



MOVE FORWARD TOGETHER

CIVIL SOCIETY FOR ESD 2030



CIVIL SOCIETY FOR ESD 2030

Outcomes of an international civil society exchange on the UNESCO-Programm “ESD for 2030” and its implementation

Cooperation partner for the
organisation of the exchange was

CONTENTS

1. Introduction	3
2. Organisers and Hosts.....	4
3. Civil Society Statement “Education is the key to a sustainable future“.....	6
4. Civil Society Reports on Education for sustainable development and the implementation of “ESD for 2030“	7
Achieving the 2030 SDGs in the Democratic Republic of the Congo – Goal 4: Free quality education for all.....	7
Malawi 2063 – opportunities and challenges of Malawi’s roadmap to quality education for all.....	9
Integrating the global goals of ESD into national development planning processes in Malawi	10
Education for Sustainable Development in Benin – challenges and achievements	11
Education for Sustainable Development is a means for people’s equal social and political participation	12
ESD relevance and experience in India – a reflection	14
Visions from Wallmapu, Mapuche ancestral territory, Chile	16
A holistic, pluralistic and action-oriented approach to ESD strengthens the political agency of children and adolescents	17
What do German adolescents expect from “ESD for 2030”? – Perspectives of the German Youth Panel on ESD	18
The role of the European Union in the implementation process of “ESD for 2030“	20
5. Taking Action – the implementation of “ESD for 2030“ in the UNESCO member states	22
6. Getting involved – the role of Civil Society in implementing “ESD for 2030“	25
7. Digging deeper – key challenges for a future proof ESD	27
International cooperation for a postcolonial ESD	27
Transformative education for global change – changing the narratives.....	28
Participation of children and youth.....	30
8. VENRO members.....	31
9. Imprint	34



1. INTRODUCTION

Education for sustainable development is the key to achieving social, environmental and economic sustainability and is laid down in UN Sustainable Development Goal 4.7. It is intended to inspire people to think and act sustainably and critically in order to contribute to social transformation. Civil society plays a decisive role in this process and contributes to the implementation of SDG 4.7 with numerous initiatives and programmes worldwide.

In 2020, UNESCO launched a [roadmap](#) to implement its new framework “Education for Sustainable Development: Towards achieving the SDGs (ESD for 2030)” and called out for a decade of action. The roadmap sets the course for the next ten years of Education for Sustainable Development and spurs UNESCO member states into commitment and action.

To achieve UN Sustainable Development Goal 4.7, the involvement of civil society actors in the design and implementation of „ESD for 2030“ is essential. Civil society education practitioners are key actors in all UNESCO member states and play key roles in the implementation of ESD. They open up critical global perspectives, offer creative teaching opportunities and reach target groups outside the formalised education system by building bridges between formal and non-formal education.

In 2020 and 2021, we engaged in a vivid exchange with international education experts from all five continents. We made civil society’s perspectives heard in the drafting process of „ESD for 2030“

and had lively discussions on opportunities and obstacles of ESD to fulfill its role as key enabler of the SDGs. The process culminated in an on-line-conference from 11 to 13 October 2021, when we dug deeper into the implementation process of „ESD for 2030“ in the UNESCO-member states:

What issues will multipliers of Education for Sustainable Development be dealing with over the next ten years until 2030? How can we move forward and put the decade of action into practice? What does it need, to make UNESCO member states really carry out “ESD for 2030”? Which role does civil society play in this process and how can we connect internationally and support each other?

This documentation gathers the outcomes of our discussions on these questions and shares the views of civil society experts and practitioners on ESD from different world regions. On the following pages, you can find civil society’s expectations towards the UNESCO-programme “ESD for 2030“, which we published in a joint statement. In ten reports by civil society representatives from Asia, Africa, Latin America and Europe, you receive an insight into the status quo of ESD, current challenges that ESD-practitioners face in specific working contexts and opportunities offered by the UNESCO-programme. Furthermore, you can find information about the programme of our online-conference, our speakers, guests and the workshops, as well as the links to the recordings of the different sessions.

