

SUSDEV

Lifelong learning for Sustainable Development



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SUSDEV Policy Recommendations

SUSDEV project aimed at development of Lifelong Learning training programmes fostering the green skills of different target groups and for three different subject areas closely related to quality of life at large (ecology, food science and land management). Wider project objective was ***Enhancement of the role of Higher Education Institutions in ensuring sustainable development of industry and society, support of national “green policies” in Partner Countries and promotion of “green culture” by means of Lifelong Learning***”.

Three specific objectives were:

1. Development of modules to foster green skills for different target groups and qualifications levels,
2. Enhancement of access of target groups to open education resources, promotion of LLL,
3. Enhancement of green culture and continuing education through training of teaching staff, external stakeholders and public administration.

Project consortium consisted of 25 partners, including 6 universities from the EU, 8 universities from Russian Federation, 6 universities from Kazakhstan, 2 non-academic partners (one from Russia, one from Kazakhstan), Russian and Kazakh Ministries of Education and Science and Association of European Life Sciences Universities.

To underline the structural character of SUSDEV project aimed at promoting reforms in higher education systems, modernising policies, governance and strengthening relations between higher education systems and the wider economic and social environment, the following policy recommendations were worked out on behalf of Partner Countries. They are divided into following parts:

- General Recommendations
- Policy and Strategy Recommendations (institutional level)
- Teaching and Learning Recommendations (institutional and national level)
- Research, Development and Innovation Recommendations (institutional and national level)

The SUSDEV consortium hopes that proposed Policy Recommendation will be endorsed by all relevant stakeholders in Partner Countries and will provide guidelines for more efficient implementation of UN Sustainable Development Goals.

General Recommendations

- ❖ Systemic approach to sustainability issues is needed at all levels
- ❖ National policy on implementation of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) shall be not declarative, but factual and transparent. Evidence-based approach shall be adopted.
- ❖ The State shall ensure synergy of Sustainable Development-related initiatives and provide top-down support for bottom-up initiatives
- ❖ The State shall organize and support periodic national meetings/conferences on Sustainable Development issues
- ❖ Collaboration of all sectors of education (from kindergarten to universities of 3rd age), also with VET, on implementation of SDGs shall be ensured and supported; Green competency requirements shall be incorporated into educational standards
- ❖ Information campaigns raising awareness of SDG among wider public shall be organized and supported by the State, with active participation of all stakeholders, including NGOs
- ❖ On the business side, bonuses and incentives for the economic sector to get involved in SD related activities shall be introduced.
- ❖ The State shall stimulate increased involvement of HEIs in international SD initiatives. SD issues shall be strongly reflected in national priorities for ERASMUS projects
- ❖ Young people have a particularly important role in promoting SDGs. Pupils' and students' initiatives shall be promoted, students associations shall be supported in their SD oriented activities.

Policy and Strategy Recommendations

INSTITUTIONAL LEVEL

- ❖ Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) shall realize in practice the Idea of "Sustainable University"
- ❖ Sustainability issues shall be present in HEI mission and strategy
- ❖ HEIs shall maintain close links with various stakeholders, get involved in sustainability-oriented regional activities and become sources of inspiration for such activities ("greening" University 3rd Mission)
- ❖ HEIs shall provide training courses on SD for external stakeholders, society at large, parents etc. and assist in teaching green courses at all levels of education, from kindergarten to 3rd age universities
- ❖ HEIs shall effectuate systematic monitoring of perceptions of sustainable development issues by various internal and external stakeholders

- ❖ HEIs shall organize active interuniversity cooperation for SDGs, bottom-up networking and peer learning

Teaching and Learning Recommendations

INSTITUTIONAL LEVEL

- ❖ Greening educational offer: sustainability issues shall be present in all types of curricula
- ❖ Green skills anticipation: HEIs shall foresee emerging trends and needs related with SD and adapt the curricula to cope with new challenges
- ❖ Training provisions on SD issues for administrative and academic staff shall be provided on a regular basis as a part of institutional staff development policy

NATIONAL LEVEL

- ❖ Consistency of national educational policy with respect to green skills and sustainability issues shall be ensured; green skills anticipation provisions shall be set up
- ❖ Sustainability issues shall be present in National Qualification Frameworks, Educational Standards, Professional Standards and Sectoral Qualifications and taken into account in accreditation, evaluation and validation procedures
- ❖ Joint SD related educational initiatives shall be supported (bonus for multilateral, multisectorial SD-oriented educational projects)
- ❖ Green Training Centres shall be promoted and their networking and clustering towards larger regional and national structures (such as UNU Regional Centres of Expertise) shall be strongly supported
- ❖ Introduction of national "Green Labels" for various sectors of education shall be envisaged

Research, Development & Innovation Recommendations

INSTITUTIONAL LEVEL

- ❖ Competence profiles of students, doctoral students, young researchers shall include green skills, perception of sustainability issues, understanding of SDGs etc.; adequate training provisions shall be ensured
- ❖ HEIs shall become “local hubs for green research”; “Green Training Centres” may develop into “Green Training & Research Centres”

NATIONAL LEVEL

- ❖ Interdisciplinary research related with SD shall be strongly promoted
- ❖ Research evaluation rules shall include SD-related components

- ❖ The State shall support interuniversity research networks
- ❖ The State shall strongly support university-industry RDI activities concerning realization of SDGs