



UNIVERSITY EDUCATORS
FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT



University Educators for Sustainable Development

An Erasmus Partnership of 53 members in 33 countries

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UE4SD Newsletter No. 4 - Spring 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.4! 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

Join us at the final UE4SD Annual Meeting and Conference on 27-28 June in Gibraltar!

The 2016 UE4SD Annual Meeting and Conference, themed Universities as Beacons of Change for Sustainability, will take place on 27-28 June in Gibraltar.

Hosted by the University of Gibraltar, in its beautifully restored campus on Gibraltar, the Conference will convene over 150 participants to discuss:

- How can universities become beacons of change and good practice in ESD?
- What type of teaching approaches and professional skills are needed to enable university educators to develop ESD in their own organisations?
- How can we support university educators to develop professional competences in ESD?
- What are the connections between ESD, professional development and quality enhancement in higher education?

The UE4SD Annual Meeting (only for UE4SD partners) and Conference will serve as a platform to share our successes and achievements during the past three years and discuss the challenges of embedding ESD in higher education. This conference edition will include renowned international keynote speakers such as:

- Dr Alexander Leicht, Chief of Section, Education for Sustainable Development, UNESCO Paris, France
- Prof Heila Lotz-Sisitka, Murray & Roberts Chair of Environmental Education and Sustainability at Rhodes University, South Africa
- Prof Nick Foskett, Chair of Academic Board, University of Gibraltar and Former Vice-Chancellor of Keele University, UK
- Ms Adriana Valenzuela, Focal Point - Education, Training and Public Awareness, United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), Germany
- Prof Rodrigo Lozano, Subject Editor for the Journal of Cleaner Production and Assistant Professor at the University of Utrecht, the Netherlands
- Dr Fernando Galván Reula, President of CRUE-Sostenibilidad and Vice-Chancellor of the University of Alcalá, Spain
- Prof Daniella Tilbury, Director of UE4SD and Vice-Chancellor of the University of Gibraltar, Gibraltar

The deadline for submitting abstracts is on 15 April and registration for UE4SD partners closes on 30 April 2016. For more information, please visit our Conference website: <http://ue4sd.eu/gibraltar>

This promises to be an exciting event at the crossroads of several continents and culture – we hope to see you there! Please share with your colleagues and networks.



UE4SD online platform will be launched at the Gibraltar Conference

One of the key UE4SD outputs – and an important legacy of the project – is the UE4SD online platform of ESD professional development resources. The platform has been created to share the UE4SD experiences, tools and examples of best practice and to bring ESD into education practice and professional development for educators.

We are grateful to all partners who have reviewed the platform's design and content, and send materials and tools to populate the website. The University of Gloucestershire (WP leaders) are currently digesting all this information and will be addressing your comments in the next few months, so that the platform can be launched at the UE4SD final conference in Gibraltar in June 2016.

UE4SD Academy residential to be hosted in Granada (Spain), 12-15 April 2015

We are delighted to inform you that the UE4SD Academy residential will take place in Granada (Spain) on 12-15 April 2015.

The residential will be attended by four members of each of the four pilot universities in Spain, including champions of the institutional initiatives, vice-rectors, directors of professional development and academics. The programme includes presentations, workshops, hands-on and creative activities to engage university teams in critically reflecting on institutional change processes associated with sustainability. At the end of the residential, we expect teams to identify tangible objectives and future steps to embed change within their institutions.

On 15 April, 10.30-12.00, all UE4SD partners will be invited to join us online at a webinar where we will share the process of the Academy and residential. Institutional teams will talk about their initiatives and future steps and partners will be able to provide feedback and ask questions. An invitation will be sent to the consortium at the end of March. We hope that you can all join us!

Would you like to be a blind reviewer for our special issue at the International Journal of Sustainability in Higher Education?

We are pleased to announce that we have received a good number of papers for our special issue on Professional Development in Higher Education for Sustainable Development which will be published at the International Journal of Sustainability in Higher Education.

If you are interested in being a blind reviewer and help authors improve their papers, please send an email to Marlene Mader at: marlene.mader@leuphana.de.

Eleventh meeting of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Steering Committee on Education for Sustainable Development

The UNECE Steering Group on ESD Meeting was held in Geneva on 15-16 February and was attended by representatives of member states and other organisations in the region (including UE4SD). This meeting was particularly important to discuss the new draft implementation framework of the UNECE Strategy of ESD and draft ministerial statement that will be officially presented at the Eighth Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference (Batumi, Georgia, 8-10 June 2016). Colleagues from Czech Republic presented the UE4SD project and outputs with the aim of informing this important new policy development in the region.

Discussions took place about the lack of resources to implement the UNECE Strategy as regional activities are exclusively funded through contributions of members states to the "trust fund". ESD stakeholders such

as the UE4SD network were considered of critical importance to ensure that ESD is fully integrated nationally and regionally.

Finally, an important item of the agenda included the discussion of the draft publication “*Ten years of the UNECE Strategy for Education for Sustainable Development*” which presents case studies and good practices from the region, including our UE4SD example.

