Teaching Unit 1 – Guiding Document

Dear students,

this document is a guide through the phases of this teaching unit.

It provides a section for each phase including background information, useful links and tipps for the group work.

Additionally it includes the section with information and links for the research and the worksheets.

Content

Work Phases

The units consists of the following phases:

1. Information

2. Planning

3. Decision Making

4. Execution

5. Feedback

6. Reflection

Each phase can be completed in one lesson, but phase 1 and 4 might take the most time. Please ask your teacher how much time you have to complete each phase.

Please note, that some of the links lead to videos or websites in English. If you prefer to have the information in your language, you can use the translation function of Youtube or browsers like Firefox or Chrome.

Information Phase

The information phase is the starting point for your group work in which you get to know your task and start collecting information on how to address it.

➔ *Task 1: Please watch the initial video (3) of the teaching unit or read the following text:*

Problem:

"You are part of the United Nations commission responsible for the SDGs. Next week you have to present the SDGs in front of the general assembly to promote actions against climate change. During your preparations you notice, that many experts criticize SDG8, which aims at economic growth, stating that it is a major thread for a sustainable development."

Expected Outcome:

"You have to create a presentation for the general assembly including a new concept for SDG8, which should include a balance between „decent work" and a sustainable economy. You should come up with a new title, logo and a description."

➔ *Task 2: Go through the section with information and links (page 4-11 in this document) as a starting point for your research. Afterwards continue to collect all information you need in order to understand the task and start working on the outcome*

Planning Phase

The planning phase is to organise the upcoming working steps for your group. It might make sense to think about it from the end. What should your outcome look like? What should be included?

➔ *Task: To support your group in collecting ideas, use the document for planning (page 12 in this document) and complete task 1.*

Decision Phase

The goal of this phase is to come to a common decision about the working steps: For the upcoming execution phase you have to decide which working steps have to be taken and who is responsible.

➔ *Task: Complete task 2 on the planning document (page 13 in this document).*

Execution Phase

This phase is about creating the outcome as a solution for the initial problem.

➔ *Task: Please follow the working steps as listed in the planning document. If you need support you might ask your teacher or go through the section with information and links (page 4-11 in this document) again.*

➔

Feedback Phase

In this phase you share your outcome with the class and receive feedback.

➔ *Task: Please show the presentation you have created, let the other students ask questions and motivate them to give you feedback. You can do this in an open discussion or by letting the students write their feedback down.*

Reflection Phase

To conclude the unit, you get back together in your group to reflect about the process.

➔ Task: Please fill out the reflection document (page 14 in this document) individually, afterwards discuss the results in the group

Information and Links

Sustainability

„Sustainability is the ability to meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs." [1]

Sustainability is often conceptualized through the lens of three interconnected dimensions: economy, environment, and social. This framework, commonly known as the triple bottom line or the three pillars of sustainability, aims to address the complex and interdependent challenges facing society. Sustainability is a holistic concept that recognizes the interdependence of economic, environmental, and social factors. Achieving sustainability requires a balance among these dimensions to ensure that current needs are met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. Organizations, communities, and individuals are encouraged to adopt practices that consider the triple bottom line for a more comprehensive and enduring approach to development.

More information:

Title	Author	Type	Link
What is Sustainability?	UCLA	Youtube Video	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zx04Kl8y4dE
Sustainability	United Nations	Website	https://www.un.org/en/academic-impact/sustainability

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[1] https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/5987our-common-future.pdf

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Dimensions of Sustainability [2]

Economic
- Economic Growth and Resilience
- Affordability
- Energy Security
- Process Efficiency
- Outputs of Desired Products

Environment
- Water Quality and Quantity
- Soil Quality
- Air Quality
- Greenhouse Gas Emissions
- Biodiversity and Wild-life

Social
- Jobs and Workforce Development
- Health and Well-Being
- Food Security
- Social Acceptability

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[2] Source: https://www.energy.gov/eere/bioenergy/sustainability

More information:

Title	Author	Type	Link
The three dimensions of sustainability	Argo	Youtube Video	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V6wCP0iMWtI
What are the Three Pillars of Sustainable Development?	Greenly	Website	https://greenly.earth/en-us/blog/company-guide/3-pillars-of-sustainable-development