2. ORGANISERS AND HOSTS



The conference was hosted by VENRO - Association of German Development and Humanitarian Aid NGOs.

VENRO is the umbrella organisation of development and humanitarian non-governmental organisations (NGOs) in Germany. The association was founded in 1995 and consists of around 140 organisations. Their backgrounds lie in independent and church-related development co-operation, humanitarian aid as well as development education, public relations and advocacy.

VENRO's central goal is to construct a just globalisation, with a special emphasis on eradicating global inequality and poverty. The organisation is committed to implementing human rights and conserving natural resources.

VENRO

- represents the interests of development and humanitarian aid NGOs vis-à-vis the German government
- strengthens the role of NGOs and civil society in development co-operation and humanitarian aid
- sharpens public awareness of development co-operation, humanitarian issues and sustainable development in Germany



Cooperation partner for the organisation of the event was World University Service (WUS).

W – as in world

The World University Service (WUS) is an international non-governmental organisation which is politically and denominationally neutral. Since 1920 the WUS supports students and academics in higher education institutions. Today, WUS exists in over 50 countries.

U – as in university

The core issues of WUS Germany are higher education and defending human rights, especially the human right to education. WUS provides seminars, publications and information. It pursues public relations at political level, institutions, civil society and the media.

S – as in service

WUS Germany takes part in national and international campaigns in the educational and development cooperation sector, offers consulting and carries out scholarship programmes as well as projects. Among its projects are those dealing with Development Education and Global Learning, capacity building for students from Africa, Asia and Latin America and subsidies for experts returning to their countries.

In cooperation with VENRO, WUS organised the conference “Education 21: Learning for a Just and Sustainable Development” in 2000, the international civil society conference on „Global Learning, weltwärts and beyond“ in 2009 at the mid-term of the UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development, and the international civil society final conference of the UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development on „Transformative Education for Sustainable Development“ in 2014.

The conference was facilitated by
Dr. Hannah Buettner.

Dr. Hannah Buettner is a professional facilitator and dialogue consultant and has been working on issues related to sustainable development and social transformation at various levels for about 20 years. As a trained (social) geographer, ethnologist and systemic consultant, the integration of different perspectives and cultures is at the centre of her work. She worked for the strategy and communication consultancy ifok GmbH for many years, most recently as a senior consultant in the field of environment and sustainability. Since 2015, she has been working as a freelancer with her consultancy Integrative Dialogues:

↳ www.integrative-dialogue.de



3. CIVIL SOCIETY STATEMENT “EDUCATION IS THE KEY TO A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE“

In 2020, we asked civil society experts on ESD to share with us their views and expectations towards the new UNESCO-programme. 41 education experts from all five continents participated in the process. Leading to our joint statement „Education is the key to a sustainable future“.

The dialogue between education practitioners from different UNESCO member states showed that the starting points for implementing ESD vary greatly internationally. In some countries ESD has been part of the established education system for a long time and is partly - although usually not to a sufficient extent - promoted by the state. In other countries, civil society actors are still demanding their governments to guarantee access to education for all citizens in the first place. The statement, therefore, points out that the basis for all educational work remains that UNESCO member states create the financial and structural framework conditions for the implementation of ESD.

However, what marks a common ground in all world regions is the identification of the central global crises that need to be addressed in order to achieve the goal of ESD - to create an ecologically, economically and socially sustainable future: climate change, growing inequality, racism, the threat to democratic structures. The global system based on ecological exploitation and social

inequality must be fundamentally questioned. The statement emphasises that policies that only address the symptoms of the crises will not help. Instead, structural changes must be pursued. The goal of ESD must be to strengthen citizens' critical, political capacity to act and to motivate them to participate in promoting political and social change.

