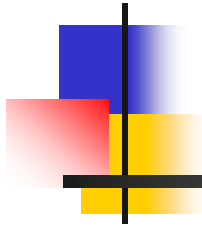




ESD at the Crossroads; Managing the Political Dimension



If you are planning for a year – sow rice. If you are planning for a decade– plant trees. If you are planning for a lifetime – educate your children (Chinese proverb)

Istanbul Seminar
27th September 2014
Dr. Martin Fitzgerald

Issues for discussion within the Political Dimension

- Facts
- Ethics
- Democracy Vs Sustainability
- ESD and the politics of teacher education
- ESD and inspiring real political change
- ESD – Mind the GAP?



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.



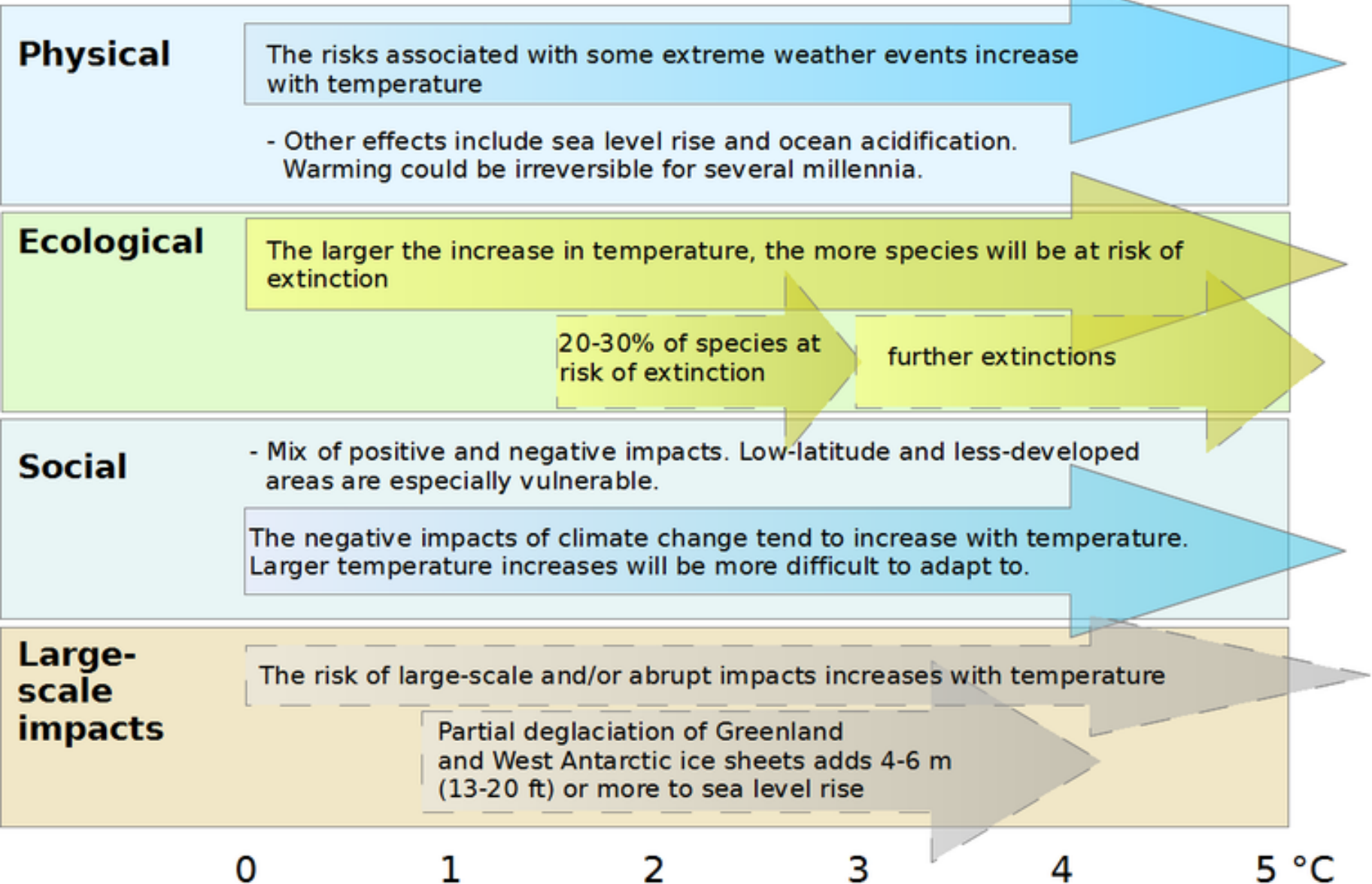
Potential Areas of Shale (light red) for Fracking!



