Eco-Social Education and Ethical Compass
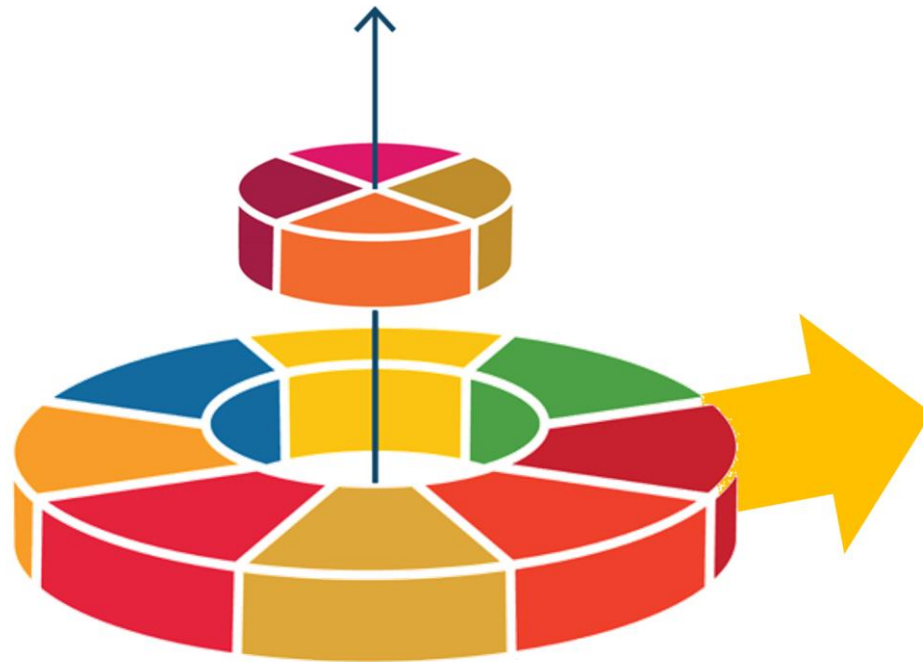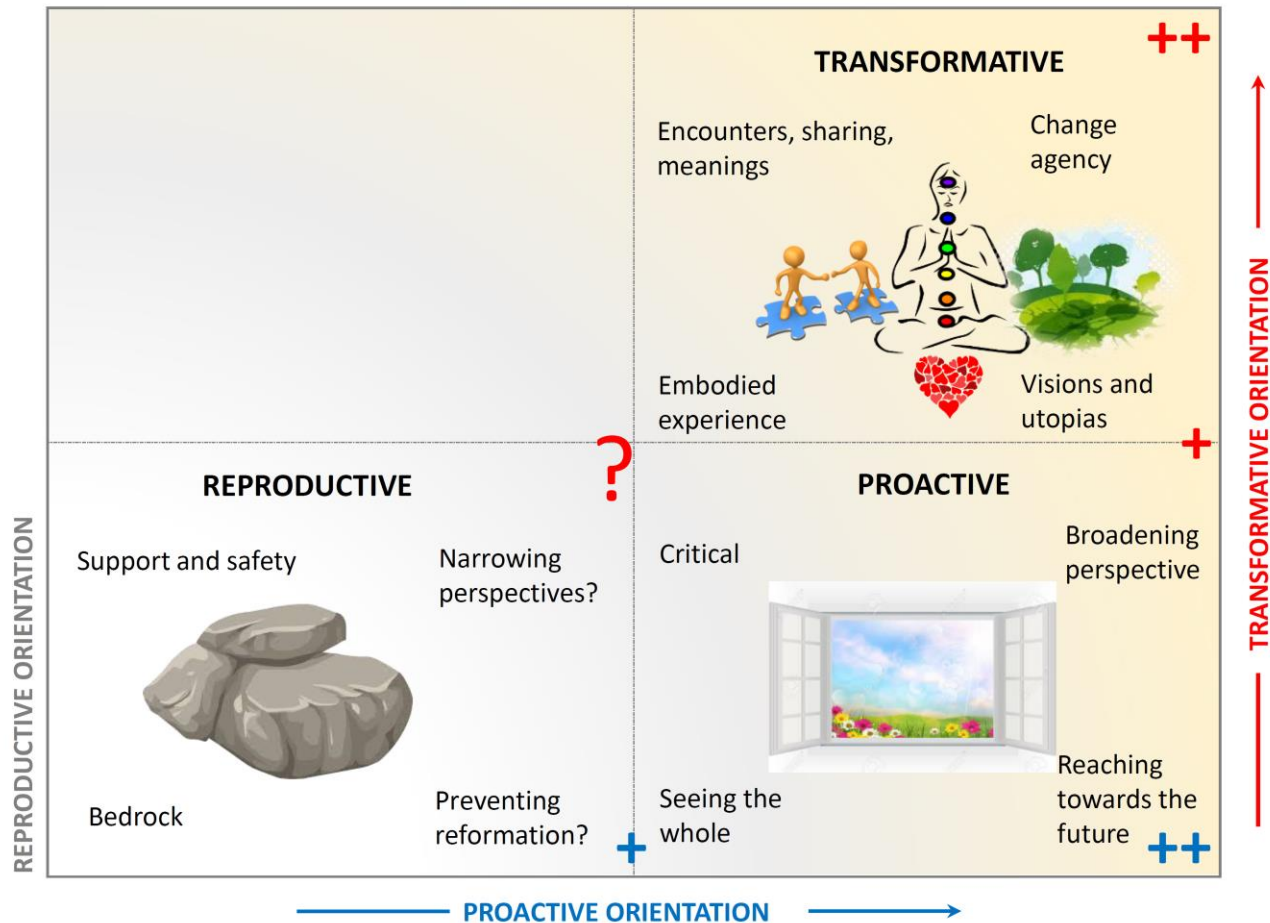
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The OKKA Foundation Finland

