

ECOSME AS PART OF EDUCATION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (ESD)



in European Tertiary Education

The most significant impact ESD will have is in supporting the knowledge, skills and competencies that students and staff develop to contribute to a more sustainable future. This can only be achieved by embracing ESD as part of a whole-institution approach to SD that demonstrates leadership in challenging convention and being the change they want to see. In this respect ESD is about:

- 1 Supporting students and staff to develop the knowledge, competencies and ability to pursue sustainable visions of the future.**
- 2 Supporting students and staff to appreciate the complexity of our world, the that continuously emerge, and how they can personally and professionally contribute to positive change.**
- 3 Challenging, supporting and enabling students and staff to co-design solutions and drive change for sustainability.**



EcoSME educational guide

GreenComp is a reference framework for sustainability competences referenced to throughout the EcoSME project. It provides a common ground for learners and guidance to educators, providing a consensual definition of what sustainability as a competence entails. It is designed to support education and training programmes for life-long learning.



GreenComp consists of four competences ‘areas’ that correspond to the definition of sustainability; and the 12 ‘competences’ that, taken together, make up the building blocks of the sustainability competence for all people.

In the table below, each competence is mapped to an EcoSME output that best represents its main attributes. As a reference tool, GreenComp can serve a wide range of purposes, including curricula review; design of teacher education programmes; (self-assessment/reflection, policy development, certification, assessment, monitoring and evaluation).

EcoSME educational guide

Area	Competence	EcoSME Module / Rationale
1. Embodying sustainability values	1.1 Valuing sustainability	Catalogue of Innovative Practices, Introduction to Sustainability module, Self-assessment Tool <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To reflect on personal values while critically evaluating how they align with sustainability value
	1.2 Supporting fairness	Value Chain Analysis and the Circular Economy module, Partnerships and Collaboration for SME's module <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To support equity and justice for current and future generations
	1.3 Promoting nature	Introduction to Sustainability, Value Chain Analysis and the Circular Economy module <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To acknowledge that humans are part of nature; and to respect the needs and rights of other species
2. Embracing complexity in sustainability	2.1 Systems thinking	Introduction to Sustainability module, Sustainable Business Management module, Self-assessment tool <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To approach sustainability from all sides
	2.2 Critical thinking	All EcoSME Training Programme modules <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To assess information and arguments, identify assumptions, challenge the status quo, and reflect on how personal, social and cultural backgrounds influence thinking and conclusions.
	2.3 Problem framing	Introduction to Sustainability module, Innovation and Technology module <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To formulate current or potential challenges as a sustainability problem in terms of difficulty, people involved, time and geographical scope, in order to identify suitable approaches to anticipating and preventing problems



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3. Envisioning sustainable futures	3.1 Futures literacy	Sustainable Business Management module, Communication and Marketing module <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To envision alternative sustainable futures by imagining and developing alternative scenarios and identifying the steps needed to achieve a preferred sustainable future.
	3.2 Adaptability	Innovation and Technology module, Partnerships and Collaboration for SME's module <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To manage transitions and challenges in complex sustainability situations and make decisions related to the future
	3.3 Exploratory thinking	Partnerships and Collaboration for SME's module, Innovation and Technology module, Value Chain Analysis and the Circular Economy module <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To adopt a relational way of thinking by exploring and linking different disciplines, using creativity and experimentation
4. Acting for sustainability	4.1 Political agency	Introduction to Sustainability module, Communication and Marketing module, Sustainable Business module <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To navigate the political system, identify political responsibility and accountability for unsustainable behaviour, and demand effective policies for sustainability
	4.2 Collective action	Innovation and Technology module, Partnerships and Collaboration for SME's module <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To act for change in collaboration with others.
	4.3 Individual initiative	Toolkit for Change, Self-assessment Tool <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To identify our own potential for sustainability and to actively contribute to improving prospects for the community and the planet.

