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Global Education
Cooperation Mechanism
SDG4 Youth & Student Network

Greening Higher Education: Transforming Competences and Practices

COP 28
Dubai, UAE
06/12/2023

Details

- Date: 6 December 2023
- Location: Al Fanar room, Greening Education Hub, Mobility Pavilion, Green Zone
- Venue: Expo City, Dubai, United Arab Emirates
- Time: 17h00 – 18h00
- Mode: On site
- Language: English
- In person: Register for Dec 6 <https://greenzonepass.cop28.com> , then register for the session <https://erthzayed.com/agenda/> (Day 7, session title: Greening Higher Education: Transforming Competences and Practices
- Online: https://unesco-org.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZEkcemgqjopHden7XOMRNobDa_d-wn7DMvV

Background

COP 28 will work to bring the world together to reach an agreement on audacious, realistic, and ambitious solutions to the most serious global issue of our time during this pivotal decade for climate action.

To combat climate change, the world community understands the need for education and training. It assists individuals in understanding and responding to the effects of climate catastrophe by providing them with the information, skills, values, and attitudes required to engage as change agents.

At the global level, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Paris Agreement, and the related Action for Climate Empowerment (ACE) agenda all call on governments to educate, empower, and involve all stakeholders and key groups in climate change policies and activities.

In addition, several UNESCO policies have called for a transformation toward sustainability through education and there is growing understanding that universities play a key role in

achieving the Paris targets, emphasizing the imperative for universities to intensify their efforts and innovate their approaches in training the next generation of leaders and change-makers.

At the regional level, for example, the European Strategy for Universities given by the EU emphasizes the role of universities as actors for the combined green and digital transition (European Commission, 2022).

UNESCO IESALC, United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC), and the University of Helsinki, in collaboration with Education Above All, The International Network for Quality Assurance Agencies in Higher Education (INQAAHE), Una Generacion, Global Student Forum, and the UNESCO SDG4 Youth & Student Network, will come together in moving forward the conversation of good policies and practices towards future implementation of concrete actions, with a focus on the Global South.

Objectives

Mobilizing the strengths and insights of different stakeholders within the space of greening higher education, this event aims to provide the following main objectives:

- To highlight the different roles, responsibilities, and potentials of Higher Education in promoting the achievement of all the SDGs in connection to and with an emphasis on SDG 13.
- To define and describe the process where sustainability competences can be integrated into all degree programmes, knowledge production and sharing, science technology and innovation transfer at higher education level.
- To share challenges, good practices and actions forward in greening higher education carried out by UN agencies, civil society, private sector, public sector, youth, students, and Academia.

Expected Outcomes

Two panel discussions with diverse stakeholder focus as well as actionable ways-forward have been planned for the event. Some highlighted outcomes are as follows:

- **Directorial Ceremony:** With United Nations Office of South-South Cooperation's (UNOSSC) valuable mission of enabling developing countries to effectively face their development challenges and harness opportunities to address them, UNESCO IESALC and UNOSSC will co-launch the joint project – South-South University Cooperation Network (SUCN) – to support meaningful youth engagement and leadership in Science Technology and Innovation (STI) Transfer and SDG impacts through better attainment in higher education through SUCN and to achieve greater international collaboration across higher education institutions in the Global South and ultimately worldwide, particularly in regards to Green Technology.
- **Institutional announcement:** With outstanding SDG practices at institutional level through teaching and learning, research, management and engagement, University of Helsinki will launch Greening Higher Education workshop for sustainability transformation in higher education institutions.
- **Private sector engagement:** As part of their dedication to sustainability and social responsibility, IBM will announce new and scale-up sustainability projects and free training in green and technology skills for vulnerable communities as part of their continued commitment to climate action.
- **Youth advocacy:** Highlighting the impacts of youth in driving achievement in SDG13 and 2030 Agenda, representatives from the Office of the Secretary General's Envoy on Youth, UNESCO SDG4 Youth and Student Network, and the Office of Youth Envoy at African Union, youths and students will have an advocacy campaign for Greening Higher Education.

Other Stakeholders will also be invited to share commitments and actions they will be carrying out in 2024-2025 to co-create the dynamic of action-based outcomes from this event.

Agenda

Time	Activity	Details
5 mins	Opening Remarks	Mr. Francesc Pedro, Director, UNESCO IESALC
15 mins	Panel Discussion 1: Eco-system to Support Greening Higher Education	<p>Moderator: Mr. Francesc Pedro, Director, UNESCO IESALC</p> <p>Panelists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Ms. Dima Al-Khatib, Director, UNOSSC (3 mins) <p><i>As the director of UNOSSC, can you share with us your insights about the role of south-south cooperation in supporting higher education institutions in greening initiatives.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Mr. George Tavola, Engagement Manager, Education Above All (EAA), Qatar (3 mins) <p><i>As an engagement manager at Education Above All, and given the high focus EAA is giving to Greening Education, can you tell us more about How can civil society organizations play an active role in greening higher education and greening skills specifically with marginalized communities?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Ms. Justina Nixon-Saintil, Chief Impact Officer, VP of Corporate Social Responsibility, IBM, USA (3 mins) <p><i>At IBM, you are committed to "Creating better pathways to conserve natural resources, reduce pollution, and minimize climate-related risks", from a private sector perspective, how do you see that the private sector can play an active role in bridging Greening Higher Education to green jobs and green technology, specifically when it comes to the current and future workforce and employment as well as training?</i></p>

<p>15 mins</p>	<p>Panel Discussion 2: Focus on Higher Education Institutions and Youth</p>	<p>Moderator: Mr. Francesc Pedro, Director, UNESCO IESALC</p> <p>Panelists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Mr. Rami Ratvio, University lecturer, Sustainability Education, University of Helsinki, Finland (3 mins) <p><i>As an expert on greening education curriculum at Helsinki University, Describe the process by which sustainability competencies can be integrated into degree programs, knowledge production, and sharing at the higher education level.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Ms. Azkha Mikhdar, Youth Leader, UNESCO SDG4 Youth & Student Network (3 mins) <p><i>You are committed to environmental issues and you actively champion sustainability. Tell us how you see the effect of climate change on education and how greening higher education enables current and future generations to face climate change and get humanity out of this vicious circle.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Ms. Susanna Karakhanyan, INQAAHE Immediate Past President (3 mins) <p><i>With your experience in policy making, governance, administration, and quality assurance in Higher Education, can you tell us about the challenges that HE institutions face when it comes to Greening Higher Education and what are the potential solutions?</i></p>
<p>20 mins</p>	<p>Ways Forward &</p>	<p>Moderator: Mr. Francesc Pedro, Director, UNESCO IESALC</p> <p>Initiatives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Youth-led advocacy campaign (Video)

	<p>Initiatives</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● UNESCO IESALC and UNOSSC will co-launch South-South Cooperation University Network, highlighting the activity Greening University STI Bootcamp. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Ms. Dima Al-Khatib, Director, UNOSSC ○ Ms. Sandra Goulart, Rector, Federal University of Minas Gerais, Brazil (Video) ● The University of Helsinki and UNESCO IESALC will launch a greening higher education workshop for sustainability transformation in higher education institutions. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Ms. Riina Koivuranta, Senior Specialist, Community Relations, University of Helsinki ● IBM will share commitments and actions they will be carrying out in 2024-2025. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Ms. Justina Nixon-Saintil, Chief Impact Officer, VP of Corporate Social Responsibility, IBM, USA
<p>5 mins</p>	<p>Closing remarks & Group Picture</p>	<p>Mr. Francesc Pedro, Director, UNESCO IESALC</p>