



Earth  
Charter  
INTERNATIONAL



University  
for Peace



UNESCO Chair on Education for Sustainable Development with the Earth Charter







PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

# Online Certificate on Education for Sustainable Development (ESD)

PROGRAMME INFORMATION





**"Sustainability  
education is about  
empowering people to  
see themselves as part  
of the solution."**

**David Orr**



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# Why a professional development programme on ESD?

This Programme is responding to UN/UNESCO education agendas which are calling for education to be reoriented to address our current sustainability challenges, providing opportunities for all learners to acquire the knowledge, skill, values and attitudes needed for current times.<sup>1</sup>

Educators are key actors in facilitating learner's transition to sustainable ways of life<sup>1</sup>, nonetheless, studies indicate that although a significant number of teachers are generally aware and committed, most do not feel ready to teach sustainability.<sup>2</sup>

Literature suggests that teacher education is the most significant catalyst for introducing sustainability innovation and reshaping educational learning opportunities across the education system. Evidence confirms that teacher education has a positive impact on student sustainability learning.<sup>2</sup>

According to the "Futures of Education Report" teachers need opportunities for professional development to better respond to our changing environment. Teacher education needs to be rethought to align with educational priorities and better orient towards future challenges and prospects.<sup>3</sup>

In a recent survey, nearly 95 per cent of teachers believed that it is important or very important to teach about the severity of climate change and its effects but fewer than 40 per cent were confident in teaching it and only about one-third felt able to explain well the effects of climate change on their region or locality.

[1] Sustainable Development Goals. Education for Sustainable Development ESD 2030. Global Education Partnership.

[2] Mulà, I., & Tilbury, D. [2023]. Teacher education for the green transition and sustainable development, EENEE analytical report. doi: 10.2766/144189.

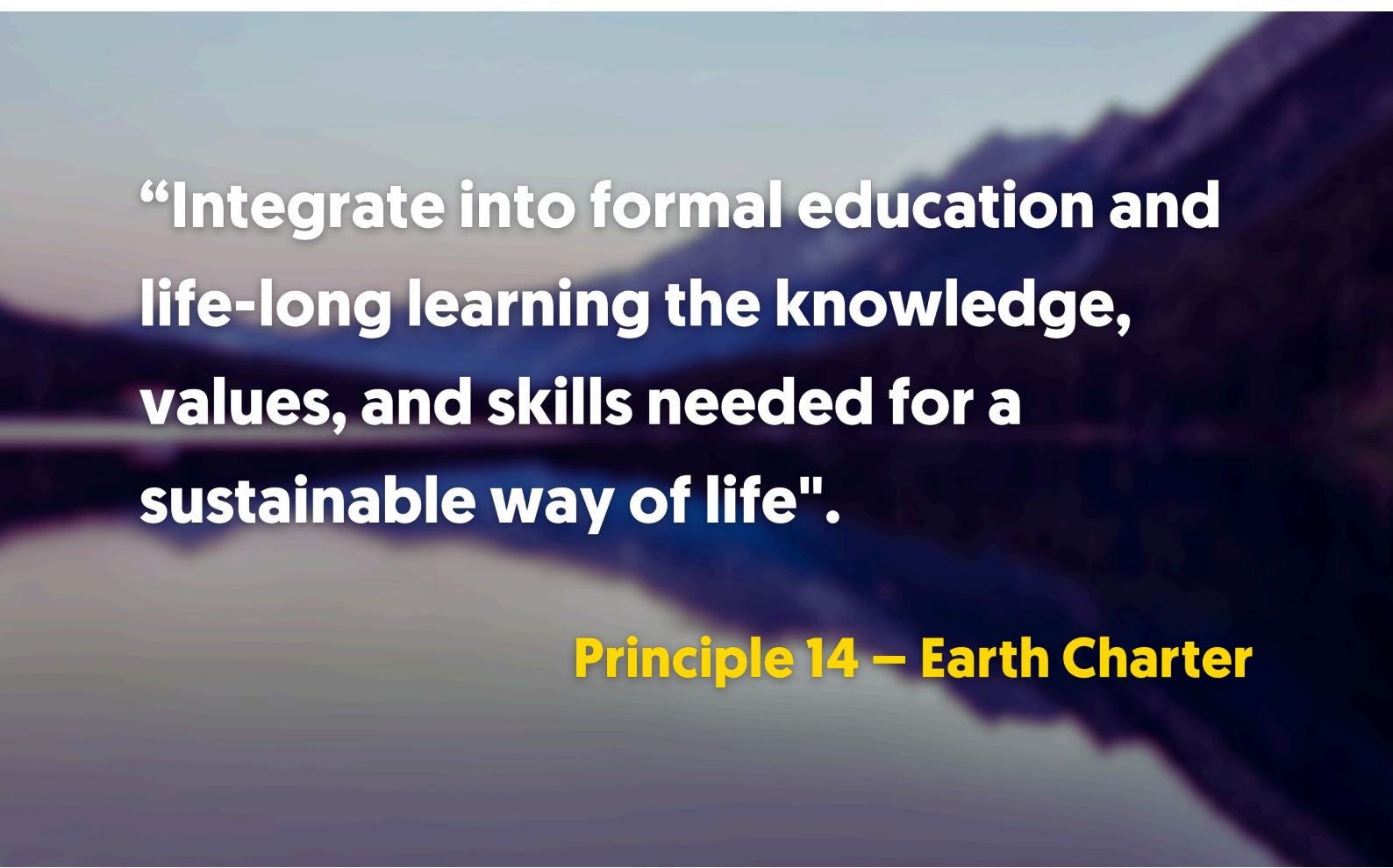
[3] UNESCO [2021]. "Reimagining our futures together. A new social contract for education. <https://doi.org/10.54675/ASRB4722>

