CONFLICT FREE TECHNOLOGY

ALTERNATIVES TO TECHNOLOGICAL CONSUMPTION

Of the numerous proposals for conflict-free technology, there is one that is particularly relevant and comes from a group of people in Amsterdam who wanted to offer real alternatives to the city's residents. This organised citizens group formed a company and used a crowdfunding campaign to launch a smartphone designed and produced under ethical standards that respect human rights. This phone is called Fairphone. The third version of the company's device has been released and is sold on its website for €450.

The ethical standards applied during production takes into account different moments of the phone's lifespan, with special focus on tackling those moments that pose the biggest blindspots. This blindspots are during mineral extraction, mobile phone design (durability, planned obsolescence, etc.), manufacture (working conditions for the workers involved in the manufacturing process) and the waste phase (which we will analyze in the electronic waste, known as e-waste, file).

REFURBISHED TECHNOLOGY

Refurbished tech products are devices that are given a second life. Refurbishing involves both the aesthetic and electronic repair or restoration of a technological product.

Refurbished products are a way to prevent programmed obsolescence (File 10), a strategy that manufacturers use when developing their devices to ensure they stop working after a certain period.

Although they are rarely advertised, practically all major brands offer a section of refurbished products. These types of products are generally available online.

Most of the products these websites sell have passed quality checks and are reviewed by certified professionals who guarantee flawless performance. Many of the products on these websites come with a 12-month warranty, something that is rarely offered for second-hand products.

OTHER PROPOSALS FROM EUROPE

The Conflict Free Tin Initiative helps international supply chains carry out effective due diligence, the Programme for Responsible Mineral Supply Chains (ITSCI).

ACTIVITY PROPOSAL
DIFFERENCES GAME

Objetives: To analyse the life cycle of a smartphone and compare it with a "fair" phone.

Materials:
- Edukalboan Conflict Minerals magazine,
- Markers
- Poster board

Development: Put participants into groups of 3 or 4. Give each group a flipchart or poster board and ask them to draw two pictures.

The first represents the life cycle of a "conventional" smartphone. Participants can be free to include as many phases of the cycle as they want, or can be instructed to draw all the phases or just one.

To conclude, hang the posters/drawing up and ask each group to look at the different posters and find the differences between the two types of smartphones.

RESOURCES FOR MORE INFORMATION

🌐 **Fennis Foundation :** http://feniss.org/fundacion/

🌐 **Fairphone:** https://www.fairphone.com

🌐 **FAQS:**
https://www.tecnologialibredeconflicto.org/en/faqs/

🌐 **Conflict-free technology campaign:**
www.tecnologialibredeconflicto.org

🌐 **Article on Fairphone:**
https://www.theguardian.com/technology/2019/sep/18/fairphone-3-review-ethical-phone

🌐 **Sustainable Development Solutions Network:** https://www.unsdsn.org/

🌐 **Itinerary to become a conflict-free technology promoting organization (esp):**
http://www.tecnologialibredeconflicto.org/convertirse-en-org-promotora-de-tecnologia-libre-de-conflicto/