The Sustainable Development Goals

No Poverty
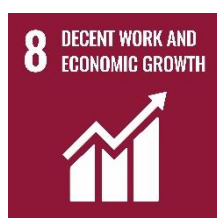
Zero Hunger

Good Health and Well-Being

Quality Education

Gender Equality

Clean Water and Sanitation

Affordable and Clean Energy

Decent Work and Economic Growth

Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure

Reduced Inequalities

Sustainable Cities and Communities
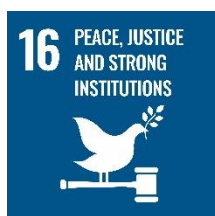
Responsible Consumption and Production

Climate Action

Life Below Water

Life on Land

Peace, Justice, and strong Institutions

Partnerships for the Goals

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are a set of 17 global goals established by the United Nations in 2015 as part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. These goals are designed to address a wide range of social, economic, and environmental challenges, aiming to promote prosperity, peace, and partnership on a global scale. The SDGs are interconnected and provide a comprehensive framework for sustainable development

They were developed through a collaborative and international process. The process began with the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (UNCSD), also known as Rio+20, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in June 2012. The conference marked the 20th anniversary of the 1992 Earth Summit, which had set the stage for global action on sustainable development.

During Rio+20, there was a call to establish a set of universal goals to address global challenges and promote sustainable development. The idea was to build on the success of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), a set of eight goals established in 2000 with a target to be achieved by 2015. The SDGs aimed to be more comprehensive, addressing a broader range of issues and involving a more inclusive process in their creation.

The process of developing the SDGs involved extensive consultations and negotiations among member states, civil society, and other stakeholders. The Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals (OWG) was established to create a proposal for the goals. The OWG held numerous sessions and consultations between 2013 and 2014 to discuss and formulate the goals.

In September 2015, the United Nations General Assembly formally adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which included the 17 Sustainable Development Goals along with 169 targets. This marked a historic moment, signifying a shared global commitment to addressing poverty, inequality, climate change, environmental degradation, and other pressing issues.

The SDGs officially came into effect on January 1, 2016, and they set the agenda for global development over the next 15 years. The goals are intended to be universal, applicable to all countries, and are characterized by an integrated approach that recognizes the interconnectedness of social, economic, and environmental issues. The SDGs provide a framework for collective action to create a more sustainable and equitable world.
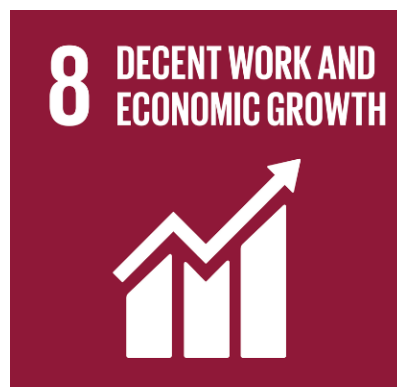
.More information:

Title	Author	Type	Link
Do you know all 17 SDGs?	United Nations	Youtube Video	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0XTBYMfZyrM
THE 17 GOALS	United Nations	Website	https://sdgs.un.org/goals

Sustainable Development Goal 8 - Decent Work and Economic Growth

The United Nations describe SDG8 like this:

The goal of SDG8 is the promotion of an inclusive and sustainable economic growth, employment and decent work for all.

(Source: https://sdgs.un.org/goals/goal8)

And why?

