



Approaches to fair trade in educational institutions in 2015

Institution: University of Córdoba (Spain)

Date: 26 January 2015

Contact: María Teresa HERNÁNDEZ MERINO, coordinating the Area of Cooperation and Solidarity in the University of Cordoba, area.cooperacion@uco.es

Find out more about fair trade at University of Córdoba

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 some social, environmental and FT criteria in public contracts (tenders) in coffee-shops or cafeterias. Some University restaurants offer FT products as coffee, tea, sugar, cacao. We do some advocacy for introducing FT criteria for caterings offered in university activities.
- Awareness-raising: we organize a FT campaign every year (in May): FT Fair, FT menu in cafeteria, conferences, information and expositions about FT organizations, solidarity breakfasts, ideas competitions, etc.
- Research: we publish, every year, a report about the situation and evolution of FT organisations and sales in our region (Andalusia).

www.uco.es/consumoresponsable/images/pdf/informe2011pq.pdf

www.uco.es/consumoresponsable/images/pdf/informecjweb12julio.pdf

- Teaching: the FT subject is introduced in some courses: trading, social responsibility, development cooperation, education for development, food sovereignty, ...
- We also organize workshops with students in the FT Fair. And there's a part of the “Introduction to development cooperation” subject focused in the FT and the original causes of unfair trade. The university teachers and staff in the university also have the opportunity to learn about FT in specialising courses.

Approaches to fair trade in educational institutions in 2015

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 Alternative and Social Economy: local trade, social markets, cooperatives, food sovereignty, ethical finances, etc. We would like to promote FT in that context. We organize meetings and provide spaces to exchange practices.

We'd like to improve the agreements of cooperation between all kinds of social organizations and alternative economy entrepreneurship with the university, promoting research, practices and teaching in the University led to the solidarity and social economy. Today we're building a network with teachers and researchers in our university for promoting Sustainable Economies.

We'd also like to increase the research that we're developing: its quality, and the coordination with other universities all around the world.

We'd like to promote a mobility program for students for supporting the work of FT producer groups in other countries or European FT organizations. We already tried an Erasmus plus project.