InterAct

LEARNING PROGRAMME

Eco-Schools and Green School Transformation (Building Sustainable Learning Communities)

10-DAY COURSE

50 learning hours | Course programme

Eco-Schools and Green School Transformation (Building Sustainable Learning Communities) – 10-Day Course

Introduction and Description

This is designed to support school leaders, coordinators, and development teams in leading systemic sustainability-oriented change within their educational organisations. In response to accelerating environmental challenges and evolving European policy priorities, schools are increasingly expected to function not only as sites of knowledge transmission but also as active agents of ecological responsibility, social cohesion, and democratic participation. This course addresses this expectation by focusing on whole-school sustainability as a strategic, organisational, and cultural transformation process.

Moving beyond fragmented environmental projects, the programme adopts a whole-school approach, integrating leadership, curriculum, school operations, governance, and community engagement into a coherent sustainability framework. Participants explore how sustainability can be embedded into school vision, policies, everyday practices, and long-term development strategies, ensuring alignment between pedagogical innovation and institutional change. Particular emphasis is placed on the role of leadership and coordination structures in fostering shared ownership, participatory decision-making, and sustained commitment across the school community.

The course draws on contemporary research in education for sustainable development, organisational change, and systems thinking, enabling participants to analyse their schools as complex learning organisations. Through case studies, reflective inquiry, and collaborative design activities, participants critically examine barriers and enablers of green transformation and identify context-sensitive pathways for implementation. The programme also highlights student participation as a central pillar of sustainable school culture, positioning learners as active contributors and change agents.

Special attention is given to the strategic integration of sustainability within Erasmus+ school development projects, supporting participants in aligning ecological priorities with European funding frameworks, institutional self-evaluation processes, and quality assurance mechanisms. By the end of the course, participants will have developed a realistic and transferable sustainability action plan tailored to their school context, strengthening their capacity to lead long-term green transformation that is pedagogically meaningful, organisationally embedded, and socially inclusive.

Methodology and Assessment

The course employs an experiential, participatory methodology combining expert input, collaborative workshops, case analysis, reflective practice, and guided planning. Learning activities are grounded in participants' real school contexts, encouraging immediate transferability and institutional relevance. Peer learning and structured dialogue support collective sense-making and professional exchange. Assessment is formative and development-oriented, based on continuous reflection, active participation, and the creation of a school-specific sustainability action plan. Feedback is provided through peer review and facilitator guidance, ensuring that learning outcomes are aligned with both individual professional development and institutional transformation goals.

Learning Objectives

1. Whole-School Sustainability and Systems Thinking

Participants will:

- Understand sustainability as a systemic, whole-school process rather than a collection of isolated initiatives.
- Apply systems thinking to analyse interactions between leadership, pedagogy, operations, and school culture.
- Identify leverage points for sustainable change within their own institutions.

2. Leadership and Organisational Change

Participants will:

- Develop competencies in green leadership and sustainability-oriented school management.
- Explore participatory and distributed leadership models that support shared responsibility.
- Strengthen their ability to lead organisational change aligned with sustainability values.

3. Curriculum, Pedagogy, and Learner Engagement

Participants will:

- Integrate sustainability meaningfully across the curriculum using interdisciplinary approaches.
- Align sustainability education with key competences such as citizenship, critical thinking, and collaboration.

- Promote student participation and agency as drivers of school-wide transformation.

4. Sustainable Operations and Community Partnerships

Participants will:

- Analyse school operations as learning opportunities for sustainability education.
- Develop strategies for sustainable resource use, environmental monitoring, and ethical procurement.
- Build partnerships with families, local authorities, and community actors to extend impact beyond the school.

5. Strategic Development and Erasmus+ Alignment

Participants will:

- Embed sustainability objectives into school development plans and Erasmus+ strategies.
- Design sustainability-focused Erasmus+ projects with clear institutional impact.
- Develop evaluation frameworks to ensure continuity and long-term sustainability of initiatives.

Preparation

After registration participants will receive a pre-course questionnaire which will be used by the trainer to learn about participants' teaching backgrounds and to assess their exact needs. Before the beginning of the course a basic reading list will be suggested to participants to prepare for the training. Participants will also be asked to prepare a presentation about themselves, their professional context and their culture. The presentation will be presented on the first day of the course to facilitate networking opportunities. Participants will receive information about the country they are going to visit in order to prepare them for their cultural experience.

Follow up

After the course participants will be asked to share what they have learned with the rest of the staff in their schools. Further books and articles to deepen the topic and contacts with some other practitioners all over Europe and in the world will be suggested by the trainer. The methods shared and explored and the bibliography given will allow the participants to complete and improve their educational path.

Certificate

Certificate complies with the guidelines of the Erasmus+ programme and includes the topic, number of didactic hours, dates and location of the course. We can list the record of learning outcomes on the Europass Mobility Document on request of participants. In case a participant requires a specific format of certificate we can accommodate that if requested at least one week before the start of the course. It is necessary to attend at least 80% of the hours in order to receive the certificate.