OKKA
FOUNDATION FOR
TEACHING, EDUCATION
AND PERSONAL
DEVELOPMENT

Indicators for sustainable future

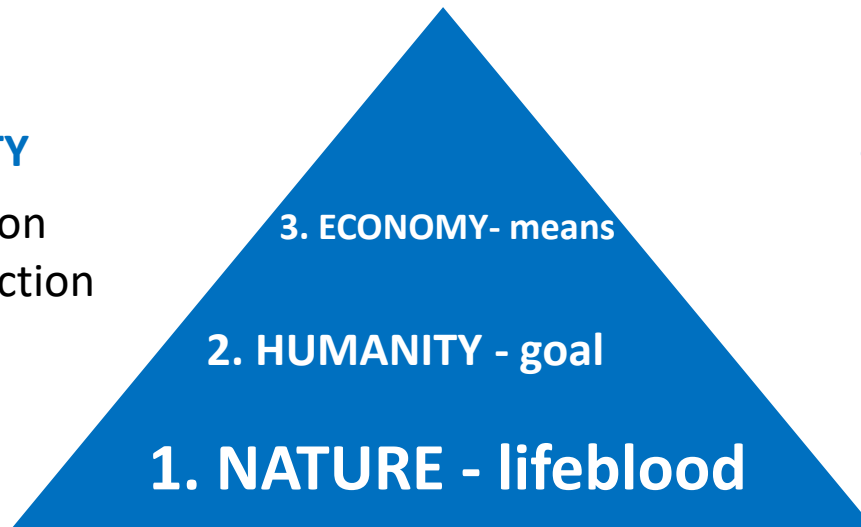QUESTIONS?   REFLECTIONS?

Eco-Social Education

RESPONSIBILITY

- Broadening the circle of morality (human and non-human reality, future generations)

INTERPERSONALITY

- Trust, cooperation
- Enriching interaction

SUFFICIENCY

- What is needed more and what less for a good life?

