



UNIVERSITY EDUCATORS
FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT



University Educators for Sustainable Development

An Erasmus Partnership of 53 members in 33 countries

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Contact us

University of Gloucestershire (UK)

UE4SD Project Leader and North Region Hub Co-ordinators

[Prof Daniella Tilbury](#)

(University of Gibraltar)

[Dr Ingrid Mulà](#)

[Dr Alex Ryan](#)

[Ms Barbara Rainbow](#)

Autonomous University of Madrid (Spain)

South Region Hub Co-ordinator

[Prof Javier Benayas](#)

[Mr David Alba](#)

Charles University in Prague Environment Center (Czech Republic)

East Region Hub Co-ordinators

[Dr Jana Dlouhá](#)

[Mr Jiří Dlouhý](#)

Leuphana University of Lüneburg (Germany)

West Region Hub Co-ordinators

[Prof Clemens Mader](#)

[Ms Marlene Mader](#)

[Prof Gerd Michelsen](#)

UE4SD Newsletter No. 5 - July 2016

Education for Sustainable Development (ESD), Higher Education (HE), university educators, professional development, competences

University Educators for Sustainable Development" (UE4SD) is a three year project funded by the European Commission under the Lifelong Learning Programme - Erasmus Academic Networks. The project is working across Europe to locate and capture recent efforts to support the development of ESD capabilities of university educators. The aim is to draw on best practices, new initiatives and usable tools for professional development in ESD for university educators. The project draws together 53 partners across 33 countries, mainly in Europe. The partnership has been divided into four different regional hubs to ensure that regional scenarios and contexts are visible throughout the project.

Welcome to our UE4SD newsletter no.5! The purpose of the newsletter is to serve as a news and information platform for UE4SD partners and external stakeholders. It seeks to provide information about UE4SD activities, meetings, updates from project work packages as well as outcomes and resources that may be of interest to partners. The newsletters also share partners' profiles and provide details of relevant news and contact details.

The UE4SD project secretariat would value feedback. Please could you take a minute to let us know if the newsletter serves its purpose and advise how it could be improved. Please send your feedback at: ue4sd@glos.ac.uk.

Project News

Final UE4SD Conference in Gibraltar celebrated project outcomes and achievements



A successful conference between the 27th-28th June, saw over 90 participants from across Europe come together at the University of Gibraltar to celebrate the achievements of the UE4SD project and discuss next steps.

Keynote speakers and VIP panellists joined the event from UNESCO, the UN Conference on Trade and Development, UN Framework Convention on Climate Change Secretariat, the International Association of University Presidents, the Global Universities Partnership for Environment and Sustainability and ministers from the Gibraltar government.

The final UE4SD conference and partnership also presented the results of the Academy for ESD in Higher Education, a professional development programme piloted by four Spanish universities during 2015-16. It also showcased the launch of a unique online resource for academic professional development in ESD.

UE4SD online platform launched at the Gibraltar Conference

At the Gibraltar conference, a unique web toolkit created by the UE4SD project – the Online Platform for professional development in ESD – was launched by Dr Alexander Leicht, Chief of the “Education for Sustainable Development and Global Citizenship” section, UNESCO Paris. The Platform is a professional development resource to help those involved in education and learning to develop the future-facing, globally-conscious, transformative capabilities the 21st century requires – and to bring these approaches into their teaching practice, to assist their students in developing these competences.

This online platform has collected the best practices identified from across Europe and new activities developed through the project. This is the first collection of materials devoted to professional training and capacity building of educators in ESD.

The Online Platform contains:

- 26 good practice examples of ESD professional development initiatives
- The framework, designs and usable tools from the UE4SD Academy residential training
- New ideas, guidance and materials on ESD that we found on the UE4SD journey
- Overview of the policy landscape for ESD in Europe plus useful readings and publications
- Video clips of project partners sharing ESD professional development experiences



The Platform is one of the new tools and adaptable examples delivered by the UE4SD project that can inform future innovations in practice and shift thus an understanding of ESD and its relationship to professional development. Colleagues involved in education, staff development and professional training, can use this resource to advance ESD in their work.

The platform is available at: <http://platform.ue4sd.eu>

Release of the 2016 Global Education Monitoring Report

The 2016 Global Education Monitoring (GEM) Report Education for people and planet: Creating sustainable futures for all, will be launched on Tuesday September 6th, 2016. Global launch events will be held in Jakarta, Indonesia; Kigali, Rwanda; London, United Kingdom; and Medellin, Colombia on this day.