Summary of global warming impacts

Increase in global mean temperature relative to the late 20th century

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 °F



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."

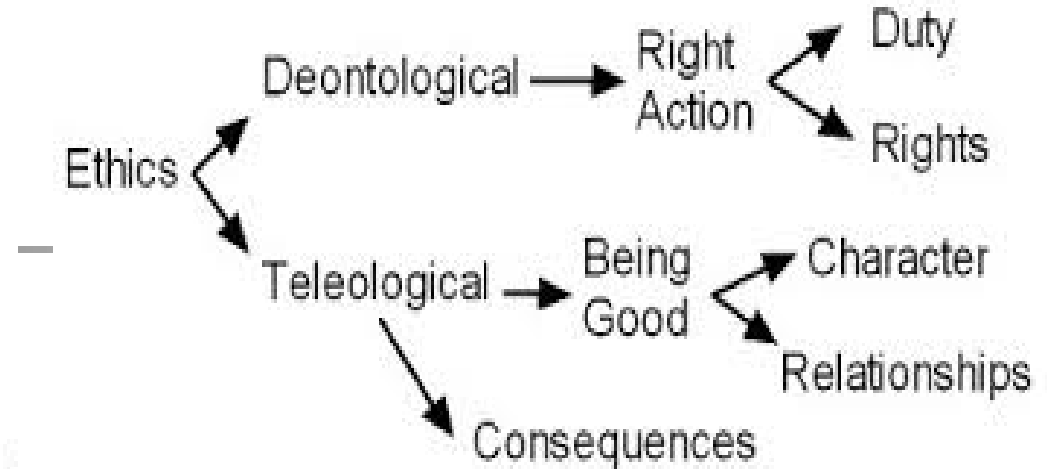
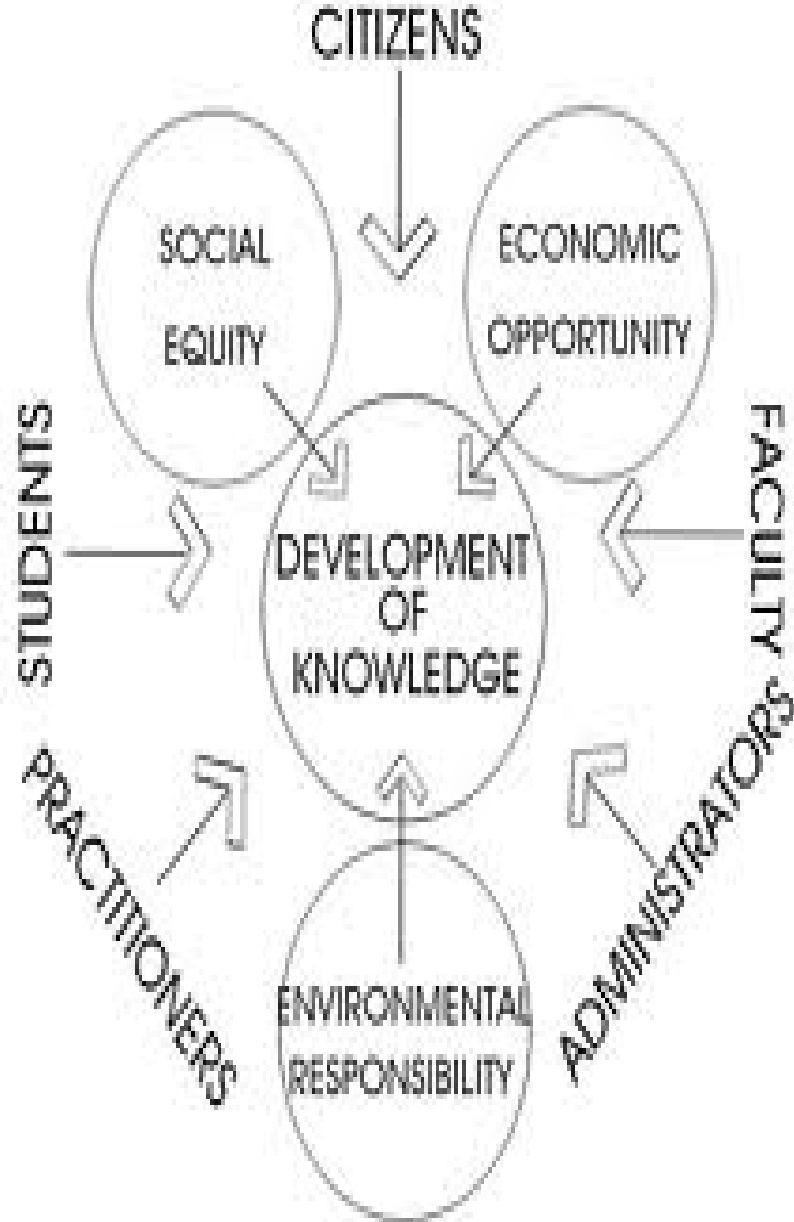




