LOLA Teaching Pack...

The LOLA pilot project has been developing a Teaching Pack based on a set of Step-by-step Cards to help teachers in organizing the activity in the class; and a Students Reporter Books supports the collection of cases by the students. Each class decide its own combination between the steps of the project for pupils to investigate their own neighbourhood, interview people experiencing more sustainable ways of living and come back with a critical view challenging their own living patterns...

LOLA Looking for Likely Alternatives

A didactic process to approach sustainability by investigating social innovation

Actors

The Consumer Citizenship Network (CCN, Coordinated at Hedmark University College, Norway) is an interdisciplinary network of educators, researchers and civil-society organisations, (including UNESCO, UNEP and Consumers International) who recognize the pressing need for constructive action by individuals in order to achieve sustainable consumption and global solidarity. (www.hihm.no/concit)

The Sustainable Everyday Project (SEP, Coordinated at Milan Polytechnic University, Italy and Strategic Design Scenarios, Belgium) started in 2002 and intends to raise awareness about sustainable social innovation through a web platform (www.sustainable-everyday.net), publications, and a series of exhibitions and local events.
The project, **Looking for Likely Alternatives** (LOLA), launched in 2005, is a pedagogical tool for teachers and students which assists them in the process of identifying, evaluating and documenting cases of social innovation towards sustainable lifestyles.

The LOLA pilot project developed during 2005-2006 ([www.sustainable-everyday/lolaprocess](http://www.sustainable-everyday/lolaprocess)) involved teacher training colleges in Belgium, Norway and Portugal the process of collecting cases of social innovation, documenting the didactic process and participating in discussion on the experience. The pilot project resulted in a Teaching Pack. These have been translated into English, French, Flemish, Lithuanian, Norwegian, Portuguese, and Slovakian.

Currently, the project has started its implementation phase consisting in fine tuning the Teaching Pack and implementing it in secondary schools in various countries in and outside Europe.

**Cases**

LOLA core activity is based on scouting promising cases towards sustainability. These initiatives have been carried out by communities of people who organize themselves and develop new solutions based on mutual help, collaboration, sharing... On top of facing their own everyday problems, these solutions can be seen as potential seeds of new sustainable lifestyles. Giving light to this kind of grass-root innovation, the pupils share knowledge developing a vision about the future and how to change our society in a positive way shifting it in a new and more sustainable direction. ([www.sustainable-everyday.net/cases](http://www.sustainable-everyday.net/cases))

For example : production activities based on local resources and skills; healthy, natural forms of nutrition; self-managed services for the care of children and the elderly; new forms of exchange; alternative mobility systems; socialising initiatives to bring cities to life; networks linking consumers directly with producers...

**Process / Objectives**

The LOLA project's goal is to help teachers and their class to discover, approach and give visibility to new sustainable lifestyles in their surroundings. It goes beyond the common pedagogical use of case studies and project work which tend to be limited to the immediate classroom context. The process brings the students into direct face-to-face contact with groups of people who question their current lifestyles.

It connects the work of teachers at several schools through an ICT platform in a collective search for examples of universal value, thereby putting into action the goals of the UN Decade for Education for Sustainable Development (2005-2014). It is a process of integrating initiatives dealing with "learning to learn" and "learning for a sustainable future" concerned with learning to be a critical, aware, consumer citizen.

**Background**

The LOLA process is a follow-up of the **EMUDE** research project. EMUDE (Emerging User Demand in sustainable solutions 2004-2006) is a EU funded Specific Support Action involving design schools at university level in 8 European countries for researching, documenting and discussing local initiatives of social innovation. A consortium of research institutions, universities and public bodies was then in charge of assessing the collected cases, building scenarios inspiring new and more sustainable ways of living and drawing technological roadmaps to support them.

The very positive feedback from the participating schools in terms of cases collected but also as an involving and efficient process to raise student awareness on the themes of sustainability was presented and discussed in the occasion of the second CCN conference in May 2005 in Bratislava. It resulted in the creation of the **LOLA pilot project**.