



Education for
Sustainable
Development at
University

AN INITIATIVE TARGETED AT THE
TRANSVERSAL PROMOTION OF
EDUCATION FOR SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT AT UNIVERSITY

WHAT IS ESDU?

The ESDU project is an initiative aimed at promoting education for sustainable development (ESD) throughout higher education institutions in order to enhance universities' role in generating critical knowledge and creating an active, committed citizenry that will take action in the face of unjust situations on a local – global scale.

The project has been running since 2013 and includes activities oriented at ameliorating student training as well as innovating and improving the quality of teaching, thereby fostering a set of participatory practices for the design and implementation of formulas for the curricular integration of ESD in Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, within the Catalan scope and ultimately at a national and international level.

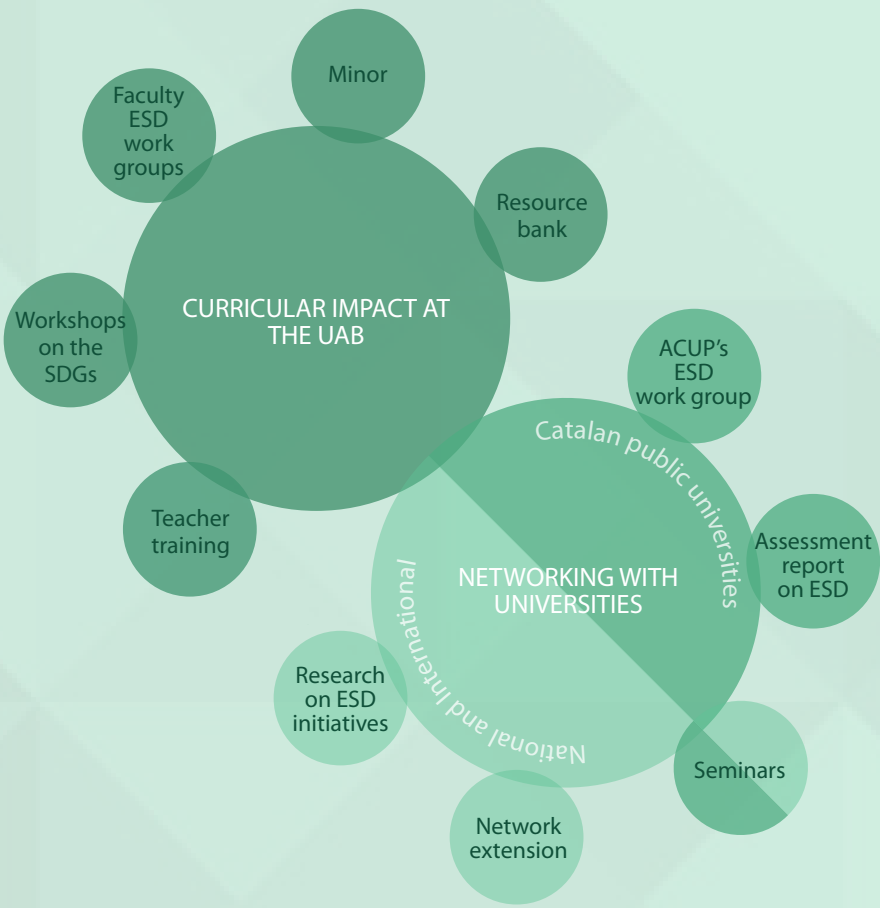
The project is led by Fundació Autònoma Solidària (FAS) in collaboration with the Associació Catalana d'Universitats Públiques (ACUP) and is based on a networking strategy that brings together university centres and schools, lecturers, students, university cooperation offices and expert civil society organisations in ESD with the support of the Ajuntament de Barcelona.

WHY?

In these times of global crisis, the dominant paradigm of development is no longer valid, revealing the limitations of an unsustainable progress model and the urgent need to find a response to the current challenges facing society. Within this context, the university must assume an important role by building and disseminating knowledge on proposals that are fairer, more democratic and sustainable.

WHAT WE DO

ESDU is applied simultaneously in two intervention areas to promote processes that allow for the achievement of project objectives. We do this by creating networked workplaces that guarantee the participation of all the relevant stakeholders.



CURRICULAR IMPACT AT THE UAB

Workshops on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

Theoretical and practical workshops in the classrooms and complementary activities to promote critical thinking on SDGs.

Education for Development Work Groups in University Faculties (GEDEF)

Set up by lecturers, students and social entities. Currently running at the Business and Economics, Veterinary and Engineering Schools to promote the curricular integration of Social and Solidarity Economics, Food Sovereignty and Sustainable Human Development, respectively.

Minor in Sustainable Development and Global Citizenship

Offered to Bachelor degree students as optional credits. Integrated into the formal curriculum of the UAB.

Training for university lecturers

Specialised courses with official academic recognition.

Higher education resource bank

A data base of ESD teaching proposals to be used by lecturers. In collaboration with EduAlter.

NETWORKING WITH UNIVERSITIES

CATALAN PUBLIC UNIVERSITIES NETWORK

ACUP's ESD work group

Work group commissioned by ACUP's Commission of Social Responsibility of Universities to design mechanisms for the effective institutionalisation and implementation of ESD.

Assessment report on ESD in the universities

Report on the current status of ESD in Catalan public universities bachelor programmes (2015).

Seminars with university and social agents

Meetings to reflect and work on ESD involving various Catalan, Spanish and international universities and civil society organisations.

NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL NETWORK

Research on ESD initiatives

Study and analysis of initiatives focussed on ESD promotion in the Catalan, Spanish and international universities.

Network extension

Identification and cooperation with relevant institutions, organisations and networks to effectively achieve the set project objectives.

ESD AND THE GLOBAL AGENDA

“ESD refers to an educational process aimed at generating critical awareness on the world around us and providing tools for participation and social transformation based on justice and solidarity. Education for Development aims to build a critical, politically-active global citizenry that is socially committed to fair, just human development for all communities on our planet”

(Celorio, G., López de Munain, A.: Diccionario de Educación para el Desarrollo, 2007)

ESDU operates under the UN global agenda framework, aiming at contributing to the Sustainable Development Goals across economic, social and environmental dimensions through generating impact in the higher educational domain and thereby creating a global citizenry committed to sustainable development.

Coordinated by:



In collaboration with:



With the support of:



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