Sustainable and inclusive economic growth economic growth can drive progress, create decent decent jobs for all and improve improve living standards. Even before the outbreak of COVID-19, one in five countries - where billions of people live in poverty living in poverty - was likely to a decline in per capita income decline in 2020. Now the economic and financial shocks shocks associated with the the pandemic - such as disruptions to industrial production production, the volatility of the financial markets and the increasing uncertainty - are derailing the already tepid economic growth and exacerbate the increased risks due to other factors.
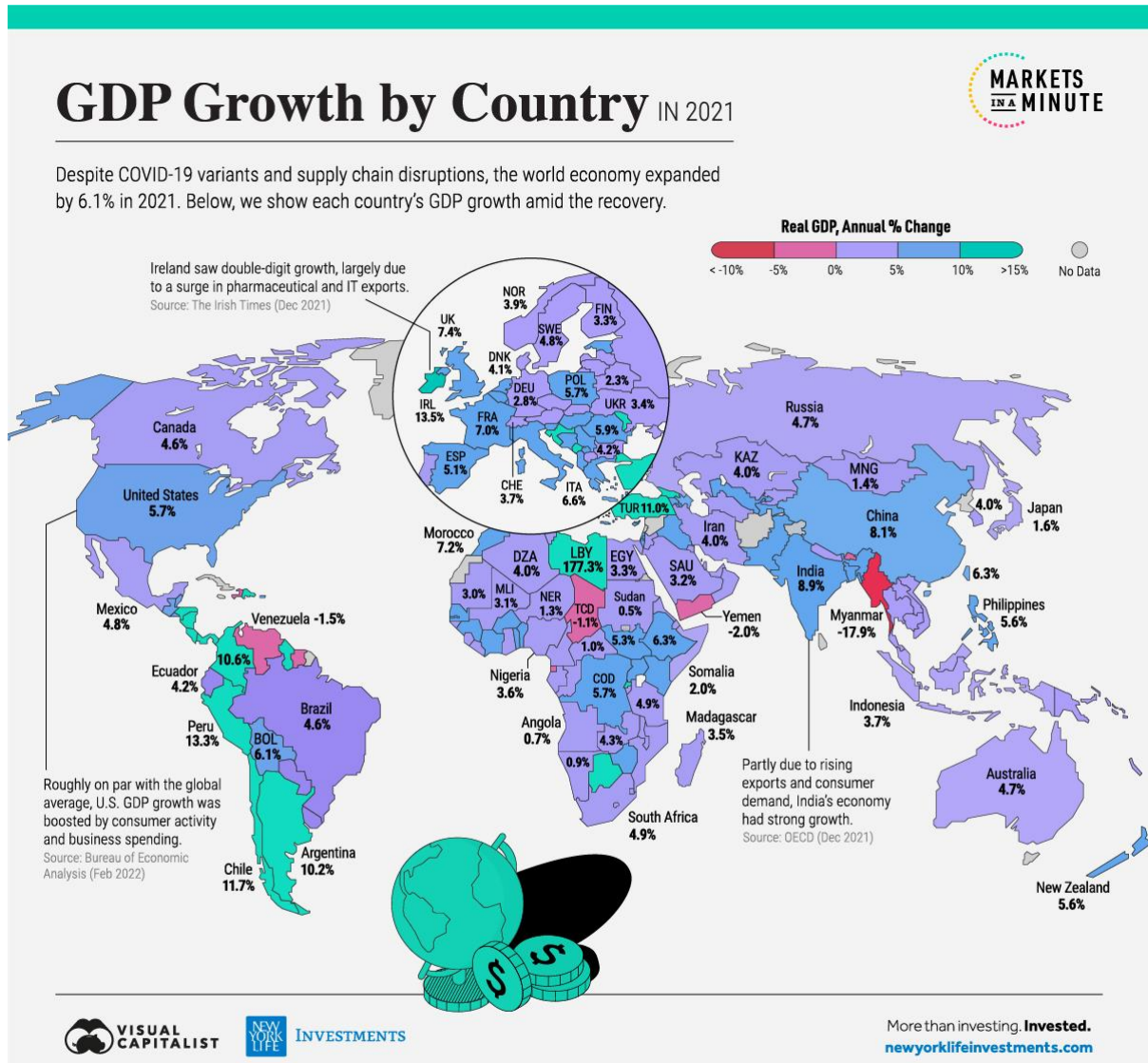
What does "decent work" mean?

Decent work means that everyone has the opportunity find work that is productive, a decent income,security at work, social protection for families, better prospects for personal for personal developmentand social integration. A persistent lack of decent work opportunities, insufficient insufficient investment and underconsumption lead to an erosion of the basic social social contract that underlying democratic societies: that that everyone must share in progress.

More information:

Title	Author	Type	Link
Decent Work and Economic Growth	Smile and Learn	Youtube Video	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ij0JlrIWx2k
SDG8	United Nations	Website	https://sdgs.un.org/goals/goal8

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Economic Growth

In a common perspective, the GDP measures the value and well-being of national economies and based on this, also serves as an indicator for the well-being of whole societies in the understanding of many political leaders and economic associations.

