LEARNING PROGRAMME

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

5-DAY COURSE

25 learning hours | Course programme

Eco-Schools and Green School Transformation (Building Sustainable Learning Communities) – 5-Day Course

Introduction and Description

This five-day intensive professional development programme is designed for school leaders, sustainability coordinators, and development teams seeking to embed sustainability strategically within their institutions. In the context of increasing environmental, social, and organisational challenges, European schools are called upon to move beyond isolated environmental initiatives and adopt coherent, whole-school approaches that integrate sustainability into leadership, curriculum, operations, and school culture.

This programme addresses sustainability as an organisational and pedagogical transformation process, positioning schools as learning communities capable of responding to complex societal challenges. Participants are introduced to whole-school sustainability frameworks that link environmental responsibility with democratic participation, learner engagement, and long-term institutional development. Emphasis is placed on understanding schools as complex systems, where leadership practices, pedagogical choices, infrastructure, and stakeholder relationships interact dynamically.

The course foregrounds the role of leadership and coordination in driving green transformation, exploring participatory and distributed leadership models that foster shared ownership and sustained commitment. Participants critically examine how sustainability can be embedded across the curriculum through interdisciplinary approaches, learner-centred pedagogies, and authentic learning experiences that empower students as active contributors and change agents. Student participation and school culture are addressed as central dimensions of meaningful and lasting transformation.

Practical attention is also given to sustainable school operations and community engagement, enabling participants to connect everyday practices—such as resource management, partnerships, and communication strategies—with educational goals. Throughout the programme, participants are supported in aligning sustainability initiatives with school development planning and **Erasmus+ priorities**, ensuring that green transformation contributes to institutional quality assurance, innovation, and European cooperation.

By the end of the course, participants will have developed a context-sensitive sustainability action plan that integrates pedagogical, organisational, and strategic dimensions. The programme strengthens participants' capacity to lead sustainable

change that is educationally meaningful, institutionally embedded, and aligned with long-term school development objectives.

Methodology and Assessment

The course applies an experiential and participatory methodology combining expert input, collaborative workshops, case-based learning, and reflective practice. Activities are grounded in participants' professional contexts, ensuring relevance and immediate applicability. Peer learning, structured dialogue, and guided planning support collective knowledge construction and professional exchange. Assessment is formative and process-oriented, based on active participation, reflective tasks, and the development of a school-specific sustainability action plan. Feedback is provided through peer review and facilitator guidance, supporting both individual professional growth and institutional development.

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: 400 €

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 (25 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, Leadership, and Organisational Change
09.00 - 09.45	Schools as learning organisations and complex systems
09.45 - 10.30	Systems thinking tools for sustainable change
10.30 - 11.15	Leadership for green transformation
11.15 - 11.30	Break
11.30 - 12.15	Participatory and distributed leadership models
12.15 - 13.00	Leadership reflection and strategic focus
Day 3	Curriculum Integration, Pedagogy, and Student Participation
09.00 - 09.45	Sustainability across the curriculum
09.45 - 10.30	Pedagogies for sustainable learning
10.30 - 11.15	Student participation and democratic school culture
11.15 - 11.30	Break
11.30 - 12.15	Behaviour change and school culture
12.15 - 13.00	Collaborative curriculum and participation design
Day 4	Sustainable Operations, Community Engagement, and Partnerships
09.00 - 09.45	The school as a living laboratory
09.45 - 10.30	Sustainable resource management in schools

10.30 - 11.15	Community partnerships for sustainability
11.15 - 11.30	Break
11.30 - 12.15	Communication and advocacy for green schools
12.15 - 13.00	Action planning workshop
Day 5	Individual support, presentations & Closing
09.00 - 09.45	Aligning sustainability with Erasmus+ priorities
09.45 - 10.30	Preparing the final presentations and individual support
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.