The Global Education Monitoring (GEM) Reports will monitor the state of education in the new framework of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The first report in the series, the 2016 Report, will establish a new monitoring framework for education post-2015, and examine key financing and governance challenges for the post-2015 era. The Report will also examine the complex interrelationships and links between education and key development sectors. It will determine which education strategies, policies and programmes are most effectively linked to the economic, social, environmental and political priorities of the new sustainable development agenda.

See more at: <http://en.unesco.org/gem-report/>

The Eighth Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference

The eighth conference of European ministers of environment finished on June 10, in Batumi in Georgia. This conference was part of the process Environment for Europe, which was founded in June 1991 by Czechoslovak minister of environment Josef Vavroušek. More than 900 participants from 56 countries of UN ECE region took part in the conference.

Main themes of the conference were air protection and concept of Green economy. Participants of the conference did voluntary commitments in both areas.

One session of the conference called Towards a new society: 10 years of education for sustainable development was dedicated to education. The original idea was to make common session of ministers of environment and ministers of education of UN ECE countries, but finally only few countries were represented on the highest level. Ministers and Heads of Delegations adopted the Framework for the future implementation of the UNECE Strategy for ESD and the Batumi Ministerial Statement on Education for Sustainable Development by acclamation giving a way forward for further implementation of the Strategy in the ECE region. Also, Georgia informed of its intention to discuss with the international community the possibility of developing a new binding agreement on ESD.

The UE4SD project was presented by Dr Jiří Dlouhý during the education session. You [can find his speech here](#).

All documents from conference are available [on UN ECE website](#) and on the [website of Georgian organizers](#). Next ministerial conference should be organized in 2021 in Czech Republic.

Partner Updates

E-learning course on Mediterranean Food & Diet launched by the University of Athens

The course is designed for people who wish to learn about the Mediterranean food products and diet in depth, their historical evolution and related cultural goods, as well as the central role of food in sustainable development.

The e-course aims to introduce participants to and raise their awareness about the typical Mediterranean food products and diet, as well as the intangible cultural heritage and goods that are related to food: customs, traditions, social status, culinary practices and tools, ceremonies, and values.

Language: English

Duration: 9-week course

Content developed by: Prof Michael Scoullos, UNESCO Chair on Sustainable Development Management and Education in the Mediterranean/University of Athens, MEDIES Coordinator

Find here a brief presentation of the e-course by Prof Scoullos: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mHd-9bQncYnc>,

For more information please contact the E-learning Programme of the University of Athens at:

info@elearninguoa.org, tel: +30 2103689359, +30 2103689319,

<http://en.uoa.gr/>

Masterclasses on SDGs organised by the UNESCO Chairs in Netherlands

The Dutch National UNESCO Committee, in collaboration with the Open Universiteit of the Netherlands (OUNL), are organising a Masterclass series related to the UNESCO's contributions to the SDGs at the national level. The 5 Dutch UNESCO Chairs, including Prof Paquita Perez from OUNL, will each deliver a Masterclass, preceded by an introduction by the chair of the National UNESCO Committee. Participation is free of charge. For more information and to register, please visit the following website: <http://portal.ou.nl/en/web/masterclass-ow-20-5-2016/aankondiging>

Masterclass programme:

Date	Speaker	UNESCO Chair
27 May, 2016, 13h	Andrée van Es en Marike Bontenbal (UNESCO Nederland)	UNESCO in Nederland en de Sustainable Development Goals
1 July 2016, 13h	Paquita Perez Salgado (Open Universiteit)	UNESCO Chair in Knowledge Transfer for Sustainable Development supported by ICTs
30 September 2016, 13h	Roel in 't Veld (Tilburg University)	UNESCO Chair in Sustainability and governance
21 October 2016, 13h	Fons Coomans (Universiteit Maastricht)	UNESCO Chair in Human Rights and Peace
25 November 2016, 13h	Arjen Wals (Wageningen UR)	UNESCO Chair in Social Learning and Sustainable Development
December 2016	Mark Hawkins (University of the Netherlands Antilles)	UNESCO Chair in Caribbean Small Island Development States

ITLE – A unique transboundary Spring School in the Drin River Basin

A first of its kind transboundary Spring School took place from 7 to 15 May 2016 engaging 28 Natural Science University students and lecturers from the Drin Riparian countries, namely: Albania, FYR of Macedonia, Montenegro and Greece. The 9-day Spring School introduced participants to the fundamental importance of the Drin River Basin for the region's ecosystems, livelihoods and overall well-being.