[4] UNESCO [2021]. Getting every school climate-ready: how countries are integrating climate change issues in education. <https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000379591>



# About this programme

- This unique Certificate Programme offers a professional development opportunity for participants to deepen understanding, knowledge, and skills to integrate Education for Sustainable Development and Education for Global Citizenship into their work in any education setting.
- It contributes to the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, with a specific focus on SDG 4, target SDG 4.7.
- Unlike most programmes in sustainability, this one has a strong emphasis in fostering an ethic of care and global citizenship values through education and uses the Earth Charter (EC) as a central reference, as it provides a comprehensive and powerful values-based framework.



**“Integrate into formal education and life-long learning the knowledge, values, and skills needed for a sustainable way of life”.**

**Principle 14 – Earth Charter**



# Audience

This Certificate Programme is aimed at

- Educators in formal and non-formal education settings - university professors, K-12 teachers (primary and secondary educators), education professionals in different areas and levels of education - who are seeking to expand their knowledge on sustainability and apply it to their context.
- Professionals who are seeking for opportunities to learn how to bring sustainability to their teaching context and for tools to implement whole institution approaches for sustainability in their education institutions or advise institutions to advance in this matter.



# Objectives



**Strengthen the knowledge, skills, and values of participants to implement Education for Sustainable Development and Education for Global Citizenship, providing a space for dialogue and professional update on pedagogical processes of transformative learning that respond to the new UN Education Agendas, specially around SDG 4.7.**

Specifically, this Certificate Programme will support participants to:

- Clarify concepts of sustainability, the worldview associated with sustainability and global citizenship, and how to infuse these into education processes.
- Deepen and expand knowledge about new paradigms of education for sustainability, global citizenship, transformative education and their associated competences.
- Understand what is systems thinking and practice how to introduce this in education settings.
- Strengthen capacities and skills to integrate the values of sustainability and global citizenship in educational programmes.
- Become familiar with the Earth Charter and visualize how it can be utilized as an educational instrument.
- Explore and practice methodological-pedagogical tools associated with holistic education and whole institution approaches for sustainability.
- Practice intercultural and interdisciplinary dialogue by exchanging experiences between educators from different contexts, disciplines and geographical regions.

# Competences strengthened through this Programme



- Systems Thinking
- Intercultural Dialogue
- Critical Thinking
- Ethical Awareness
- Earth Consciousness
- Embody Sustainability and Global Citizenship Values Clarification
- Future Envisioning and Thinking
- Interdisciplinary collaboration
- Holistic approaches





# Methodology

This Online Certificate Programme consists of four courses, each course contains five sessions. Each session includes an introduction, supporting videos, and/or readings, as well as individual exercises. In addition to the core content, further resources are shared to offer the opportunity to deepen the understanding of a given topic.

It has a duration of five months and requires approximately four hours of work per week to read and go through the materials in each session.

There are 11 live meetings [ at the beginning of the Programme, in between courses, in the middle of each course, and a concluding live meeting; in addition to a thematic seminar].

At the end of the Programme, participants are invited to create, implement and present a project to put in practice the learnings from this process. [which can be done individually or in group].

This Programme follows the asynchronous learning, with live sessions every two weeks. Participants have flexibility to complete the sessions when it is convenient for them. The live meetings will offer the possibility for participants to meet and interact in real time.

**Live Sessions/Facilitated Class Time: 20 hours (1.5 each aprox)**

**Self-Study: 80 hours (4 per week)**

**Final Project: 24 hours**

**Total Projected Time Investment: 124 hours**

# Courses

1.The Global context for Education for Sustainable Development: understanding sustainability and the boundaries of our planet.

Facilitators: María García Alvarez, Mirian Vilela and Alicia Jiménez

2.Values and Principles for Sustainability: The Earth Charter as an Ethical Framework and a Call to Action.

Facilitators: Mirian Vilela and Alicia Jiménez

3.Transformative Learning, Worldviews, Sustainability: Experiential Education and the Earth Charter.

Facilitator: Mark Hathaway

4.Transformative Learning and ESD: A Holistic Pedagogy Grounded in the Neurosciences.

