



# BEST PRACTICE IN ADULT EDUCATION FOR A JUST TRANSITION

**International ESD Alliances**  
Sustainability Principles in  
Management of ALE institutions

**JULY 2024**



Co-funded by  
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## International ESD Alliances

### – Sustainability Principles in Management of ALE institutions

#### Context and Initiative Details

Name of the initiative	<u>International ESD Alliances</u>
Geographical scope	Global
Sources of funding	DVV International and German Federal Ministry for Education and Research
Duration of the initiative	Until spring 2024
Target audience	Professionals
Social justice focus area	Environmental Justice
Goals of the initiative	Practitioner support

#### Good Practices Description

##### Stakeholder engagement in the process

Engages adult education institutions and experts from various countries in the process of implementing ESD using the Whole Institution Approach.

##### Methodology used (if available)

The methodology employed in the “International ESD Alliances” initiative centers around the concept of the Whole Institution Approach (WIA). This approach constitutes a holistic organizational orientation aimed at integrating sustainability principles into every facet of an institution’s functioning, rather than limiting it solely to educational programs.

Essentially, the WIA advocates for adult education institutions to serve as role models by aligning their actions and practices with sustainability criteria. This alignment extends beyond curriculum design to encompass the institution’s overall management, the design of its teaching and learning environment, and its engagement within networks.

In the “International ESD Alliances” initiative, collaboration with experts plays a crucial role engaging experts that work closely with the partnering institutions to initiate sustainable organizational development processes and provide ongoing support throughout the duration of the project. Their expertise spans areas such as sustainable development, adult education, and organizational management, ensuring that the institutions receive tailored guidance and advice suited to their specific contexts and needs.

Additional workshops bring together representatives from participating institutions, experts, and other stakeholders to exchange knowledge, share experiences, and develop strategies for integrating ESD into institutional practices. Due to the global nature of the project, workshops may be conducted in hybrid formats to accommodate diverse participants and ensure effective collaboration despite geographical distances.

During these workshops, participants engage in a variety of activities, including discussions, presentations, and hands-on exercises aimed at exploring best practices in sustainable organizational development and ESD implementation. The exchange of best practices allows institutions to learn from each other’s experiences, adapt successful approaches to their own contexts, and identify innovative solutions to common challenges.

The Whole Institution Approach (WIA) adopted within the “International ESD Alliances” initiative shifts the focus from merely embedding sustainability within educational programs to permeating every aspect of institutional functioning. Through WIA, adult education institutions become leaders in sustainability, aligning their operational strategies, teaching environments, and networking

practices with sustainable principles. By collaborating closely with experts in sustainable development, adult education, and organizational management, the initiative ensures tailored guidance for each institution's unique context and needs. Furthermore, the inclusive nature of workshops, which bring together diverse stakeholders, facilitates knowledge exchange and the co-creation of strategies to integrate Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) into institutional frameworks. This holistic and collaborative model not only promotes sustainability within individual institutions but also contributes to broader systemic change, fostering a just transition towards more sustainable practices within the adult education sector and beyond.

#### Teaching approaches (if available)

Not explicitly provided at the moment.

### Challenges and outcomes

#### Key factors contributing to success

The effectiveness of the International ESD Alliances initiative in promoting Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) in adult education institutions is essentially determined by the fact that it is distinctly participatory, creating a joint working relationship with participating institutions, experts, civil society organizations, and community members, among other stakeholders.

Stakeholder involvement is another vital component, encompassing leaders, educators, learners, and community members. Their engagement ensures the initiative's directions and implementations are well-aligned with local needs, values, and priorities, making the initiatives both relevant and sustainable.

Additionally, the initiative fosters an exchange of international perspectives on best practices related to sustainable development and ESD. By connecting scholars and practitioners worldwide, it promotes intercultural learning and innovation, encouraging the generation of new ideas and approaches.

#### Encountered difficulties and challenges

Potentially funding limitations, logistical challenges, adapting to hybrid workshop formats due to COVID-19.

#### Recommendations

Micro level: Incorporate sustainability criteria into all aspects of educational programming;

Meso level: Strengthen partnerships between educational institutions and civil society organizations for sustainability initiatives;

Macro level: Advocate for policies supporting Education for Sustainable Development.

#### Impact

Not available yet at the time of writing due to recent end of the project; Expected outcomes include enhanced capacity of participating institutions to implement ESD, development of resources for wider dissemination, increased visibility of sustainability efforts within communities and networks.