



UNIVERSITY EDUCATORS
FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

University Educators for Sustainable Development

The UE4SD Consortium of 55 partners from 33 countries across Europe is seeking to re-orient the higher education curriculum to address sustainable development. The 3 year-project, will focus on support for teaching colleagues, to enable them to prepare students, regardless of their courses or specialisation, to understand and apply their professional and global responsibilities in sustainability. The project includes plans for university staff to develop professional competences and the academic leadership capabilities linked to Education for Sustainable Development.

UE4SD seeks to establish a **leading expert group in Education for Sustainable Development** in higher education in Europe and will create a platform to combine and share the expertise of network partners so that they can inform policy and practice well beyond the life of the project. Its activities are closely associated with COPERNICUS Alliance – the European Network of Higher Education for Sustainable Development.

Why Education for Sustainable Development?

Sustainable development has been identified as one of the greatest challenges that our societies are facing in the 21st century. Unsustainable practices are increasing social, economic and environmental inequalities; worsening the impact of environmental degradation; and limiting quality of life. It has been recognised that our education systems are critical to achieve sustainable development goals as they equip learners with the knowledge, skills and attitudes needed to re-orient social structures and systems.

The UE4SD project has been created to specifically support teaching and learning for sustainability at the higher education level. The HE sector is critically positioned to address sustainable development as it prepares the future generation of professionals, challenges dominant paradigms and produces groundbreaking research. However, there is evidence suggesting that re-orienting the higher education curriculum towards sustainable development still needs guidance and support, if universities are to contribute to a more sustainable future.

The Project

UE4SD is funded by the European Commission under the Life Long Learning Programme – Erasmus Academic Networks. It commenced in October 2013 and will be involving 55 partners in 33 countries (see map) during its three year duration. As a lead partner, the University of Gloucestershire (UK – North Hub), works very closely with three core partners: Autonomous University of Madrid (Spain – South Hub); Charles University (Czech Republic – East Hub); Leuphana University of Lüneburg (Germany, West Hub).

What are the project contributions?



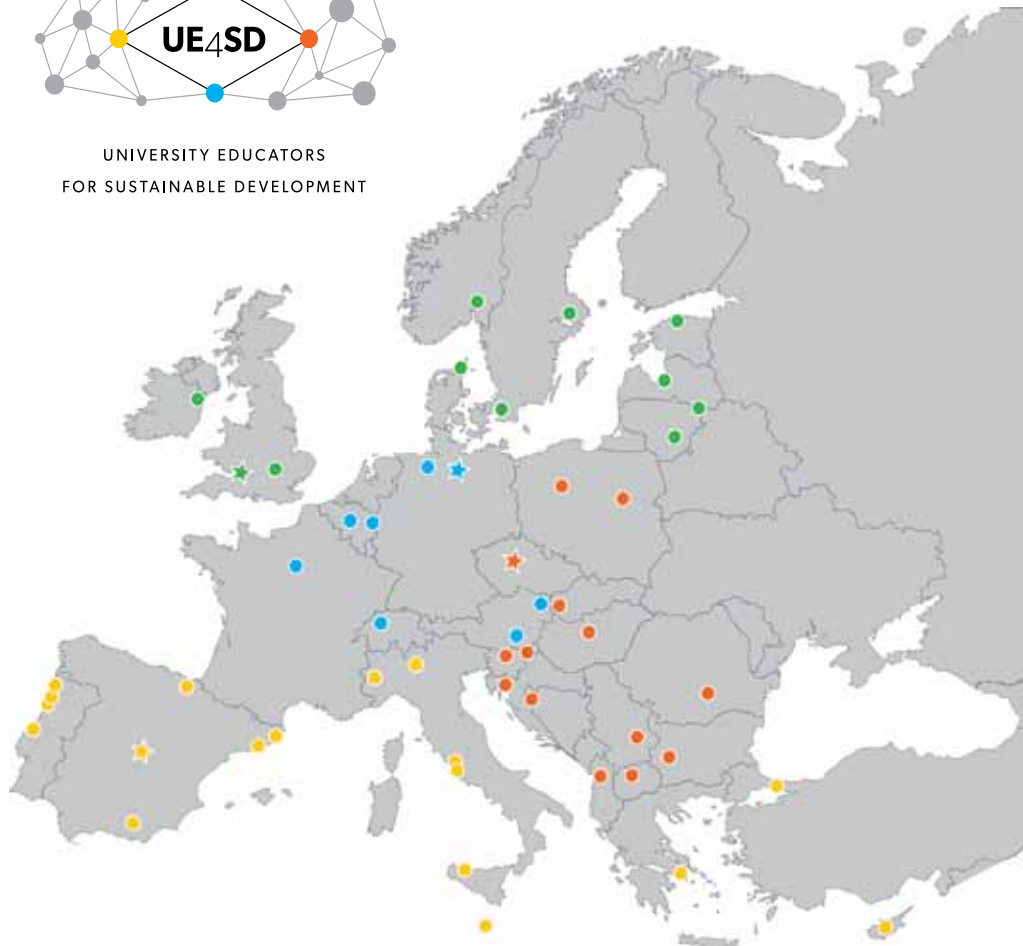
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The project will contribute to re-orienting higher education towards sustainable development through **three key deliverables:**

1 **Reviewing the state of the art and identifying leading practice (2014):** Conducting a grounded study to map and analyse existing opportunities at a country and regional level for university educators to develop Education for Sustainable Development competences. Four sub-regional and one state of the art report across all partner countries will be generated.

2 **Developing resources (2015–16):** The leading practice identified from the grounded study will form the basis of a publication. An online platform of resources will also be developed to support university educators and professional development teams.

3 **Developing an academy for ESD in HE (2015–16):** Both resources identified above will support the academy of Education for Sustainable Development in Higher Education which seeks to support the re-orientation of higher education towards sustainability. This stage will provide opportunities for reflection and capacity building for university academic leaders, educators and staff responsible for professional development.



What frameworks inform the project?

The project draws upon the UNECE Education for Sustainable Development Competence Framework developed in 2012. The competences were generated following a three year process involving experts from across the UNECE region. It provides a valuable focus to UE4SD network activities which seek to support the development of university educators for sustainable development. More on the UNECE web: <http://www.unece.org>.

The UNESCO Global Action Programme on Education for Sustainable Development identifies whole-of-institutional change as a priority for education systems. This project is informed by the work of UNESCO which specifically calls for the strengthening of capacity building and professional development of educators, trainers and other change agents to become learning facilitators for Education for Sustainable Development. More on the UNESCO web: <http://www.unesco.org>.

What outcomes is the project seeking?

- Establish a leading expert group in Education for Sustainable Development competences in higher education in Europe that can inform policy and practice in this area.
- Promote understanding of the connections between Education for Sustainable Development, quality enhancement and professional development.
- Provide guidance, support and resources to enhance the capacity development of educators.



Lifelong Learning Programme

With the support of the Lifelong Learning Programme of the European Union



Are you interested in the UE4SD project?

For further information, please contact us and visit our website:

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