

Interactive Erasmus+ KA 1 Course

Dates: October 7-14 & December 9-16, 2020

Location: Leipzig, Germany

Transforming our World Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

COURSE OBJECTIVES

The objective of this course is to give an overview on the United Nations' Agenda 2030 and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Parting from a clear understanding of the SDGs scientific basis, current developments and political milestones, the course will highlight entry points for discussions and engagement in the sustainability discourse with students.

The course intends to enable the participants to link their respective fields of expertise/subjects to the SDGs and to inspire students to get involved in the broad field of sustainability transformations.

TARGET GROUP

This course is aimed at

- teachers and school staff (secondary, vocational, adult and special needs education)
- staff of government and non-government organizations involved in education
- Graduate students who are interested in becoming teachers

Participants are required to have at least level B2 proficiency in the English language.

COURSE CONTENTS

Never before has the global community of states agreed on a more ambitious sustainability agenda than in 2015, when the Agenda 2030 was agreed upon in the UN General Assembly. The Sustainable Development Goals, centerpiece of the Agenda 2030, define 17 areas of action, ranging from social aspects to economic and environmental ones. Targets and indicators for each of the goals allow for operationalization progress assessment in each country.

We will reconstruct the political path towards the agreement upon the Agenda 2030, touching previous sustainability milestones such as the Earth Summit 1992 in Rio de Janeiro, the Millennium Summit in 2000 in New York and closely linked agreements such as Kyoto and Paris Agreement on climate action and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets. We will then take a closer look at the SDGs themselves: What exactly do they say? Why are they considered revolutionary? Which SDGs are linked with each other and are these links co-beneficial or rather contradictory? Based on this in-depth understanding of the SDGs, the course will focus on suitable topics and methods to integrate the SDGs into school subjects such as biology, geography, economics, politics, and social studies.

COURSE METHODOLOGY

The course combines up-to date, understandable inputs based on current sustainability research with interactive group discussions, group methods, digital learning and excursions.

Participants will have the chance to exchange experiences in transnational groups and develop their own educational materials based on informative inputs. In addition, participants will gain access to a variety of well-organized digital and non-digital resources for practical application in their education work. Through the interactive and methodologically innovative course format, the participants will not only learn interesting facts and context knowledge but also gain inspiration for teaching methods. In addition, participants will have the opportunity to network in an international peer group.

The course will be held in a hospitable environment with amenities such as access to WIFI and will include field trips and a cultural program. Participants will have the chance to visit an international research center and exchange with local sustainability initiatives. After class, the various historical sights and the cultural life of Leipzig, which has been dubbed the 'new Berlin', can be explored.

OUTCOMES

Our course will enable participants to

- Confidently discuss the political development of the Agenda 2030
- Have a broad understanding of each individual SDG and their interlinkages
- Can assess the progress towards reaching the SDGs
- Create an inclusive learning environment for students using creative and well-suited methods
- Use appropriate digital and web-based tools with ease
- Spark enthusiasm for joint global sustainability efforts and inspire students to become innovative actors of change in their personal environment
- Be part of an international network of sustainability education professionals

FOLLOW-UP

Upon completion of the course, participants will be part of a network providing opportunities to develop future partnerships and projects. They will be encouraged to share materials showing how they are using what they have learned in their everyday work in terms of ideas, photos, videos, lesson plans, assessment and self-assessment forms, etc. This will create an open educational resource available to everyone else from the group. All course material will be shared with the participants in an accessible way and individual consultations will be offered during and after the course.

COURSE PLAN*

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
09.00 – 09.25		Warm-Up & Recap	Warm-Up & Recap	Warm-Up & Recap	Warm-Up & Recap
09.25 – 09.30	Break	Break	Break	Break	Break
09.30 – 10.15	Introduction: Getting to know each other	The Agenda 2030 and the Paris Agreement	The social SDGs (1-5) The economic SDGs (6-12)	The SDGs in daily life	Education laboratory: Developing tangible materials for school
10.15 – 10.30	Break	Break	Break	Break	Break
10.30 – 11.15	Introduction: Transformation to Sustainability	Overview: The 17 SDGs	The environmental SDGs (13-16)	SDGs and education: The sustainable school	Project laboratory: Brainstorming about future cooperation
11.15 – 11.30	Break	Break	Break	Break	Break
11.30 – 12.00	Contents and Goals of the Course	Education laboratory: Developing tangible materials for school	Interdependencies between the SDGs Status quo: Five years into the Agenda 2030	Field trip: Local sustainability initiatives	Reflection and Way Forward: What do we take with us?
12.00 – 13.00	Lunch Break	Lunch Break	Lunch Break	Lunch Break	Lunch Break
13.00 – 14.30	The road to the Agenda 2030	Field trip: Environmental research center (UFZ)	Education laboratory: Developing tangible materials for school	Field trip: Local sustainability initiatives	
14.30 – 15.00	Check-out and time for questions				

* course plan is exemplary and may be subject to change