

Sustainable Development



GOVERNMENT OF MALTA
MINISTRY FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, ENERGY
AND REGENERATION OF THE GRAND HARBOUR

sostenibilità

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Sustainable Development

MARK SIMPLY LOVED TO ASK QUESTIONS!
AND HIS MUM, MARY, LIKED TO ANSWER THEM.
SOMETIMES THEY WOULD HAVE LONG DISCUSSIONS,
AND BOTH OF THEM ENJOYED IT.



BOY

Mum, I just heard a difficult word on TV. I think it was Sus ... Sust ...? I forgot.

MOTHER

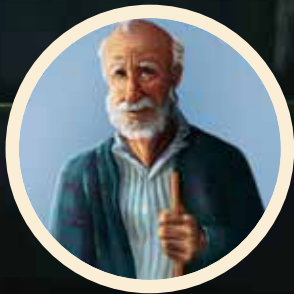
Sustainable Development?

BOY

Yes, that's it. What does it mean?

MOTHER

It sounds difficult, doesn't it? But all it means is this: it is how the country plans ahead to achieve progress in many areas, such as the workplace and the environment, as well to improve the quality of life.



“As you sow,
so shall you reap.”

Environmental Development

This is what protecting the environment means:

- good quality of air
- good quality of water
- clean seas
- protecting nature and all the flowers, plants, trees and creatures that live in it.

All of this helps us to start living better. We should remember that water is the spring of all life ... both the water we drink and seawater. Our sea span is much bigger than our span of land, and we must take care of it so that we can enjoy it along with all visitors to our country.



An illustration of a woman with dark hair in a ponytail, wearing a red dress with white stars, and a young boy with blonde hair wearing a green shirt and blue shorts. They are standing on a sidewalk, looking towards a street with several cars. In the background, there is a light-colored building with arched windows and a balcony with laundry hanging on it. The sky is blue with some clouds.

MOTHER

Did you know that when we use public transport we are protecting the environment?

BOY

How can that be! What does that have to do with it?

MOTHER

It has everything to do with it! Private cars can only carry four people. Most often we see only one person in them. But a bus can carry more than 20 people. See how much less air pollution there will be from exhaust, as well as less traffic congestion, even when we use the ferry. Furthermore, the less we use our private cars the less parking spaces we will need, and we can get to our destinations much quicker. These spaces can remain open to the public as gardens or other public spaces.

Social Development

This means that everyone has the right:



to good education – an education that leads to success for the future of our country



to healthcare services



to work with adequate pay



to travel and move freely from one place to another



to have access to justice and equal treatment.

Without these rights, people would fall into poverty and find themselves isolated.

MOTHER

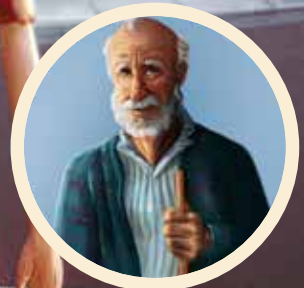
As regards health, we must acknowledge that the country is investing not only in healthcare but also in preventing illness.

BOY

What does preventing mean?

MOTHER

It means that it is better to keep illnesses away than to let them make us sick ... and then try to cure them afterwards.



“Prevention is better than cure.”

Economic Development

The background of the page is a detailed illustration of a construction site. In the upper portion, several vertical rebar structures are visible against a clear blue sky. A worker in a yellow hard hat and orange safety vest is crouching on a concrete slab, working with the rebar. In the lower portion, a yellow concrete mixer truck is parked on a dirt surface. Four workers in orange safety gear and yellow hard hats are gathered around the truck, engaged in conversation. One worker in a dark jacket is pointing towards the truck. The overall scene depicts active construction work.

This means that the country creates work for a healthy economy from which everyone benefits.

While the country brings over foreign workers to keep up with the rapid progress, it must also consider and pay attention to the effect of this on the general population.

Such development has to take place wisely so that no damage is done to our environment and natural resources.

BOY

But mum, why do they call it “sustainable”?

MOTHER

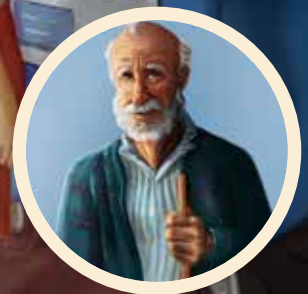
Well, because for this development to be truly good it must take into consideration these three areas: environmental, social and economic development. For example, the more we use recycled things the more energy we save and the less natural resources we use up. We need to think carefully before we throw away something, because it might be easily re-used in a different way.

BOY

Do you know what I’m thinking? With all this we might reduce poverty, protect the environment and deal with climate change.

MOTHER

Exactly! When wealth is distributed to everyone, we also start reducing poverty. That’s why we should be responsible in all we do.



“Moderation in all things.”

Before any kind of development starts, it is important to consider carefully whether any damage is caused to other areas.

As the saying goes: "One must not rob Peter to pay Paul."

And also:



"Look before you leap."

"Hope for the best,
prepare for the worst."

"Haste makes waste."

All these proverbs tell us that we need to think carefully and study the situation before we start anything, and that we shouldn't work hastily.

MOTHER

Oh, I remember in my time we used to try and fix everything. We tried to use the same things many times.

BOY

But mum, what does this have to do with it?