The principles & norms of behaviour people espouse and follow in relation to right and wrong action and the good and bad qualities of character and relationships people develop that are relevant to the flourishing of human beings, animals and the planet. (moral philosophy)

Banks (2010)

ESD, Ethics and the Political Dimension



ESD and Ethical Challenges to the Political Dimension

Universality-can similar principles be applied to all people at all times in all places?

Rational & Objective Decision Making – Ignores moral life, character, individual motive, emotions and context

Western World bias on individualism - rights of individual prioritised over communal rights & the collective

Components of the Political dimension; Democracy Vs Sustainability

Governance is the interface of public **decision-making** and **decision-taking**

Decision-making

- Dialogue; collaboration; consultation; opinion-forming; influencing;

Decision-taking

- Exercise of authority; exercise of power; allocation of resources; exercise of oversight and evaluation; imposition of regulation

The attention paid by the **decision-takers** to the **decision-making process outcomes** is crucial but is this happening?

Managing the political Dimension – Finding a model that works

Here is the crisis of the times as I see it: We talk about problems, issues, policies, but we don't talk about what democracy means — what it bestows on us — the revolutionary idea that it isn't just about the means of governance but the means of dignifying people so they become fully free to claim their moral and political agency. (Bill Moyers, 'The Power of Democracy', 2007)