3. ECONOMY- means

2. HUMANITY - goal

1. NATURE - lifeblood

SYSTEMIC RELATIONSHIP WITH THE WOLRD

- Seeing the world as a social-ecological system
- Simultaneous consideration of ecological, economic and social reality

Adopted from Salonen, A., & Bardy, M. (2015). Ekososiaalinen sivistys herättää luottamusta tulevaisuuteen.

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SYSTEMIC RELATIONSHIP WITH THE WORLD

47 % of water consumption of an average Finnish citizen takes place abroad – often in countries where water is a limited commodity.

2/3 of Finland's green house gas emissions are linked with housing, eating, mobility and buying of goods.

Where are your clothes made ?

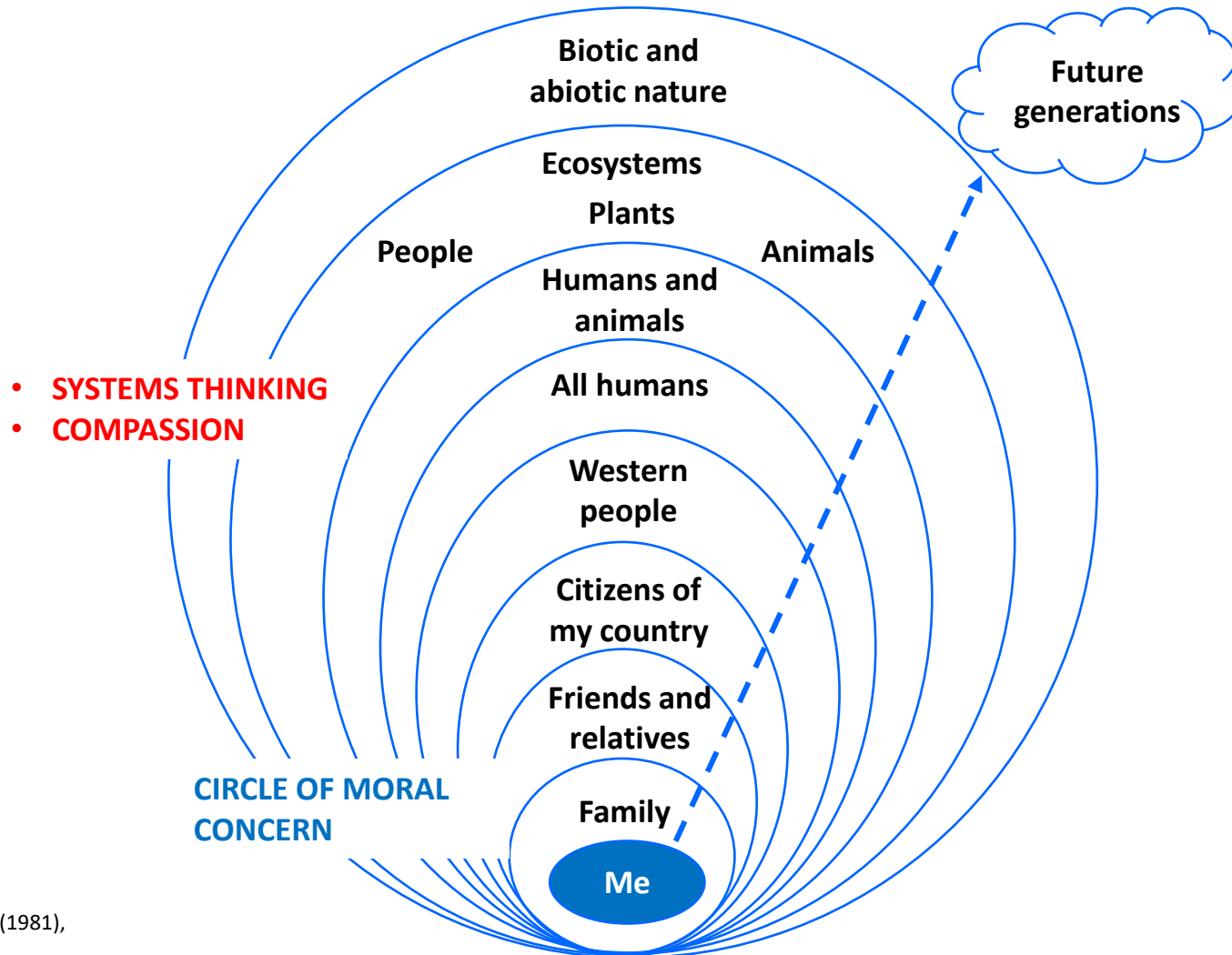**Do you know where Brazilian cattle is grazing and soya is growing?**

