



Approaches to fair trade in educational institutions in 2015

Institution: University of Cantabria

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Find out more about fair trade at University of Cantabria

What is your institution currently doing about fair trade and working conditions in supply chains? (procurement and product sales, awareness-raising, research, teaching, other?)

We participate in the Spanish Program “Universities for Fair Trade”, organized by IDEAS-Comercio Justo www.ciudadjusta.org/content/view/36/38/

We work in:

- Procurement and product sales: trying to introduce social, environmental and FT criteria in public contracts (tenders). Some University restaurants (4/7) offer FT coffee and one of them has passed a tender with FT criteria (including cacao, coffee and other products (such as snacks and juices). 4 caterings services include FT and eco menus in their agreements with the University. Training course to staff at administration and procurement level on responsible public procurement every year.
- Awareness-raising: we organize a FT campaign every year (in May): FT breakfast in cafeterias, exhibitions in association with FT organizations, dessert contests, cooking courses, film series, etc... Permanently, we have 5 sell points of FT products at university and some sporadic points with FT organizations.
- Teaching: some subjects related to development, social responsibility,... include FT issues.
- Research: we make interviews on FT every 2 years at university level and publish the results.
- Other: we have a FT plan. We are working in the new one, for the period 2015-2019.

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What plans do you have, or what would you like to do in future regarding fair trade in your institution?

We are working in a wider context of Responsible Consumption and Social Economy (including local trade, social markets, bio, etc.) as socially responsible institution and university. We include this approach in the new FT plan 2015-2019 (it will be approved around March 2015).

We are trying to engage the FT Group in other activities, mainly, research and teaching, because are the areas less developed.

We also would like to improve the agreements of cooperation between all kinds of social organizations, other internal university services some way linked to FT or Responsible Consumption, and other universities in order to promote research, practices and teaching.