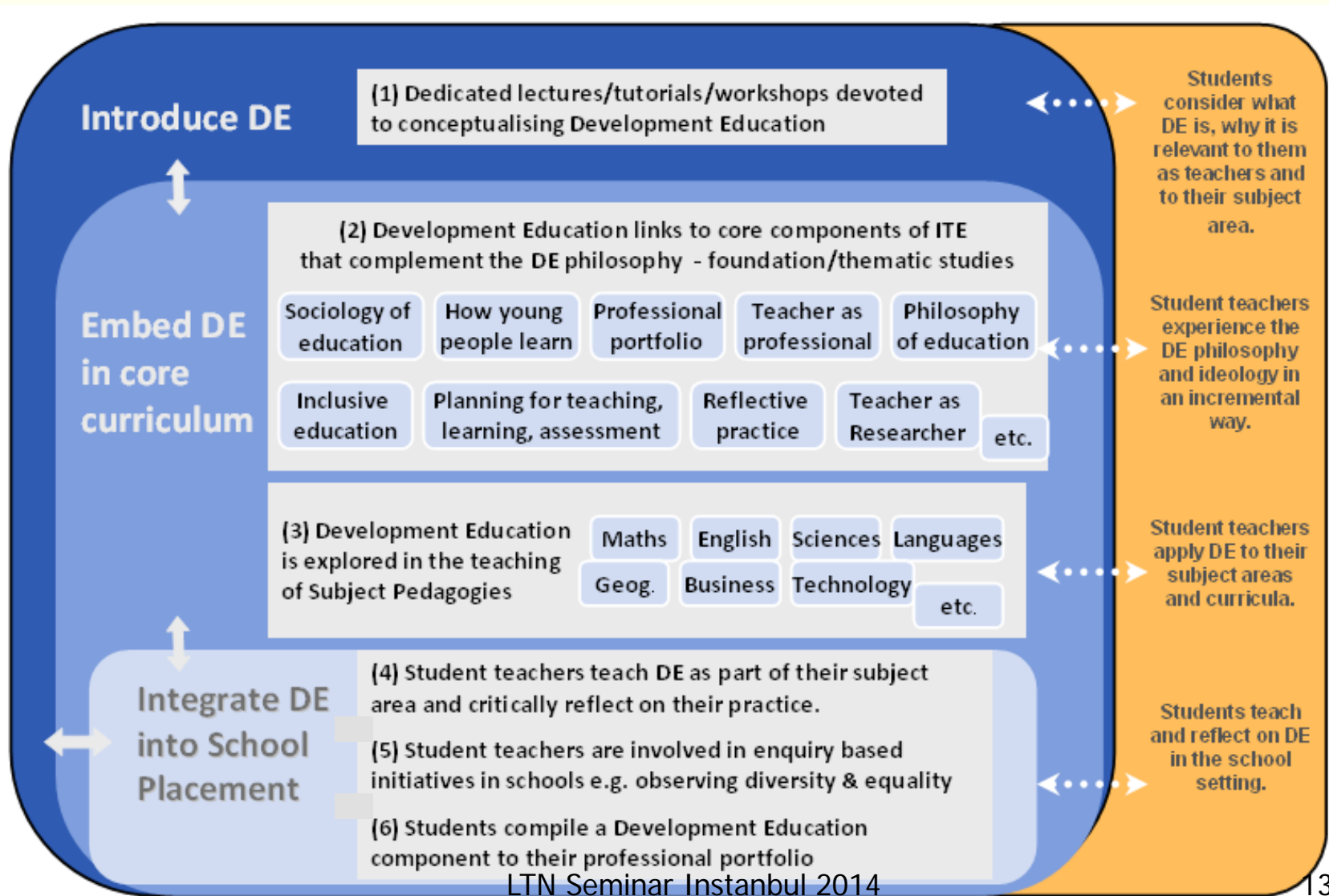
ESD – Mind the GAP!

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.

ESD in ITE; The Irish Context

Component Model for Integrating DE into the PDE



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)

