An Roinn Oideachais
Department of Education

Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) for 2030 - Ireland

HEA – Higher Education ESD Focus Group

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10th December 2020

National Strategy on ESD 2014 - 2020

"Aims to ensure that education contributes to sustainable development by equipping learners with the relevant knowledge, key dispositions and skills and the values that will motivate and empower them throughout their lives to become active informed citizens who take action for a sustainable future".

Policy areas include:
- **Environmental** (Climate change, disaster risk reduction, biodiversity, environmental protection, natural resource management, urban decay, water security).
- **Socio-economic** (economic growth, poverty, food prices, child labour, social exclusion, justice, debt-security, human rights, health, gender equality, cultural diversity, production and consumption patterns, corporate responsibility, population growth, migration).
- **Political** (Citizenship, peace, ethics, human rights, democracy and governance).

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National Strategy on ESD 2014 - 2020

8 Priority Action Areas

- Leadership and co-ordination

- Data Collection and baseline measurement

- Curriculum at pre-school, primary and post-primary

- Professional Development

- Further Education and Training

- **Higher Education and Research**

- Promoting participation by young people

- Sustainability in action

Implementation is overseen by an ESD Advisory Group

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National Strategy on ESD – Interim Review 2018

Highlighted achievements – what's done

Higher Ed – 6 Actions

- ➢ Identified sustainable development related programmes at 3rd level
- ➢ Details of Research projects published
- ➢ Gender Equality prioritised
- ➢ New funding model for HEIs includes the promotion of ESD related initiatives
- ➢ IRC/ EPA scholarships under the pillar of sustainability
- ➢ Range of fellowship schemes promoting sustainability

Set out Action Plan to 2020 – what's left to be done

- ➢ Funding linked to sustainability – under the System Performance Framework
- ➢ Increase participation in Green Campus initiative (currently 38 campuses registered)
- ➢ Athena SWAN – Bronze Awards
- ➢ Capacity building and research opportunities for academics in higher education to be made available.

UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

-SDG 4 – Quality Education

-"Education is both a goal in itself and a means for attaining all the other SDGs. It is not only an integral part of sustainable development, but also a key enabler for it. That is why education represents an essential strategy in the pursuit of the SDGs". (UNESCO)

-SDG 4 – Target 4.7 Education for Sustainable Development
"by 2030 ensure all learners acquire knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development, including among others through education for sustainable development and sustainable lifestyles, human rights, gender equality, promotion of a culture of peace and non-violence, global citizenship, and appreciation of cultural diversity and of culture's "contribution to sustainable development

-National SDG Implementation Plan 2020 (Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications)

ESD for 2030 – National Policy Context

- **Programme for Government 2020**
- ➢ **Supporting the Work of the United Nations** - Continue to work towards the UN's 17 Sustainable Development Goals, aimed at ending poverty, reducing inequality, and tackling climate change
- ➢ Recognise the high-quality research emerging through national funding agencies and programmes, such as SFI, IRC, HRB and PRTLI, and continue to support them in engaging in research that addresses societal challenges and **advances the UN's Sustainable Development Goals.**

- **SDG National Implementation Plan 2018 - 2020**
- Lead - Department of Environment, Climate Action and Communications
- Policy map for SDG 4 – Quality Education
- Interdepartmental Working Group

- **Climate Action Plan**
- Lead – Department of Environment, Climate Action and Communications
- Interdepartmental Working Group

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ESD to 2030

-Public Consultation to commence in Early 2021

To align with Agenda 2030 – achieve target 4.7

-UNESCO Framework on ESD for 2030

Proposed Pillars:
➢ Advancing and Aligning Policy
➢ Transforming learning and training environments and building capacity for Educators and Trainers
➢ Empowering and mobilising Youth
➢ Accelerating sustainable solutions at local level
➢ Culture?
➢ Others?

ESD for 2030

Culture Pillar?

Culture, including language and communication aspects, are crucial to sustainable development as the effectiveness of how people interact dictates how societies and economies improve or 'progress' and **how people can work together to protect and conserve our planet**. For this reason, Target 4.7 addresses the appreciation of cultural diversity and of culture's contribution to sustainable development as being core to the knowledge and skills necessary to promote sustainable development.

Through engagement in ESD, learners develop the knowledge and skills that allow them to appreciate and respect how **diverse values, beliefs, languages, art, music, skills and traditions contribute to the communities and culture in which they live** as their own sense of identity develops and evolves. Learners recognise that cultural diversity is vital in ensuring the sustainability of their communities. **Cultural identity** and a sense of belonging are essential for the sustainability of individual and collective wellbeing, reflecting the **interdependence between culture, sustainable development and citizenship**.

ESD to 2030 – how can you help?

- Participate today – give your ideas and suggestions
  - What more can we do to ensure we achieve ESD for 2030
  - How can we promote and mobilise the transformative action needed

- Participate in the public consultation process
  - Mid-January
  - Background Consultation Paper – Survey – Submissions
  - Focus Groups – ESD Forum
  - Keep an eye on our website for details

- Subscribe to our ESD Newsletter or suggest input– communications@education.gov.ie

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Thank You

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Website: https://www.education.ie/en/The-Education-System/education-for-sustainable-development/