The UNESCO programme “ESD for 2030” creates a good basis for these tasks; it strengthens the importance of ESD for the achievement of all SDGs and calls for its integration into every national development and education policy strategy. It also emphasises the importance of cross-sectoral cooperation and thus recognises the central role of civil society. At points, however, the programme could be much bolder. For example, when it talks about making economic growth sustainable instead of fundamentally questioning growth as the supreme economic doctrine

You can download the full statement on the VENRO-website. It is available in [English](#) and [German](#).

4. CIVIL SOCIETY REPORTS ON EDUCATION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND THE IMPLE- MENTATION OF “ESD FOR 2030”

The following reports give insights into the current state of ESD in different countries around the world. They were written by civil society experts on ESD from different national and educational backgrounds. The reports represent the authors' views on the main opportunities and challenges the implementation of „ESD for 2030“ will bring about in their specific working context. On the following pages, you find articles from authors from the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Malawi, Benin, Bangladesh, India, Chile, Belgium and Germany.

Achieving the 2030 SDGs in the Democratic Republic of the Congo – Goal 4: Free quality education for all

*by Jean Kasereka Lutswamba, Coordinator of
Schools of the Baptist Community in Central Africa
(CBCA), Democratic Republic of the Congo*

General country context

Located in Central Africa and a former Belgian colony, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) is the second largest country in Africa with a surface area of 2,345.410 km² and a population estimated at over 95 million. Potentially rich with its natural resources, the country nevertheless is classified as one of the poorest countries in the world and has experienced recurrent wars since its independence in 1960. With this multi-faceted crisis situation, the DRC is faced with several challenges at all levels, political, economic, and social. Like all other sectors of life in the DRC, the education sector has not been spared.

According to a report of the DRC's Ministry of Social and Family Affairs, this crisis affects all aspects of the education system, ranging from management of infrastructure and resources to school enrolment, resulting in particular from a lack of programming, weak institutional capacities, and poor governance (Ministry of Social and Family Affairs, 2000). However, the DRC, like other sub-Saharan African countries, has subscribed to the Millennium Development Goals and the Sustainable Development Goals. In the education sector, efforts have been made here and there to meet the need for quality education for all. However, there is still a long way to go for the country to reach the objectives that have been set. Below, an account is given of the challenges facing free basic education decreed by the President in the efforts to implement the 2030 SDGs.

The challenges of free basic education in the DRC

As of the 2019-2020 school year, the President of the DRC has decreed free primary education. As to be expected, the population welcomed the

decision because it aims to relieve the burden on parents by materialising Article 43 of the country's constitution, which stipulates in its Paragraph 5 "Primary education is compulsory and free in public schools". Similarly, the decision seems to be partly in line with SDG 4.6, which enshrines inclusive access to quality education: "Ensuring equal access to quality education for all and promoting lifelong learning opportunities". However, the two years of implementing the measure have revealed enormous challenges in terms of teacher support, school infrastructure and, ultimately, the quality of education. The question is whether the country really is financially capable of providing free, quality basic education.

It should be noted that in the DRC, there are three categories of teachers: teachers who are registered and paid by the state, teachers who are registered but not paid by the state, known as NPs (unpaid teachers), and newly recruited and unregistered teachers referred to as NUs (new units). The latter two categories of teachers were fully paid by the parents, while the former received a supplement from the parents. In addition, the parents covered the running costs, building costs and other miscellaneous costs.

The implementation of free basic education is experiencing problems with a number of consequences regarding the functioning of schools. The state salary is lower than the bonus that teachers received from parents (in most cases and especially in urban areas, the parents' bonus has been reduced by at least half). Throughout the country, not only 'NPs' but also 'NUs' have not been paid. Support staff in schools (ushers, sentinels, secretaries, etc.) who used to be paid by parents are no longer paid. At the same time, the overcrowding of schools is leading to a plethora of pupils in some classes, sometimes exceeding 100

pupils per class. Hence, there is the need to build and equip new classrooms. The operating costs of schools formerly borne by parents are a problem, especially at secondary level. Projects initiated by parents for the benefit of schools remain unpaid (construction, rehabilitation, equipment, infirmary, libraries), with the discontent of NP and NU teachers, and even some paid teachers, leading to strikes.