For more information about this meeting, please visit: <http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=41587#/>

Partner Updates

Rounder Sense of Purpose European Project

The first meeting of Erasmus+ project *RSP: Rounder Sense of Purpose* was held at the University of Gloucestershire, Cheltenham, UK, in December 2015.

During the next three years partners from Frederick University (Cyprus), HRTA (Hungary), Italian association for Sustainability Science, Duurzame PABO/HZ University of Applied Sciences (Netherlands), Tallinn University (Estonia) and University of Gloucestershire (UK) will work together to develop an accreditation model that teacher educators can use in any European context so that pre-service and experienced educators can demonstrate their competence in ESD through a widely-recognised model of accreditation.

By working closely with practitioners in a range of different contexts, the project aims to facilitate the engagement of 40 teacher educators and 200 pre-service teachers in the practical application of ESD competences. The accreditation model will provide other institutions with a straightforward means of assessing and certificating student achievement in ESD – a useful addition to any educator preparation programme. The ‘tools and guidelines’ publication will ensure that those who wish to use the accreditation model will be supported in their efforts to integrate sustainable development into their mainstream programmes. The accreditation model and the supporting ‘tools and guidelines’ will be tested for their adaptability and transferability across European contexts. The aim is to help overcome the ‘bottleneck’ in educator competence in education for sustainable development (as reported at the UNECE ESD Conference, Belgrade, October 2007).

European Week of Sustainable Development (EWSD) at the University of Warsaw

In June 2016, the University of Warsaw will celebrate the European Week of Sustainable Development (EWSD) and the Centre for Environmental Studies and Sustainable Development will organise an exhibition which will showcase “Good practices on ESD in European Universities”.

The exhibition will take place at the beautiful Palace where the Vice-chancellery office is located and will include a series of posters of European good practices. The aim is to present to the University community and visitors the UE4SD project and work from Copernicus Alliance.

If you would like to present your initiatives at the University of Warsaw, please send a short description and plenty of images to Anna Batorczak at: a.batorczak@uw.edu.pl.

Further information about this exhibition will be published at the University’s website: <http://ucbs.uw.edu.pl>

New MOOC on Responsible Consumption

West Paris University and Aunege launch a MOOC on “Responsible consumption”, translated into English. 40 experts around the world illustrate the link between our way of consumption and environmental and social impacts.

See a teaser and register here: <https://www.fun-mooc.fr/courses/Paris10/10004/session01/about>

Universities and stakeholders from South-East Europe gather to discuss how better to support the UNESCO Designated Sites

An intensive workshop for a selected number of university professors, experts and managers of UNESCO Designated Sites was hosted on 18-19 January 2016 by the University of Athens (Greece). During the workshop, the 38 participants from 9 SE Europe countries discussed the role of universities as incubators of sustainability and in supporting Designated Sites to promote Sustainable Development and ESD.



The meeting clearly stressed out that sustainable development is a core issue that universities need to urgently incorporate in all functions to promote more responsible behaviours and ethical choices, targeting firstly the teaching and research processes, but to be seeded also in all their operations. Teaching staff, researchers, students, suppliers, administration, managers and the public need to be engaged in actions for putting sustainability into practice, within the Universities themselves as well as the surrounding communities and territories.

For more information, please see: <http://www.medies.net/articles.asp?cID=8&aID=1040>

A strategy for sustainability at the University of Aveiro

In 2014, the Rector of the University of Aveiro (Portugal) created a Mission Group for Sustainable Development to promote sustainable development actions and disseminate research and good-practices in this area within and outside the University. This group is composed of 11 staff members from different departments, ranging from science and engineering to education and design.

Following the University's Strategy (2014-2020) based on education, campus management, community engagement and research, this sustainability group invited this year's incoming students to explore the sustainability of the campus and the city of Aveiro. In total, 1,100 students participated in this initiative showing the growing interest of sustainability issues.



Plans for 2016 include engaging more actively University departments, community stakeholders and senior managers in specific actions to consolidate the importance of building a more sustainable institution.

For more information, please visit the University's website: <http://www.ua.pt/#>

Retrieved from: http://blogs.ua.pt/ctspc/wp-content/uploads/2013/02/UA_aerea-1024x682.jpeg

University of Siena third edition of the course on sustainability ready to start!

The University of Siena (Italy) will start its third education of the course on sustainability at the Santa Chiara Lab on 11 March 2016.

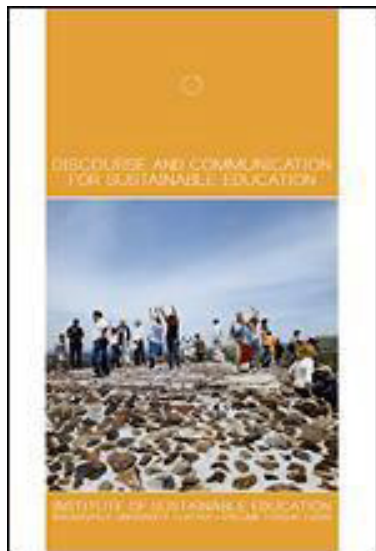
The course will consist of 24 lessons (from March to June) and will engage participants in analysing key issues on the environment, the economy and the social and juridical dimensions related to sustainability. The

course will include thematic lessons on emerging pollutants, “planetary boundaries” and water.

