

### Title: Discussing own opinions about environmental issues (20 minutes)

After a short introduction about environmental issues, its importance in the workplace as well as for the world, you can look back to your workplace with "environmental glasses", formulate your own opinion and also see obstacles or opportunities to implement an environmental working approach.

1. Take 5 minutes to write down your own opinion, questions and remarks about this issue.

Some topics to help you thinking about the subject:

- In a very simplistic way, environment issues can be divided in three main elements: air, water and soil:
  - Air:** There is a large number of activities able to modify the composition of the atmosphere, such as the production of electric energy, the use of combustion systems, consumption of petrol, etc. In all of them CO<sub>2</sub> is produced and this is the main contributor to the increase of the temperature of the earth's surface (greenhouse effect). CFC gases and methane are also greenhouse effect gases that imply a heating up of the earth's surface and the lower layers of the troposphere due to an excess of solar radiation.
  - **Water:** The characterisation of waste water means the knowledge of: the discharge flow, calculated in a landfill; the physical, biological and chemical characteristics; the concentrations of waste water constituents; and the optimum means to reduce the concentrations of pollutants.
  - **Soil:** Soil is essential to human society and is the basis for 90% of all human food, livestock feed, fibre, and fuel. Even so a lot of pollution is entering in the soil. Mostly we are not aware about it if it happens, but spoiling oil, paint, other chemicals or just printed paper and plastics in the soil contribute heavily to soil degradation.

2. Discuss your opinion in couples and formulate discussion questions/remarks for the entire group. (5 minutes)
3. Discuss the topic in group. Collect the remarks, conclusions and questions on a flipchart. Use them to make the analysis and synthesis (10 minutes)