In such a context, what quality of education can we expect from the education system? Indeed, among the four pillars of quality education, the facilitating environment for teaching and learning (competent, well-paid and motivated staff, holistically welcoming schools, good governance and the country's own education sector policy) ought to be highlighted.

The pathways to solutions

To satisfactorily reach SDG 4.6 in the DRC, the following conditions must, therefore, be met: the education system has to be reorganised and important adjustments have to be made by

- a. reviewing the reliability of the country's overcrowded schools and the estimation of the number of additional schools to be built;
- b. expanding public school facilities in order to relieve overcrowded classrooms and overworked teachers;
- c. reviewing the training and objective recruitment of teaching staff;
- d. improving the working conditions and remuneration of teaching staff;
- e. providing the necessary budget for this purpose in the state budget;



- f. paying an adequate salary to teachers, including the necessary social benefits to cover their living expenses (housing, food, medical care, children's school fees, transport, etc.);
- g. developing a new salary scale that ensures better living conditions for teachers;
- h. improving the material conditions for school children (school buildings, furniture, textbooks, teaching and learning materials, etc.);
- i. adhering to and strengthening of the principles of good governance in the country's administration, and in particular in the education sector, through reorganising and restructuring the Service de Contrôle et de Paie des Enseignants (SECOPE);
- j. physically inspecting schools and staff to prevent embezzlement;
- k. ensuring the census and payment of all primary schools and the corresponding monitoring of the management of funds;
- l. combating corruption and embezzlement and fully prosecuting all those involved in corruption and embezzlement.

References

Bakila A. (2020). *La réalisation des Objectifs de Développement Durable*. Montevideo. Coalition Social Watch République Démocratique du Congo (RDC) ↘ <https://www.socialwatch.org/node/18513>

Global Compact Network France (2015). *Les 17 Objectifs de Développement Durable et leurs 169 cibles* ↘ https://www.globalcompact-france.org/images/un_global_compact/page_odd/Liste_des_17_ODD_et_169_cibles_-_web.pdf

La Rentrée Solidaire avec les enfants du Congo (2019). *Les enjeux éducatifs en RDC* ↘ www.rentreesolidaire.org

Ministère du Plan (RDC) (2020). *Rapport d'Examen National Volontaire des Objectifs de Développement Durable*. Kinshasa, MEDIASPAUL

Vatican News (2021). *RD Congo: Les effets de la gratuité de l'Enseignement, selon le Ministre Tony MWABA KAZADI*

VENRO (2009). *Global Learning weltwärts and beyond: Conference Report*, World University Service e. V. (WUS)

Malawi 2063 – opportunities and challenges of Malawi's roadmap to quality education for all

by Juma Wasili, Nyasa Rainbow Alliance, Malawi

According to recent UNESCO reports, Malawi has an adult literacy rate of 62.14%. While the male literacy rate is at 69.75%, for females, it is at 55.2%. Despite numerous and strenuous efforts to bridge the gap, the country's educational standards are still below the international standards. This is largely attributed to a myriad of factors such as the low political will to invest in education and the lack of commitment to operationalise the SDGs, particularly education goal number 4.

However, of late, the state, stakeholders and civil society organisations have taken several strides to reaffirm their commitment towards inclusive and equitable quality education for all. This looks very promising as it comes at a time when Malawi has just published a development blueprint called Malawi 2063 (MW2063) – an ambitious roadmap



to guide Malawi on creating “an inclusively wealthy and self-reliant nation”. MW2063 has comprehensively highlighted the need for increased funding to educational programmes and stressed the promotion of research, science, technology and innovation. Apparently, the education system has been re-designed to respond to the current needs of the curriculum and to include all emerging issues regarding the tenets of SDG 4.

