Capacity Building for Educational Action in ESD

2nd International GAP/ESD Seminar
6 November 2015
Magnus Persson

UNESCO Global Action Programme on Education for Sustainable Development
To see the world as a system
— a system that connects space; and a system that connects time.
What is Education FOR Sustainable Development?

ESD/EDS is the contribution of the world’s education systems, public awareness systems, training systems to enable us to learn our way towards a more sustainable future.

Education, Public Awareness and Training (ESD)
(Chapter 36 of Agenda 21)

What is Education for Sustainable Development?

- *Education for Sustainable Development* allows every human being to acquire the knowledge, skills, attitudes and values necessary to shape a sustainable future.

- Education for Sustainable Development means including key sustainable development issues into teaching and learning; for example, climate change, disaster risk reduction, biodiversity, poverty reduction, and sustainable consumption.

- requires participatory teaching and learning methods that motivate and empower learners to change their behaviour and take action for sustainable development.

- consequently promotes competencies like critical thinking, imagining future scenarios and making decisions in a collaborative way.

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The 4 Thrusts of ESD

ESD areas of emphasis:

- Improving access and retention in quality basic education
- Reorienting existing educational programmes to address sustainability
- Increasing public understanding and awareness of sustainability
- Providing training
From DESD to GAP

- 2005-2014 The UN Decade for Education for Sustainable Development (DESD)
  
  ‘to integrate the principles, values and practices of sustainable development into all aspects of education and learning’

- The UNESCO Aichi-Nagoya 2014 World Conference

- From 2015 The Global Action Programme (GAP) on Education for Sustainable Development
WORLD CONFERENCE
Education for Sustainable Development

Aichi-Nagoya, Japan
10-12 November 2014

The World Conference Objectives

- Celebrating a Decade of Action (DESD 2005-2014)
  “What have we achieved, what are the lessons learnt?”
- Reorienting Education to Build a Better Future for All
  “How does ESD reinforce quality education?”
- Accelerating Action for Sustainable Development
  “How are sustainability challenges addressed through ESD?”
- Setting the Agenda for ESD beyond 2014
  “What are the strategies for our common future?”
Ban Ki-moon: “There is no Plan B. There is no Planet B”

“We need inter-generational co-operation and equal recognition.”
(Tariq, Youth Conference)
Global Action Programme

Where do we stand?

“We resolve to promote education for sustainable development ... beyond the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development.”

- Increased presence of ESD internationally and nationally.
- Major challenges:
  - from pilot to policy
  - from small scale to large scale
  - from margin to mainstream
- A Global Action Programme to scale up ESD.
Main Documents

- **Shaping the Future We Want** (final report on the UN Decade for ESD)
  - Excellent review of DESD, 183 pages, photos
  - Chapter 6 “The Future of ESD”

- **UNESCO Roadmap For Implementing the Global Action Programme on ESD**
  - 7 “Principles”
  - 5 “Priority Action Areas”

- **Aichi-Nagoya Declaration on ESD**
  - Asks countries to reexamine the purpose of their education systems

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https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zQ9ETC8bk70
Roadmap for Implementing the GAP

The Roadmap for Implementing the GAP explains the Programme’s five Priority Action Areas and implementation mechanisms.

http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0023/002305/230514e.pdf
The GAP Objectives

- The GAP Objectives
  - to *reorient education and learning* so that everyone has the opportunity to acquire the knowledge, skills, values and attitudes that empower them to contribute to sustainable development – and make a difference;
  - to *strengthen education and learning* in all agendas, programmes and activities that promote sustainable development.
GAP Priority action areas

1. Advancing policy
2. Transforming learning and training environments
3. Building capacities of educators and trainers
4. Empowering and mobilizing youth
5. Accelerating sustainable solutions at the local level
UNESCO has set up five Partner Networks to help implement the GAP (one of the main implementation mechanisms).

Each Partner Network consists of “major ESD stakeholders who have extensive outreach capacity, political influence and/or innovative activities.”

They consist of a limited number of strategically selected key ESD stakeholders whose actions are expected to have a catalytic effect.
Key Partner

Since 2015 the Learning Teacher Network is an official UNESCO GAP Key Partner in Priority Action Area 3: “Building capacities of teachers and trainers”. (21 organisations world-wide)
The LTN GAP Commitment

- Work closely with teacher education and the UNESCO Chair on joint programmes
- Organize and manage a combination of events for capacity building and sharing of experience, engaging an international audience and located to different countries
  - Annual International Conferences
  - Annual International GAP/ESD Seminars
  - Annual five-days European training courses
- Develop activities in co-operation with the UNESCO Asia-Pacific Institute for ESD (API-ESD)
Levels of ESD implementation

5. ESD embedded in community goals

4. Teaching for SD (systemic purpose)

3. Teaching about SD in core disciplines

2. Events/clubs (equity, Eco-school, etc)

1. Ignore

From UNESCO Chair Charles Hopkins
http://www.learningteacher.eu

See Folder Community/Global Action Programme

The LTN website

The Learning Teacher Network

www.learningteacher.eu
Upcoming LTN events 2016

- European 5-day training course
  - ‘Creativity and Learning’
  - Karlstad, Sweden 14-18 May 2016

- The 11th International Conference
  - ‘Empowering the Teacher of Tomorrow’

- European 5-day training course
  - ‘Educating for sustainable development in practice’
  - Malta 18-22 October 2016

Read more on www.learningteacher.eu
Upcoming LTN events 2017

- The 3rd International GAP Seminar
  - ‘Integrating sustainable development into education and integrating education into sustainable development’
  - Palermo, Sicily 19-21 January 2017

- The 12th International Conference
  - ‘Re-thinking Education’
  - Aarhus, Denmark 21-23 September 2017
  - European Capital of Culture 2017 ‘Democracy, Sustainability and Diversity’

- Training courses, physical as well as on-line
  - Supporting the implementation of ESD and GAP

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