MOTHER

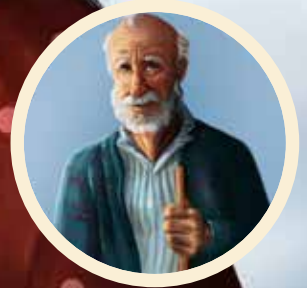
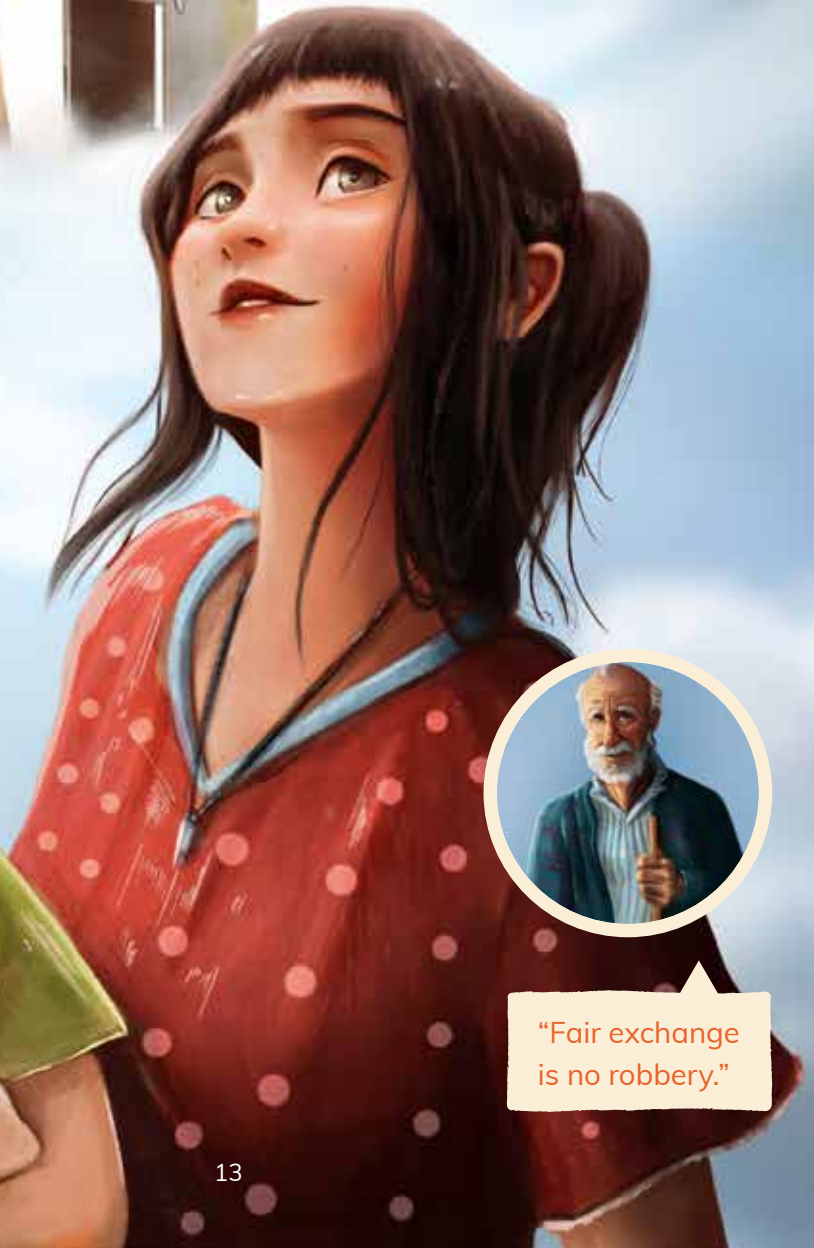
It has everything to do with it! Whenever something broke, my father used to get to work immediately to try and fix it: chairs, wardrobes, doors ... my father fixed everything. Our first washing machine lasted such a long time because he kept fixing it. And my mother patched up and sewed our clothes with her sewing machine.

BOY

What's a sewing machine?

MOTHER

Of course you don't know!
What a pity, nowadays we just throw everything away!



"Fair exchange is no robbery."

One of the things that can get in the way of this development is waste.

We should preserve our resources.

That is why it is very important that we:

- do not waste water
- recycle waste
- save electricity by using solar energy

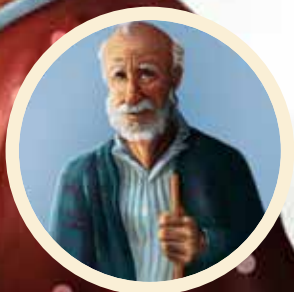


BOY

Mum, is it true that in the past a lot of people used to plant vegetables in their garden and keep hens for their eggs?

MOTHER

Yes. Grandma had a tiny garden, but in it you could still find all the herbs: mint, marjoram, parsley, basil and sage. In one corner she had a lemon tree of the kind that is called “four seasons”, because it bore fruit year-round.



“Half a loaf is better than no bread.”



A large quantity of the food we eat is imported.

We should care for our fields and our farmers so that our country can produce vegetables and fruit.

Have you ever noticed that there is much more waste than before? What does this mean?

It means that:

- we are consuming more
- we have more money to spend.

This is true, but it may also mean that:

- we are no longer saving up for the future
- we are using up our resources too quickly.

That is why for our country to have real sustainable development we must always look ahead and plan for the future.

We are working so that the following Sustainable Development Goals adopted by the United Nations are reached by 2030:

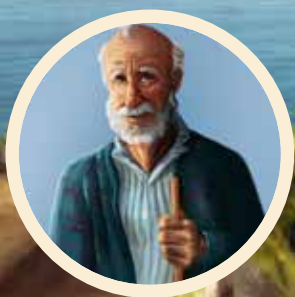


BOY

But mum, how will our country
do all these good things?

MOTHER

No, it is not our country that
will do them ... but the two of
us. We are our country!



“Do your best and
God will do the rest.”