Local and international experts have described this roadmap as a game changer as it sets out to tackle the urgent challenges facing the planet. The roadmap, furthermore, explores the next step UNESCO is suggesting in responding to those challenges through education. However, the implementation and realisation of the programme envisages some obstacles. Little effort has been made to ensure that the guide is localised. There has not been enough awareness raising by the responsible authorities, which is especially problematic because Malawi is a country where access to information is very limited. Most people in Malawi do not have access to the Internet, where they could acquire information.

I see the online engagement through the series of events of “Civil Society for ESD 2030” as a great opportunity to learn and interact with fellow volunteers in this field and maintain an international platform for sharing best practices and innovative ideas for creating a better world for everyone. I believe that this will be crucial in my advocacy work aimed at increasing the contribution of education to building a more just and sustainable world.

Integrating the global goals of ESD into national development planning processes in Malawi

by Ruth Kaperevera, Malawi

The role of ESD in achieving the SDGs in Malawi is to reshape world views and values that have enormous potential to address the sustainability challenges humanity faces. Malawi’s government commits to realise ESD by integrating it into the national development planning process. The focus lies on creating a good environment that enables the relevant stakeholders to take action, for example through teacher accreditation processes and in-service trainings for educators.

However, in order to fully implement ESD, some principles have to be met:

- The training of teachers in colleges and universities has to focus on inclusive education, to teach learners of diverse needs with the aim of all learners being independent at the end of the education circles.
- There are high numbers of learners enrolling in schools, including those from marginalised groups. Thus, more infrastructure development is needed to meet the growing levels of school enrolment.
- More technological aspects like phones and computers as the common gadgets for teachers and learners to use on the ground should be included.
- Malawi’s government should develop a policy that supports ESD as well as inclusive education.
- Social issues have to be addressed. Poverty is an obstacle as it affects access to education and

increases school dropout, leading to illiterate communities or societies.

- Education should focus on empowering people to create jobs themselves, rather than just be waiting to get employed after graduating.

Education for Sustainable Development in Benin – challenges and achievements

by Jacob Sovoessi, International Consultant and Manager of Nego-Com, Benin

In the Republic of Benin, education constitutes and remains the first national priority, which is laid down in the Constitution of Benin (December 11, 1990) as well as in several laws following the Constitution (law n° 2003-17 of November 11, 2003, and law n° 2005-33 of October 6, 2005). Based on this principle, Article 3 of the Constitution stipulates that “the school must allow everyone to have access to culture, science, knowledge, know-how and interpersonal skills”. The Government of Benin is resolutely committed to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030 in general as well as to achieving the objectives of Education for Sustainable Development in particular. This commitment is reflected in the country’s main strategic development documents, whose rate of alignment with the SDGs is estimated to be at least 70%.

The challenges of ESD in Benin

Various education plans and projects are developed in Benin, reaching 45% of the total population under the age of 15. However, several challenges remain to be overcome:

- Education has to be democratised, meaning that access to education needs to be expanded in order to reach all children in the country.
- Qualified education has to be offered despite the very disparate standard of living of households. Thus, financing of education is a crucial challenge in the context of countries of the Global South, where public and private financing and national and multilateral financing coexist within the framework of development aid.
- Appropriation and awareness of the 2030 Agenda has to be improved through training and information workshops.
- In order to assess financial needs, indicators for inventory and costing of Benin’s priority targets need to be adapted to local circumstances.

Operational axes for the implementation of ESD in Benin

At this step, I want to highlight five major axes.

- **Axis 1:** linking to the SDGs: At all education levels (primary schools, colleges, high schools, universities) initiatives must be linked to the SDGs to ensure ESD. Thematic studies allow learners to initiate, analyse and lead to conclusions of sustainability. For example, the government, through decentralised structures, ensures the identification of project ideas and their formulation to continue on its course towards achieving the SDGs.
- **Axis 2:** Education for sustainable development has to be included in in-service trainings. Many departments are already doing this for the benefit of their employees to initiate or sustain ESD, including the Ministry of Nursery and Primary Education, the Ministry of Secondary and Technical Education and Vocational Training, the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research and the Ministry of the Interior and Public Security.