Facilitator: Sam Crowell

# Programme Completion Requirements

- Conclude all the courses and meet basic course requirements involving going through the materials, writing reflection papers, engaging in the discussion forum with comments and taking part in the live sessions.
- Implement the final project and present a report.

# After successful completion of this course, participants will:

- Receive a certificate and an invitation to become an Earth Charter Educator



- Be invited to become a Verifier for the Earth Charter & ESD School Seal
- Be invited to join the Earth Charter Global Network.



# Testimonies



**Rose Cardarelli - CEO, Education For All Coalition - USA**

"I gained a great deal from taking this course from both a personal and professional perspective; it made me acutely aware of our global environmental challenges, social justice issues and responsibility to be mindful and inclusive. I quickly realized that I needed to be knowledgeable about issues and how they can be applied in classrooms with all students."



**Mukirae Njihia - Lecturer/Researcher & Consultant - Kenya**

"Personally, I would say that the Online Certificate on ESD has been a game changer in my pre-disposition as an educator. I have picked new knowledge, concepts and skills which will change the way I approach education. As a teacher trainer, I trust that the principles of sustainability that I have picked will cascade to my students."



**Sanne van Oort - Senior Lecturer - Netherlands**

"My learning process during the Programme involves adding new tools into my toolbox for designing education for Sustainable Development, and finding a new purpose of the question why? It is about understanding why we are here in as Humans and how we can leave the world behind in a better state than before and what can be done to achieve this."



# Facilitators



**DR. SAM CROWELL**

USA

Professor emeritus of education at California State University–San Bernardino and a founder and co-director of the MA in Holistic and Integrative Education and the Center for Holistic and Integrative Learning. He has worked as an elementary school teacher, a principal, an administrator, and a university professor. He co-authored the book, “The Re-Enchantment of Learning: A Manual for Teacher Renewal and Classroom Transformation” and “Emergent Teaching: A Path of Creativity, Significance, and Transformation.”



**MARIA GARCIA  
ALVAREZ**

Spain

Senior lecturer by the Global Project and Change Management BBA programme at the Windesheim University of Applied Sciences in the Netherlands. She is a lecturer in Geopolitics u0026 Globalization and Global Challenges, using the Earth Charter to teach on values approach to sustainable development. She is co-developer and coordinator of the educational concept Value Creators, awarded by the Dutch Ministry of Education with the higher award on education innovation.



**DR. MARK HATHAWAY**

Canada

Is an adult educator with extensive experience in both Canada and Latin America. He is the principle author (along with Leonardo Boff) of The Tao of Liberation: Exploring the Ecology of Transformation (Orbis, 2009) which integrates perspectives from economics, ecology, social justice, spirituality, and post-modern cosmology. His doctoral research explores the cultivation of ecological wisdom – along with the intersections between transformative learning, worldviews, ecopsychology, and engagement for sustainability.



**DR. ALICIA JIMENEZ**

Costa Rica

Director of Programmes at ECI Secretariat and has been working in conservation and environmental governance since 1998. She is a biologist (University of Costa Rica) and holds a Master in Science degree on Resource Development from Michigan State University, and a PhD in Education (La Salle University). She has done research in assessment methods for values-based education processes, and created the Earth Charter School Seal certification.



**DR. MIRIAN VILELA**

Brazil

Executive director of Earth Charter International and the EC Education Center and coordinates the UNESCO Chair on ESD with the Earth Charter. She has a Master’s degree in Public Administration from Harvard University and a PhD in Education from La Salle University of Costa Rica.

# Programme registration

The course fee is US\$1,600

20% discount offered for groups of 3 or more

10% discount in registration before 2 December  
[full payment only]

Course fee must be paid at least **two weeks  
before** the Online Programme starts

## Payment methods:

PayPal

Credit Card

Bank Transfer

\*Flexible payment plans available

For more information on payment contact  
[apply@earthcharter.org](mailto:apply@earthcharter.org)



## About the Earth Charter

Crafted by visionaries over twenty years ago, the Earth Charter is a document with sixteen principles, organized under four pillars, that seek to turn conscience into action. It seeks to inspire in all people a new sense of global interdependence and shared responsibility for the well-being of the whole human family, the greater community of life, and future generations. It is a vision of hope and a call to action.

## About the Earth Charter International Center for Education

The ECI Education Center, located on the campus of the UN Mandated University for Peace in San José, Costa Rica, offers a variety of online and on-site education programmes that highlight the importance of incorporating sustainability values and principles into decision-making and education. It provides an opportunity for participants to expand their understanding of sustainability and see the possibilities for turning it into action. Since 2012, the Earth Charter Education Center coordinates the [UNESCO Chair on Education for Sustainable Development with the Earth Charter.](#)



**Are you ready to seize  
this professional  
development  
opportunity to enhance  
your capacity to  
integrate sustainability  
into your sphere of  
work?**

Reach out to us for more information:

[apply@earthcharter.org](mailto:apply@earthcharter.org)

<https://earthcharter.org/courses>