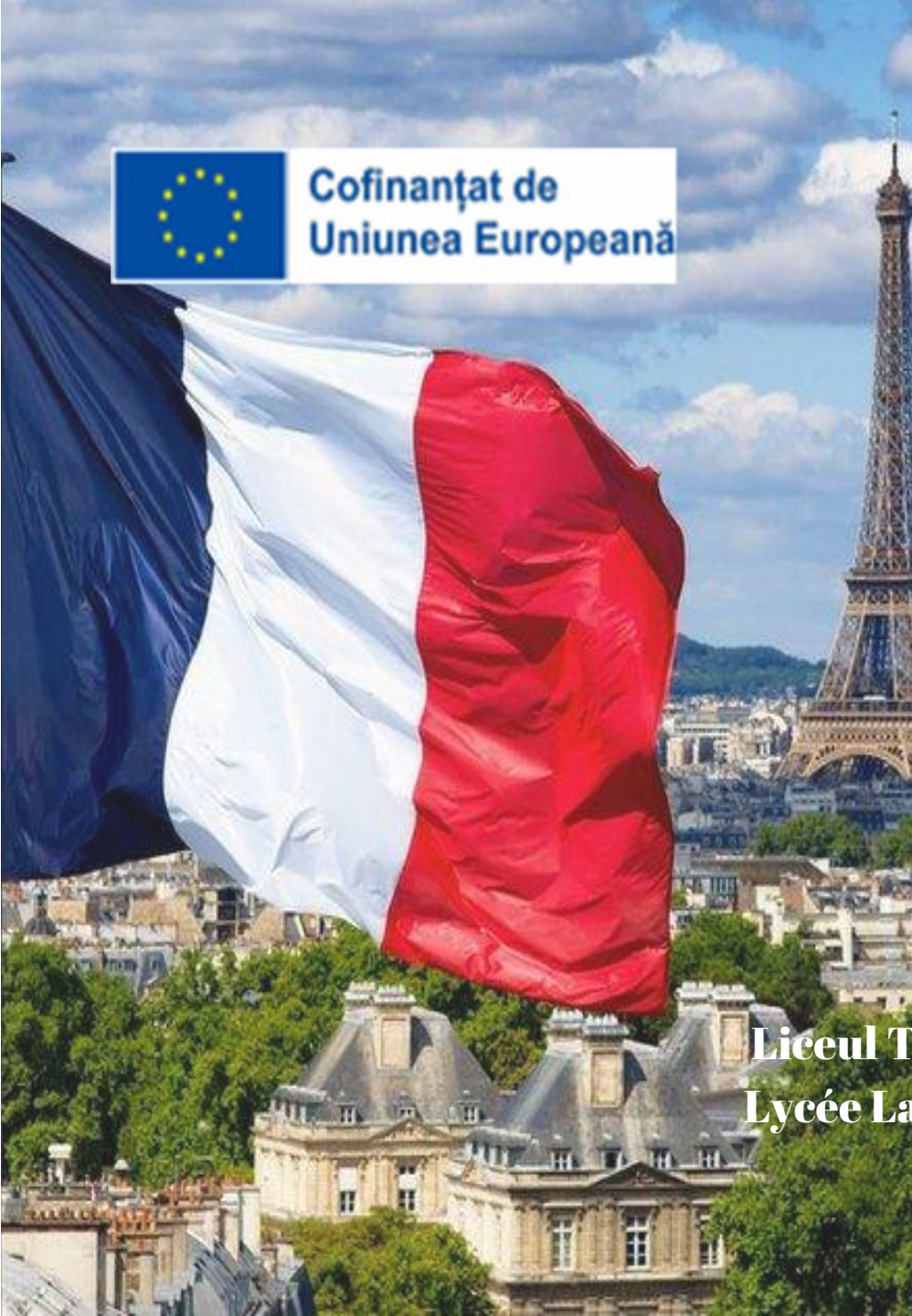
2025-1-R001-KA121-SCH-000325422

QR code for our movie!





Cofinanțat de
Uniunea Europeană



Liceul Teoretic Novaci - Romania
Lycée Lavoisier - Mayenne France