- **Axis 3:** Reducing inequalities through education to leave no one behind! Reducing inequalities makes it possible to involve actors without distinction of means and resources, and without distinction of social or territorial origin.
- **Axis 4:** ESD through cooperation and partnership: for sustainable development, partnerships between the Global North and the Global South are vital. Civil Society in Benin recognises this and works for the following issues:
 - Acknowledging the interdependencies between the North and the South and their common responsibility in relation to global issues;
 - improving partnerships that go beyond financial cooperation;
 - understanding partnerships as a capacity to be open to questioning and be turned towards the mutual reinforcement of each other (and not only as the realisation of a joint action);
 - seeing partnerships as an opportunity but not an end in itself.
- **Axis 5:** ESD through actions of civil society organisations and through support for the socio-professional integration of young people in Benin: schools have to be strengthened regarding their management, their autonomy and their social, technical but also financial sustainability.

Conclusion

Generally in Benin, education appears to be an essential means to achieve other development objectives. With access to qualified education, young people can acquire essential skills, find a professional integration, enter the labour market and break out of poverty. SDG 4, in its interconnections with other goals, is thus an essential pillar for poverty reduction, while contributing to build more equal and peaceful societies.

Education for Sustainable Development is a means for people's equal social and political participation

by Ruhi Naz, Rights and Development Professional, Bangladesh

Putting people at the heart of the development goals should be the focus of any state or government, since there is no development without people. The Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 2030 underlined the key role of people for its implementation. It is invariably understood that without people's equal participation, no development can take place. In order to create an environment conducive to all, which reduces disparity, promotes equal treatment and ensures human rights, it is pertinent to promote education. However, the promotion of knowledge alone will not be effective if people only have access to information but do not learn how to use that information to participate in politics. Working as a practising lawyer and representing civil society, I had the opportunity to engage with different people belonging to various strata in the country. Doing so, I have been able to conclude that focusing solely on enabling access to education to fulfill the development agenda as a whole will not be enough.

We live in a complex society where patriarchal norms and religious sentiments still rule massively. Therefore, creating an enabling environment that promotes good governance and non-discriminatory practices and ensures justice for all, which is the prerequisite for any sustainable development, still remains a fancy dream. It can be well argued that education is the best way to pull a community out of economic misery and social disparity. Education creates human capital and resources, which has many benefits for economies and for societies as a whole. Furthermore, education promotes employ-



ment, earnings, market capital mobilisation and health. For societies, it drives long-term economic growth, reduces poverty, strengthens institutions, promotes open governance systems and fosters social cohesion.

Keeping that in mind, the Bangladesh government has pledged to implement the SDGs, including goal 4 on education (covering primary to tertiary, technical and vocational education, improving the literacy and numeracy of the population, strengthening inclusiveness and equity in education, improving the quality of education and teacher trainings). Knowledge, skills, attitude and behaviour that contribute to sustainable development are given prominence. Thus, Bangladesh has made a good start in getting the SDG ball rolling. The government quickly set up an inter-ministerial committee, under supervision of the Prime Minister's Office, to monitor implementation and report on progress. The government has incorporated the key provisions of the SDGs in the 7th Five Year Plan for 2016-2020. It has also drawn up a handbook mapping the responsibilities of different ministries and authorities for implementation of the SDGs and their targets.

Now, on a broader scale, we can look at the practical difficulties or challenges persisting in achieving those targets:

- Gender inequality and discrimination: in Bangladesh society, discrimination based on sex and gender still exists. Although relatively, the level of girls' enrolment in schools has increased, a large number of girls belonging to marginalised communities still lag behind. Child marriages are still very prevalent. A male dominance culture makes it difficult for girls to pursue education.

