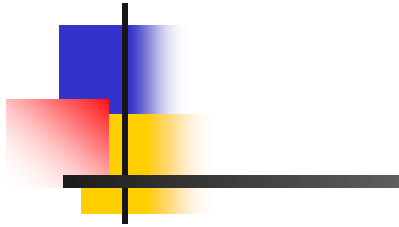




Exploring the political dimension of ESD through innovative models of learning and participation

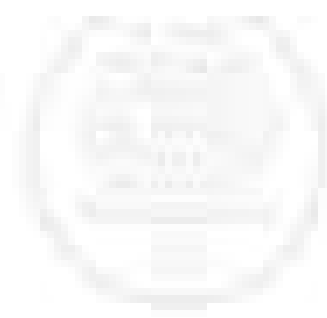


Zagreb Conference
17th April 2015
Dr. Martin Fitzgerald
Ireland

ESD and participation within the Political Dimension

- Outline and context of session
- Ethics
- ESD principles and practice
- Activities
- ESD and inspiring real political change
- ESD – Mind the GAP?

ESD, Ethics and the Political Dimension



The indigenous inhabitants of this land had a wise saying - "Every time you take something from the Earth, you must give something back."



ESD and the Irish context;

5 Principles of Good ESD Practice

1. ESD is about teaching differently rather than teaching more
2. Good ESD is that which promotes critical thinking about development and underdevelopment
3. ESD results in transformation on a number of levels including personal, perspectival, professional and programmatic
4. ESD is effective when it is integrated across the curriculum with multiple entry points
5. Evaluation of the impact of ESD is essential to improving teaching and learning strategies (Ubuntu 2013)

Activity 1; Giant Steps

Think about who you are, where you live, how many are in your family, etc. Now stand in character at one end of the room. Stand with your back against the wall and use the full length of the room.

I am going to call out statements. After each statement is read you must take a giant step, a baby step, or stay where you are depending on what the statement means to you;

Take a giant step if you can do it quite easily; Take a baby step if you can only do it with difficulty. Don't move if you can't do it at all.

The aim of the exercise is to try to experience what life is for your character-it is not about reaching the end first.

Activity 2; Play it out!

- **Freeze Frame;** in groups of 5 or 6 Place yourselves in a photograph and hold it. Imagine you are all characters in this photograph.
- **Thought Tracking;** As you stand in the photograph, what thoughts are going through your head as this character – speak freely when I tap you on the shoulder.

Activity 3; Walking Debate

- Form a straight line in the centre of the room, one behind the other facing forward.
- Look at the statement. Decide on your point of view – agree go right, disagree, go left.
- You must be able to explain your choice of position



Some industrialized nations, seeking to reduce their dependence on imported oil, have required that a percentage of biofuel be blended with fossil fuels each year. Above, an oil refinery in Southeast Asia.





Statement

Is Democracy supporting or preventing real sustainable development?

The Road to Sustainability; An ESD Approach

- Tolerance for Complexity and Uncertainty
- Assumption-Questioning
- A need for connectedness between human activity and the environment -developing the 'Ecological University' (Barnett 2011)
- Perspective taking-self mastery before subject mastery?
- Independence
- Courage
- Challenge current opinion-find creative and wise answers
- Maturity-self insight leading to personal wisdom
- Integrity
- Abundant Mentality

ESD – Mind the GAP!

Decision Taking

1. Advancing **policy**
2. Integrating sustainability practices into education and training environments (**whole-institution approaches**)
3. Increasing the capacity of **educators** and trainers;
4. Empowering and mobilizing **youth**
5. Encouraging **local communities** and municipal authorities to develop community-based ESD programmes.

Time to Reflect?



Democracy cannot succeed unless those who express their choice are prepared to choose wisely. The real safeguard of democracy, therefore, is education.

(Franklin D. Roosevelt)