Accommodation

We do not directly offer accommodation and subsistence and participants are responsible for organizing it by themselves.

Paperwork

We also provide all the support with paperwork you might need for your Erasmus+ project documentation such as mobility agreement and registration letter.

Fee: 800 €

Cancelation policy

We have a flexible cancellation policy in force at the moment and you can cancel your registration up to 30 days before the course and receive a full refund. In case you don't cancel the registration more than 30 days before you will not receive any refunds, but you will be able to choose to attend any other confirmed course session later (within 6 months) without any additional costs. In case you are not able to travel, your school can send someone else to take instead of you and you can change the details of the participant any time before the start of the course at no additional cost.

TENTATIVE PROGRAMME (50 didactic hours - 5*45min per day) Monday to Friday	
Day 1	Foundations of Whole-School Sustainability

09.00 - 09.45	Introductions & Icebreakers
09.45 - 10.30	Course Overview & Learning Agreement
10.30 - 11.15	Sustainability and education in the 21st century
11.15 - 11.30	Break
11.30 - 12.15	From environmental education to whole-school approaches
12.15 - 13.00	Principles of the Eco-School and Green School concept
Day 2	Systems Thinking and Organisational Change
09.00 - 09.45	Schools as complex adaptive systems
09.45 - 10.30	Introduction to systems thinking for sustainability
10.30 - 11.15	Organisational change in educational settings
11.15 - 11.30	Break
11.30 - 12.15	Barriers and enablers of sustainable school change
12.15 - 13.00	Case analysis and reflective dialogue
Day 3	Leadership for Green Transformation
09.00 - 09.45	Green leadership in schools
09.45 - 10.30	Distributed and participatory leadership models
10.30 - 11.15	The role of school leaders and coordinators
11.15 - 11.30	Break
11.30 - 12.15	Building a shared sustainability vision
12.15 - 13.00	Leadership self-reflection and action planning
Day 4	Curriculum Integration and Pedagogical Alignment
09.00 - 09.45	Sustainability across the curriculum
09.45 - 10.30	Linking sustainability with key competences
10.30 - 11.15	Pedagogies for sustainable learning
11.15 - 11.30	Break
11.30 - 12.15	Curriculum mapping for green transformation
12.15 - 13.00	Collaborative curriculum design workshop
Day 5	Student Participation and School Culture

09.00 - 09.45	Learners as change agents
09.45 - 10.30	Democratic school culture and sustainability
10.30 - 11.15	Eco-committees and student leadership structures
11.15 - 11.30	Break
11.30 - 12.15	Behaviour change and environmental responsibility
12.15 - 13.00	Reflection and mid-course synthesis
Day 6	Sustainable School Operations and Campus Practices
09.00 - 09.45	The school as a living laboratory
09.45 - 10.30	Energy, water, waste, and mobility in schools
10.30 - 11.15	Green procurement and ethical resource use
11.15 - 11.30	Break
11.30 - 12.15	Monitoring and evaluating environmental impact
12.15 - 13.00	Practical planning workshop
Day 7	Community Engagement and Partnerships
09.00 - 09.45	Schools within local sustainability ecosystems
09.45 - 10.30	Engaging families and local stakeholders
10.30 - 11.15	Partnerships for sustainability projects
11.15 - 11.30	Break
11.30 - 12.15	Communication and advocacy for green schools
12.15 - 13.00	Case sharing and peer feedback
Day 8	Erasmus+ and Strategic School Development
09.00 - 09.45	Sustainability within Erasmus+ school strategies
09.45 - 10.30	Designing sustainability-focused Erasmus+ projects
10.30 - 11.15	Project planning and impact orientation
11.15 - 11.30	Break
11.30 - 12.15	Documentation, reporting, and dissemination
12.15 - 13.00	Project clinic and individual support
Day 9	Evaluation, Quality Assurance, and Long-Term Impact

09.00 - 09.45	Evaluating sustainability initiatives in schools
09.45 - 10.30	Indicators of sustainable school transformation
10.30 - 11.15	Continuous improvement and reflective practice
11.15 - 11.30	Break
11.30 - 12.15	Scaling and sustaining change
12.15 - 13.00	Action Planning for School Implementation
Day 10	Individual support, presentations & Closing
09.00 - 09.45	Preparing the final presentations and individual support (part 1)
09.45 - 10.30	Preparing the final presentations and individual support (part 2)
10.30 - 11.15	Final presentations and feedback
11.15 - 11.30	Break
11.30 - 12.15	Evaluation & Reflection
12.15 - 13.00	Validation of learning outcomes and certification

*This is only a tentative timetable. The exact hours or the course might differ and will be announced for each session 2 weeks before the start. However, there will always be a total of 5 didactic hours per day and all will be in line with the Erasmus+ quality standards. The trainer might slightly modify the content in response to the needs of the group.
**Cultural and social programmes will be organized in addition to the academic programme. The exact cultural and social programme depends on the location, season, weather, etc.