- Governance challenges in the education sector: it is imperative to focus on policy, planning, monitoring and management contexts of national education systems in order to identify the obstacles which hinder ESD. Also, it is necessary to look for actions required to strengthen or adapt policy and planning frameworks and processes to achieve targets and commitments.
- Climate change and inter-city migration: natural disasters and calamities render people vulnerable, and in many cases, they tend to migrate to other places, which definitely hinders promotion of education in such communities.
- Lack of skills development: in order to achieve ESD, it is necessary for the education system to be revived to apply newly equipped skills and an innovative methodology. Meeting commitments under the SDGs not only requires an increasing number of enrolments in the education sector but also improving the quality of education. This calls for a change in teachers' mindsets, reducing of political interference, a recruitment system that focuses on competencies and effective networking.

Until these conditions are met, implementing ESD will not be realised.

However, despite those various challenges, Bangladesh has made considerable progress in ESD. Many published reports claim that enrolment to both the primary and the secondary level of education has increased over the years. In addition to the initiatives taken by the government to implement and monitor commitment under the SDGs, a national platform was launched called the Citizen's Platform for SDGs, Bangladesh, which is a network of more than 110 organisations and is intended to contribute to the national SDG process of Bangladesh. This unique platform was convened in 2016



as a congregation of organisations already working in different areas of SDGs, in order to promote greater interaction and coordination among themselves and with the government and other related stakeholders. The aim is to make a concerted effort in realising the SDGs, and to ensure transparency and accountability in the national process.

Taken from a report titled “Four Years of SDGs in Bangladesh – Non-state actors as delivery partners” published by the Citizen’s Platform for SDGs Bangladesh, in 2020, the following data shows NGO involvement in ensuring commitment to ESD:

- delivered education services to 2.9 million learners (61.71% girls/female) through 79,573 learning centres and/or schools.
- operated 37,000 formal and non-formal centres/schools with 1.7 million learners (56.56% girls).
- extended pre-primary education support, including early childhood development, through 25,000 centres covering 700,000 learners.
- provided lifelong learning facilities through 20,000 community learning centres (CLCs) for 700,000 learners.

The report further mentions that many children in Bangladesh get access to the mainstream education system through the government’s primary schools. However, NGOs are providing education support to the marginalised children, particularly those who do not enrol in schools or those who have dropped out from the mainstream schools. Thus, dropout children, children with disabilities, children of ethnic minority communities and children living in hard-to-reach areas are targeted in particular for being provided education by the NGOs. Finally, it can be concluded that as Civil

Society, NGOs in Bangladesh are key actors in realising “ESD for 2030” alongside of the government. Therefore, a concerted and more focused coordination between the two is urgently needed.

ESD relevance and experience in India – a reflection

by Malathi Santhanam, Karl Kuebel Foundation for Child & Family, India

ESD is the key to all the other SDGs. Thus, improvement in SDG 4 should be reflected in improvements in the other Goals. This connection between SDG 4 and all other SDGs has been pointed out a lot. However, it has not been converted into concrete actions that much. It takes time to synchronise education with lifestyle changes and values. Nevertheless, the number of resources invested to generate discussions, data, reports and policies on ESD is commendable. Dialogues occur at all levels with a variety of stakes on various goals of the SDGs.

The main obstacle for ESD refers to affordability, accessibility and availability of resources, especially of data, decision and power to execute. The Global South and the Global North fail to function as one unit but mirror each other’s methodologies by deeming the others as the best. The Global South and North differ regarding the environment and history of their civilisations. The heterogeneity of our planet is its beauty, and we need to accept differences, challenge stereotypes, shed prejudices and be open to collaborate and co-create liberal and individual-centred education.

Intersectoral partnerships

The connection of charity, development, business, and politics with education is the factor of change. Education has never been vested only with aca-



demia, but has historically had other custodians and has always run in relation to economic actors. We need to disseminate our understanding of knowledge and information across different segments of the population. Education is the only factor that cuts across every sphere of every individual's life. Thus, there should not be a divide and competition between policy-makers, politicians, governing structures and educators. Rather, there should be a comprehensive mindset with eye-to-eye partnership. I believe that all of those partnerships depend on the three variables affordability, opportunity and accessibility of ESD. These variables then correlate with the key-parameters: values, attitudes, knowledge and skills, which impact ESD.