Through an interactive and collaborative experience the significance of biodiversity in fostering collective awareness and strengthened social, economic and spiritual well-being was highlighted. Students developed knowledge, improved their critical thinking and renewed their motivation to become actively involved in their local communities and national policy processes for the preservation of the Drin River Basin natural heritage.

The Spring School was organised within the Project Act4Drin that is coordinated by MIO-ECSDE (a funded CEPF project). More information about the Spring School can be found here <http://mio-ecsde.org/unique-transboundary-spring-school-carried-out-in-the-drin-river-basin/> or contact the MIO-ECSDE Project Officer, Dr Thomais Vlachogianni (vlachogianni@mio-ecsde.org).

Currently, MIO-ECSDE in cooperation with a wide consortium of partners including Universities, Research Institutions, National and Local Authorities, and supported by the UNESCO Regional Office in Venice and GWP, is preparing a Summer University in Samothraki Island (Greece) to take place between 9 and 22 July 2016, aiming to deepen the understanding of the value of Biosphere Reserves, as "laboratories" and "catalysts" of Sustainable Development and ESD.

University of Warsaw conference and poster exhibition “Sustainable Development at Universities”

The University Centre for Environmental Studies and Sustainable Development (UCBS) at the University of Warsaw organized a one-day conference and accompanying exhibition of posters entitled “Sustainable Development at Universities” in order to communicate the concept of sustainability in higher education to students and members of the university administration, academics from University of Warsaw and other Universities from Poland, representatives from the Ministry of Environment, Polish Committee of UNESCO, City Council of Warsaw and many other key institutions for implementation of sustainability rules at different levels. The conference provided an opportunity to present the UE4SD project and work of the COPERNICUS Alliance. Special guest Dr Jordi Serra (Delegate for Sustainability at the University of Barcelona) presented good practices of sustainability from the University of Barcelona.

The poster exhibition illustrated how different aspects of sustainable development are being implemented at Warsaw University and other universities in Poland and abroad: in the education, research, and primarily in the sustainable management of the university and the “greening” of campuses. All the posters and main presentations from the conferences are available on the UCBS website: <http://ucbs.uw.edu.pl/en/>



Events

COPERNICUS Alliance Conference 2016

14-16 September 2016, Vienna, Austria

The 2016 COPERNICUS Alliance Conference will focus on sustainability transformation of institutional, national and international science systems. It will reflect on policies and practices that support or hinder researchers and educators of higher education institutions to practice inter- and transdisciplinary approaches of science for sustainable development.

The conference will include interactive sessions and panels that allow participants to elaborate on their good practices, theoretical and empirical concepts. The call for contributions will close on 25th July. Please send all submissions and questions to: vienna2016@copernicus-alliance.org. Please stay updated by checking the website: <http://www.copernicus-alliance.org/vienna2016>.

World Symposium on Lifelong Learning and Sustainable Development

2-4 March 2017, Malta

The World Symposium on Lifelong Learning for Sustainable Development is being organized on the perceived need to explore and present concrete case studies which illustrate how lifelong learning for sustainable development can be realised.

The Symposium is being jointly organised by the University of Malta, Manchester Metropolitan University (UK), the Hamburg University of Applied Sciences (Germany), and the Inter-University Sustainable Development Research Programme (IUSDRP), in cooperation with various UN bodies, government offices and authorities, universities, enterprises, NGOs and grassroots organisations from across the world.

Education and sustainability researchers from across the world are warmly invited to attend and present their work at the Symposium: their active inputs will help to reiterate the potential of lifelong learning for sustainable development, and its contribution to the sustainable development agenda.

14th JTEFS/BBCC international conference hosted in Konya, Turkey

The head of the UNESCO/UNITWIN Chair, Prof Ilga Salite, and the associate professor from the Center of Sustainable Education, Dr Dzintra Iliško, organised and participated in the 14th international Journal of Teacher Education for Sustainability and Baltic and Black Sea Circle Consortium in educational research (BBCC) conference: "Sustainable Development. Culture. Education: Innovations and Challenges of Teacher Education for Sustainable Development", on 12-14 May in Konya, Turkey.

The Conference was attended by over 300 participants who contributed to the BBCC network's international scholarly efforts targeted at exploring current educational practices and their orientation to sustainability. Colleagues shared and discussed theoretical and practical knowledge about sustainable teacher education in the scientific environment.

For more information please visit the conference website: <http://symposium.konya.edu.tr/itefsd2016>