Series of online workshops: The transformative power of ESD for the world beyond Covid-19

Background

The COVID-19 crisis has been gravely endangering individual lives and whole societies, including education systems across the world. The crisis puts pressure on us to reflect on how we lead our lives, how we live together, how we generate our livelihoods, and how we live in the one planet we share. At the same time Covid-19 amplifies existing weaknesses and injustices in our systems like a magnifying glass.

We must not go back to where we were. As a crisis presents a special opportunity to change the course of history, this pandemic presents a historic chance to turn around from the disastrous path of climate and other emergencies by ‘redesigning’ our societies. This is what UN Secretary-General António Guterres has called for when he urged Governments to “build back better” by creating more sustainable, resilient and inclusive societies.

Societies cannot transform if why, what and how we learn remain the same. We need to harness the disruptive potential of the Covid-19 pandemic to highlight the relevance of ESD and ensure that educational systems transform in a way that supports a true transition to sustainable development. “[ESD] provide[s] us with the tools to search for solutions at the
global level and help us translate responses into concrete solutions for the local living environment” (read UNESCO’s blog post on Covid-19 and ESD).

The new global framework on Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) called ‘Education for Sustainable Development: Towards achieving the SDGs (ESD for 2030)’ aims to build a just and sustainable world through strengthening education’s contribution and highlighting ESD’s contribution to the achievement of the 17 SDGs. Transforming learning to transform the societies towards sustainability beyond COVID-19 is the core task of the ESD for 2030 framework for the period of 2020-2030.

In preparation of the UNESCO World Conference on ESD taking place on 17-19 May 2021, in Berlin, Germany, in which ESD for 2030 framework will be officially launched, UNESCO is organizing a series of ESD online workshops in cooperation with the Federal Ministry of Education and Research of Germany, and with the German Commission for UNESCO as advisory partner. The discussions and results from the series of online workshops will be used to further develop the conference program and help shape the discussions taking place in Berlin next year.

**Objectives**

- To share the key reflections from the pandemic on redesigning a more sustainable and just world beyond Covid-19;
- To discuss ways to harness the transformative power of ESD based on the reflections and support the implementation of the ESD for 2030 framework in the next decade.

**Date**

The online workshops will be held once a month, every second Wednesday, starting September 2020.

To make the online workshops accessible to participants in different time zones across the world, three different time slots will be used on rotational basis (for details, please see overview below). After the workshops, a recording and short article summarizing the discussions will be made available online.

**Audience**

All stakeholders in education and/or sustainable development, including policy makers, practitioners, educators, young people, academics, civil society organisations, private sector, media and learners.

**Programme of the series of online workshops**

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<th>9 Sep.</th>
<th>12:30 GMT+2</th>
<th>The big conversation: ESD and the world beyond Covid-19</th>
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<td>To kick-start the series, the first online workshop is designed as a joint thinking process to collect observations and questions on the transformation we need in the</td>
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### Working languages

The online workshops are conducted in English. Live interpretation in French will be provided for some of the workshops. Written interactions during the workshop are available in English and French.

### Technical specifications

The online workshops are organized on the platform Zoom. The detailed agenda of each session and the link to access the session are shared in advance through the online page for
the series: https://en.unesco.org/themes/education-sustainable-development/ESDfor2030-workshops

Organizers and partners
The series of online workshops is organized by UNESCO in cooperation with the Federal Ministry of Education and Research of Germany, and with the German Commission for UNESCO as advisory partner.

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More detailed information is being made available on the website: https://en.unesco.org/events/ESDfor2030

Stay in touch

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