Registration is now open to students, academics, technicians and administrative staff from the University and other organisations. Students can get recognition of 6 ECTS credits.

For more information, please visit: <http://www.unisi.it/unisilife/notizie/sostenibilita-terza-edizione-corso>.

Open call for submitting articles for two renowned sustainability journals



UE4SD partners are invited to submit articles to these two renowned sustainability journals edited by the Institute of Sustainable Education at Daugavpils University (Latvia):

The **Journal of Teacher Education for Sustainability** is a forum for the meeting of different views, ideas and research to promote the further development of studies and practice of teacher education in all areas of formal and non-formal education in relation to sustainability. Contributors are encouraged to submit articles with relevance to content and forms of teacher professional and academic education, problems and tasks of teacher in-service education and other issues to help teachers to become responsible mentors for the sustainable development. The **Discourse and Communication for Sustainable Education** provides a forum for the examination of policies, theories and practices related to discourse and communication for sustainable education. The DCSE publishes research articles and reviews and its diversity is apparent in the variety of its theories, methods and approaches, thus avoiding the frequent limitation to one school, approach, academic branch. It welcomes

papers which explore inspirational ideas in sustainable education, are written in innovative ways or are presented in experimental ways.

For more information, please visit: <http://www.ise-lv.eu/publications.php?show=39>

Join the next 14th International JTEFS/BBCC Conference on Sustainable Development, Culture and Education

We are delighted to announce the 14th international conference “Sustainable Development. Culture. Education: *Innovations and Challenges of Teacher Education for Sustainable Development*” organised by JTEFS/BBCC, INTEI International Network of Teacher Education Institutions and the UNESCO Chair on Reorientation of Teacher Education towards Sustainability.

Hosted by the Necmettin Erbakan University Ahmet Keleşoğlu Faculty of Education of Konya Turkey in co-operation with Konya Governorship, Daugavpils University and the UNESCO chair, the conference will bring together educational scientists, administrators, councilors, education experts, teachers, graduate students and civil society organisations and representatives from different countries all over the world to share and to discuss theoretical and practical knowledge on sustainable teacher education.

Selected papers evaluated by the Conference Scientific Committee will be published in a series of journals including: the *International Journal of Sustainability in Higher Education (IJSHE)*, the *Journal of Teacher Education for Sustainability (JTEFS)*, *International Journal of Human Science (IJHS)*, *The Journal of Research and Reflections in Education, Discourse and Communication for Sustainable Education (DCSE)*, *Turkish Journal of Education (TJTED)* and *The Journal of Teacher Education and Educators (JTEE)*.

For more information and to register, please follow this link: <http://symposium.konya.edu.tr/itefsd2016> and/or contact Dzintra Iliško, Daugavpils University (Latvia) at Dzintra.ilisko@du.lv.

The Sustainability Applied in International Learning (SAIL) professional development training on board of the STS Fryderyk Chopin tall ship

The 2016 SAIL professional development training will take place on board of the STS Fryderyk Chopin tall ship on 30 June – 7 July 2016, from Stavanger, Norway, to Antwerp, Belgium.

SAIL is a SD/ESD professional development course for university educators developed by the Baltic University Programme (BUP)-centre and Uppsala University in Finland, which seeks to develop participants' SD/ESD competences. A group of university educators from all BUP countries and with different backgrounds are selected for the programme and as members of the ship crew. During one week, in a very unconventional learning environment, they sail together and participate in hands-on participative workshops and discussion forums.

The programme is both physically and socially challenging and an intensive way of learning intercultural communication, marine sciences and sustainability.

An excellent idea of sharing experiences with lecturers of different backgrounds, countries and ages. The sea totally changed our perspectives and made this course unforgettable. It was a unique, unusual, fantastic time and an opportunity for personal development. It never happens during traditional conferences or meetings on land. (From the evaluation from the first SAIL-course in 2013)

For more information, please visit: www.bup.fi and/or contact Sinikka Suomalainen at Åbo Akademi University: sinikka.suomalainen@abo.fi



International cooperation on the Yards, SAIL 2015.

Plans for a new ESD professional development module at the Polytechnic Institute of Leiria

A team of the Polytechnic Institute of Leiria is currently looking for UE4SD project partners who have experience in the design and implementation of professional development courses on Education for Sustainable Development in order to inform and help developing a module for teaching staff at the Institute. The team championing this initiative contributed to integrating ESD objectives in the IPLeiria Strategic Plan 2015-20.

Please visit the Institute's webpages here: <http://www.ipleiria.pt/home/>