ESD Initiatives that might be considered

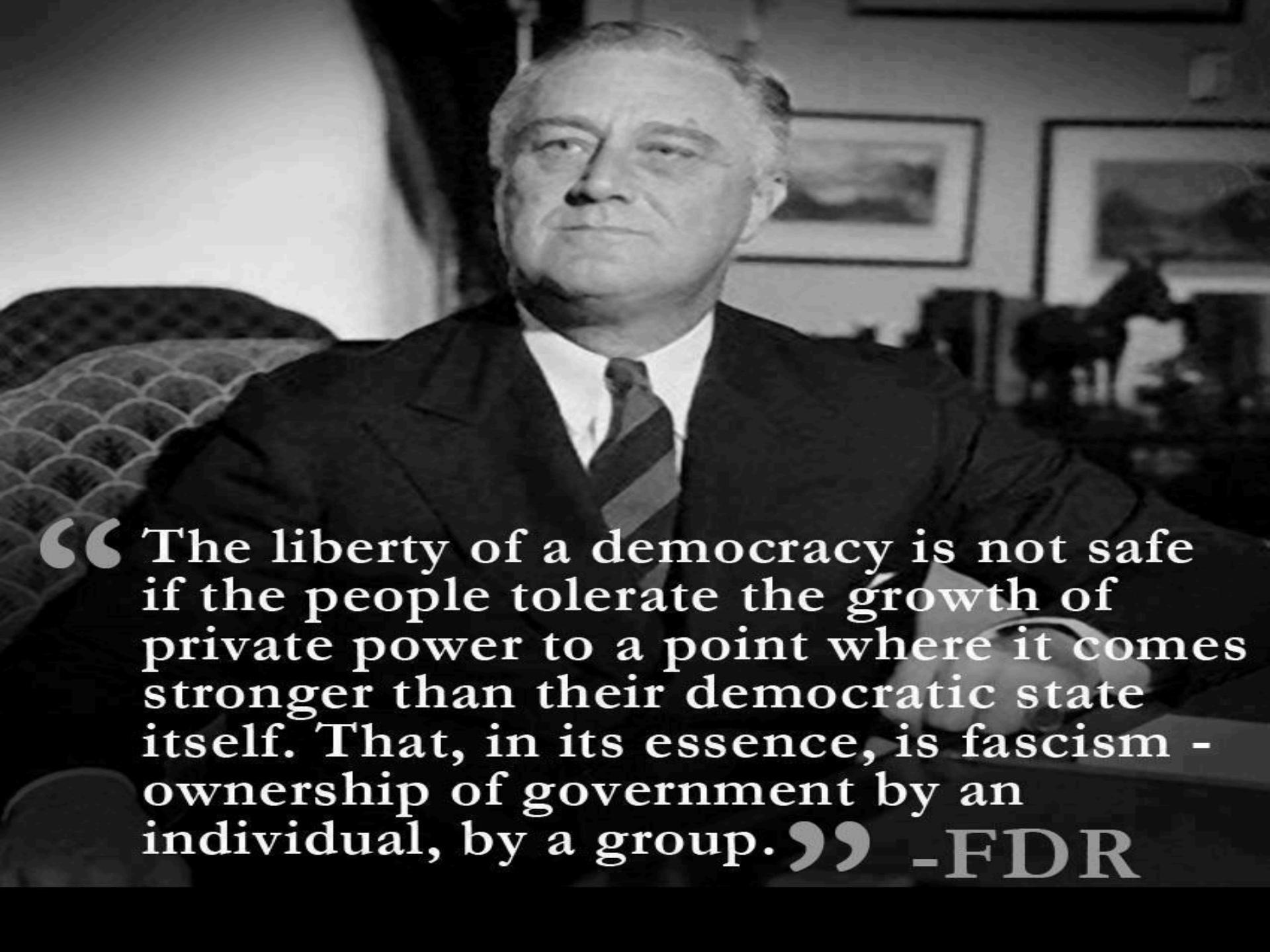
- Policy linked to actions
- Compulsory education elements and assessment models?
- International assessment framework
- ESD Units in all ITE Colleges
- Greater inter Institutional Cooperation – targeted and specific, national and international
- Statutory ESD units funded by national governments

ESD Initiatives that might be considered

- Compulsory CPD for teachers in ESD
- Link formal and non formal sectors through ESD initiatives
- Distinctive Urban/Rural models to accommodate resources and community engagement
- Marketing of ESD in a multi-faceted and international context
- Use of an Integrated Area Planning model (IAP) to support ESD initiatives in local Communities

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



“ The liberty of a democracy is not safe if the people tolerate the growth of private power to a point where it comes stronger than their democratic state itself. That, in its essence, is fascism - ownership of government by an individual, by a group. ” -FDR