

GOAL 17: PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS

'We can change the world,
if we change it together!'



We can change the world! We have proved that many times in past decades. There is something that makes human beings special, which is that in our heads we can form ideas. We can think about problems and find solutions for them.

With the 17 sustainable development goals we have a plan which has the potential to ensure that by 2030 we will be living in a fairer world, but how can we reach these goals? It is not going to be easy for each and every one of us to make a contribution but the most important thing is that we work together to support each other. Goals such as the fight against poverty and keeping the climate safe are achievable if we work on them together.

Exchanging thoughts and opinions with others will help to develop good ideas. We can learn so much from each other. Just as we can learn so much from the children in the stories that you have read about in this little book which show how much they have learnt from each other.

Jakob's class from Austria has a partnership with the school class from Stéfanos from Greece. Together they came up with great ideas as to how to save energy in their schools. Special floor panels in the boys' schools

converts the students' footsteps into energy. In Greece they will start this experiment and if it works Jakob's school will also generate its own electricity.

Can you remember Flora from Burkina Faso and her grandfather? Flora got in touch with Rubina from Sri Lanka and told her about the cultivation technique her grandfather invented. Rubina is planning to modify the technique a little bit and then try it out in Sri Lanka.

And what is Miguel doing in Colombia? He no longer needs to wash lorries and he is able to go to school. An organization from Denmark started a project over there and built a school very close to the steep mountain road so that children from poorer families could go to school without having to pay. They even made sure that the children receive a school uniform, school materials and a school lunch – and guess, what? Miguel is the best pupil in his geography class. That is lucky, since he wants to go to university and become a geologist.

Whereas with the help of her lawyer, Sally has managed to start an internet blog. There she reports about her experiences and thus encourages other girls and women around the world to stand up for their rights.



Working together in a global partnership working together on all levels

The quality of life in Austria is very high. Most people have a home and enough food to eat. You have already learned from this book that this is not the case in all parts of the world. The opportunities that people have are very different. Goal 17 says that all states in the world should work together on the realization of the goals. There is a need for a 'global partnership' between states, governments, groups and also between individuals.

Goal 17 also states that all political measures across states should share the same objectives and these should not contradict each other. The rich states should support poorer states financially, aid projects or increasing their exports. It does not make sense if a state gives money to a poorer country but at the same time exploits that country with poor trading policies, such as unfair fishing agreements. On the one hand they try to improve people's lives in developing countries but on the other hand they take away their livelihood by taking the fish from their waters. These things do not go together!

Goal 17 also defines that there will be regular monitoring whether the world goals are implemented in individual states or whether they are implemented across a number of states. Both lead to making the world a better place.

What can we do to help achieve this goal?

- There is a lot of teamwork happening in the world and there will be examples of cooperation. It is important to work together in communities because it helps us reach our common goals. A football team only has a chance of winning the game if they play as a team. Remember there is no I in team. Therefore don't just think about the advantages to you, be a team player and think about what you can do for the team?
- Start your own project with your friends and classmates. That way you learn how to function in a team. If you are between 14 and 25 years old and have a great idea for a project but are not sure how to implement and finance it, you can find support on this website: www.eureprojekte.at
- The UNO (United Nations Organisation) is a worldwide organization that has member states in almost all countries of this world. Together they decided upon the 17 sustainable development goals. One of the headquarters of the UNO is in Vienna. You can take your class on a guided tour there as a school trip. At the moment there are special tours on the 17 world goals. Here you can find more information: www.unis.unvienna.org/unis/de/visitors_service