Our daily choices have a global impact on people and the environment.

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RESPONSIBILITY

Responsibility is about to learn to care for others – both other humans and the non-human world. Growing to global responsibility is a process of broadening our personal circle of moral concern. This takes both reason (systems thinking) and affection (compassion).

- **SYSTEMS THINKING**
- **COMPASSION**

CIRCLE OF MORAL CONCERN

Biotic and abiotic nature

Ecosystems

Plants

People

Animals

Humans and animals

All humans

Western people

Citizens of my country

Friends and relatives

Family

Me

Future generations

P.Singer (1981),

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SUFFICIENCY

Sufficiency is an imperative virtue on a limited planet. In order to flourish in the future, we need to find an answer to the question *how much is enough*. We need to learn how to share instead of trying to take everything for ourselves.

$$\text{Life satisfaction} = \frac{\text{What I have}}{\text{What I need}}$$

Arto O. Salonen

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INTERPERSONALITY

Being acknowledged as unique individuals and enriching relationships with others can liberate us to achieve our full potential as humans.
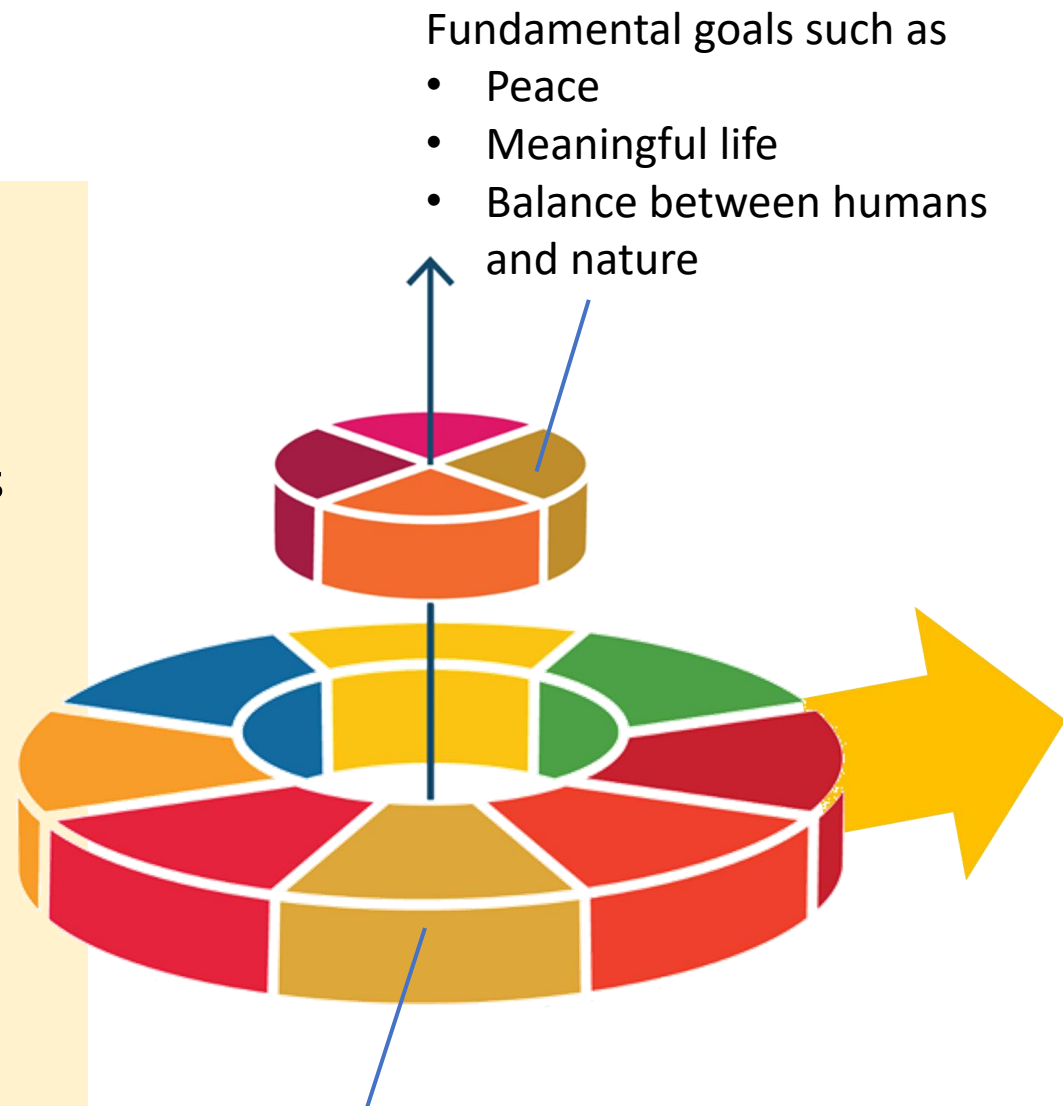
In the bottom of our hearts, all we truly need is to be seen and heard and to be acknowledged as what we are.

