The 12 Key Issues of Education for Sustainable Development

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Education *for* Sustainable Development (ESD) is about enabling us to constructively and creatively address present and future global challenges and create more sustainable and resilient societies. Empowering learners to live responsible lives and to address complex global challenges calls for new approaches to learning, the development of vibrant green economies and societies, and the emergence of a "global citizenship''. UNESCO supports countries to build ESD capacities, generate and scale-up actions, focusing on key issues as entry points for promoting sustainable development practices through education (UNESCO, Post Decade of ESD).

The discussion group tried to improve a draft version of 12 key issues of ESD. They have improved the draft version and added 3 key learnings and a challenge found at the discussion. The key learnings have been found to be: holistic education, stakeholders' awareness, participation and cooperation, and building capacity of stake holders. The challenge is timely evolution of the human society towards a deep transformation. **The 12 key issues of ESD** are:

1. ESD scope: SD and ESD definitions, holistic education at all the levels (primary–tertiary), life-long, formal, non-formal and informal education, teaching & learning, ESD key milestones, ESD competences,
2. Environmental pillar: climate change, adaptation and mitigation, pollution prevention and zero waste, life cycle approaches, biodiversity, disaster risk reduction, the 6 Lisbon principles (responsibility, scale-matching, precaution, adaptive management, full cost allocation, and participation)
3. Social pillar: human rights, quality education, health and well-being, equalities (gender, income, living standard, creativity), decent work, hunger and poverty reduction, security, cultural diversity, sustainable urbanisation, and sustainable life styles
4. Economic pillar: resource (raw materials, energy, water, air, land) efficiency and circular economy, sustainable consumption and production, R & D, innovations and entrepreneurship of all stakeholders
5. Political pillar: vision, mission, peace and non-violence, democracy, rule of law, public awareness and participation, justice, strong institutions, power and influence distribution, equal development of cities, regions, nations and countries, partnerships, population control (towards zero-growth)
6. ESD methodologies: participatory teaching and learning, student-centred teaching, critical, interdisciplinary and systems thinking, creativity, and imagining future scenarios (envisioning),
7. Transformative learning & training, history, infrastructure and environments, developing case studies, financing of projects
8. Building capacity for educators and trainers at all levels, media, developing pedagogies, tools, literature, project reports and presentations (PowerPoints, videos etc.)
9. Cooperation: empowering and mobilizing youth and aged people, intergenerational cooperation, cooperation between stakeholders (institutions, companies, etc.)

10. SD institutions: UN, UNESCO, UNCED, UNEP, UNECE, EEA/EPA, CA, NGOs
11. SD documents: international agreements, declarations, SDGs, ISO standards, Agenda 21, action, plans, and roadmaps
12. Sustainability metrics: indicators and indices, sustainability accounting and reporting.