(Source: https://advisor.visualcapitalist.com/gdp-growth-by-country-in-2021/)

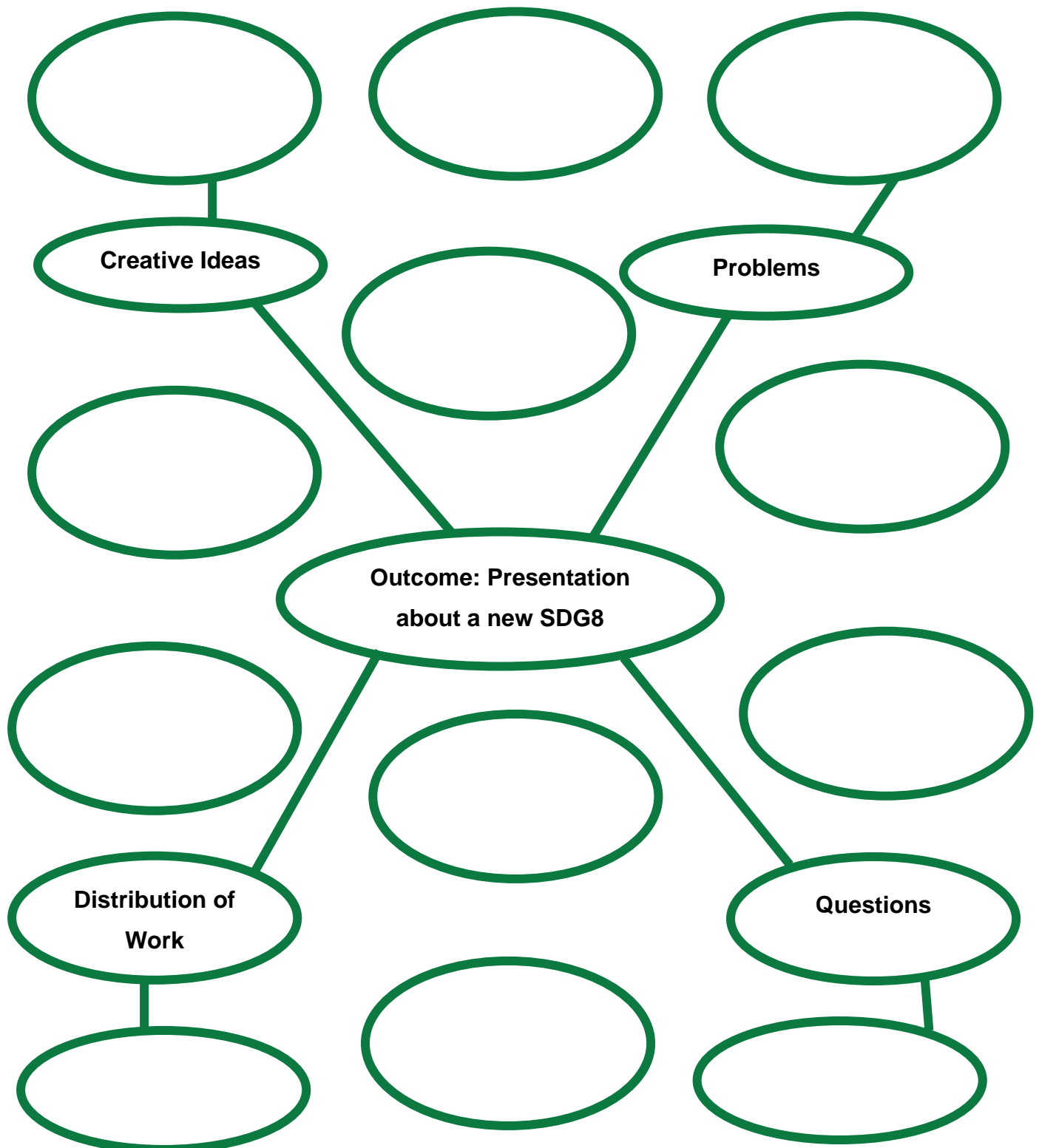More information:

Title	Author	Type	Link
Economic Growth explained	Explainity	Youtube Video	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qC-U76O76X0
What is economic growth? And why is it so important?	Our World in Data	Website	https://ourworldindata.org/what-is-economic-growth

Worksheets

Planning Document

-> Task 1 Mind-Map: To plan your group work, create a mind map, considering all important aspect you want to include. You can use the template on this page or start with a blank piece of paper

Creative Ideas

Problems

Outcome: Presentation about a new SDG8

Distribution of Work

Questions

-> *Task 2: Decision about the working steps: For the upcoming execution phase you have to decide which working steps have to be taken and who is responsible. Please fill out the table below.*

Working Step	Duration	Responsibility

Reflection Document

-> Task: Think about the working steps your group has completed and fill in hte speech bubbles. Afterwards discuss the results in your group.

What I liked most about our group work was..

Our outcome would have been better if we…

During the next group work I will..