Meaningfulness of life is not about having something. It is about giving something of yourself and connecting to the external world – example to other people or nature.

A. Maslow, W. Frankl, A., E. Allardt, J. Helliwell, A.O. Salonen

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Ethical Compass

- Every human being has their own ethical compass.

- It can be constructed by reflecting on one's own values and perceptions with others.

- Dialogue on values and goals helps to seek a common direction for the future.

- The ethical compass is constantly modified through human experiences.

Fundamental goals such as
- Peace
- Meaningful life
- Balance between humans and nature

Ethical principles guide choices and actions in the direction of the fundamental goals.

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Construction of the Ethical Compass

Values of Eco-Social Education
RESPONSIBILITY   **SUFFICIENCY**   **INTERPERSONALITY**   **SYSTEMIC RELATIONSHIP WITH THE WORLD**

DEFINITION OF THE VALUE

Discussion on the content and meaning of the value, e.g.

- What freedoms and responsibilities does a human being have?

- What is responsibility? How does it manifest itself?

- For whom are responsible?

REFLECTION OF THE VALUE

Value-related personal questions and their reflection, e.g.

- For what or who do I take responsibility?

- When have I acted responsibly/irresponsibly?

- How did I feel?

ETHICAL PRINCIPLES

The group formulates together 3-5 ethical principles that guide how people should live and act according to the value.

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Group work results

Value education – normative of inductive approach?

Eco-social education is a value-based and normative educational idea.

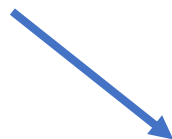Can values be taught or should they even be taught?

Inductive approach

WHAT TRULY MATTERS?
WHAT IS THE ESSENCE OF LIFE?

⬇

DIALOGUE

⬇

FUNDAMENTAL GOALS
AND VALUES

Normative approach

VALUES OF ECO-SOCIAL
EDUCATION

- Responsibility
- Sufficiency
- Interpersonality

ETHICAL COMPASS

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Group work

Each group is given **one value of Eco-Social Education**:

- Responsibility
- Sufficiency
- Interpersonality
- Systemic relationship with the world

GROUP TASKS:

1) Discuss about **the meaning of the given value**: How do you understand it?

2) How does **the given value manifest itself in the daily life** of your institution? Can you find examples?

3) Define **three ethical principles** for your institution: How members of your organisation (students included) should act in order to make the given value real?

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