Local and global cooperation

We should follow a bottom-up approach from local through national to global induction of ideas and sentiments. Furthermore, global partnerships should go hand in hand with ESD, setting aside political and racial differences and looking at the planet as our common ground to live in co-existence. There are plenty of opportunities that enable a culture of learning and living through diverse formal and informal mediums, structures and standards of education.

Digitalisation

The digital divide or scarcity of resources is another obstacle for ESD. The pandemic has not only forced us to learning through the digital space it also increased the opportunities to do so. However, there are certainly limits across certain sections to access and afford it due to lack of resources. At present discussions among the educationists, technocrats and policy makers are revolving to work out strategies to “do-no-harm” concerning both opportunity and affordability.

ESD indicators

The main obstacle for ESD is the lack of synchronisation across micro, meso and macro levels. There are many players, and each of them is bringing their own interpretations and viewpoints. However, there is a lack of joint forecasting and realistic estimation of possible changes. We may talk about many changes, but we are still trapped in old quantitative metrics of measurement, which fail to look for change in the qualitative dimensions. We must move ahead from quantifying education in terms of activity and output, such as the data for school completion and employability. This will happen anyway, because we have good infrastructure, the right to education as a policy and dedicated teachers. However, fewer indications are available to measure the qualitative change that happens in an individual. What is completely left out is the outcome of everyone's responsibility to achieve their interest along with their accountability to bring change and sustain the planet in all forms.

Opportunities for “ESD for 2030”

“ESD for 2030” will have a big impact on my working context, which is mentoring international youth volunteers, conceptualising training and moderating developmental discussions, coaching organisations for framing policies, evolving theory of change in projects and programmes and, most importantly, localising the SDGs by integrating the SDG indicators and targets in the discussions and above all in developing pedagogical tools for the SDGs.

To raise awareness and increase education on the SDGs across different sections of the population both the drivers and the driven should join hands to create and implement tools (refer: <https://ventao.org/en/developing-quality/project-the-sdgs-in-weltwaerts-weltwaerts-in-the-sdgs/>). It also enables me to explore the gap. Additionally, analysing the data of the government and compar-



ing it with reports of different agencies enables me to correct my training and education curricula. As a country with more linguistics and learning population, tool development is essential to ensure and enable all levels of people to visualise the importance and their role to contribute to sustainable development. I see here the scope of digitalisation to minimise paper, maximise output and enhance learning.

Region-specific indicators should be added to the targets in order to achieve more validity and fit and to achieve the desired objectives. Generating such an amount of data and publishing results across different languages will be a formidable task, and it will be a cost intensive one. The players should aim at co-creation, and not the principle of duplication and claiming attribution. More local CSOs should be educated, invited and made accountable generate data and contribute it to the databank. They must be recognised as a custodian agency. The technological boom, virtual learning opportunities and equating all at one level in the given opportunity; along with bringing all players into the accountability framework will be a task by itself for the future.

“ESD 2030” in India

I am happy that India is reforming the education sphere. We are so inclusive and flexible in balancing local cultural sentiments with global level advancements. India has revised its education policy to make it liberal, match individual competencies and facilitate various vocations. The communication channels across different structures and accessibility of data are one of its strengths. India has constituted a National Institution for Transforming India (NITI-Aayog) to plan, monitor and promote structured support initiatives in line with the SDG indicators.

Furthermore, Civil Society Organisations (CSO's) are the new recognised prominent ESD players in India, especially due to their contribution during the pandemic. CSOs have initiatives to show that “no one is left behind” in any form. A good proportion of the country's labour force is working in this sector, and it is the global connect for cultural exchange and community sentiments. The need of the hour is to strengthen indigenous vocations and community based monitoring mechanisms.

Visions from Wallmapu, Mapuche ancestral territory, Chile

by Jorge Huichalaf Díaz, Educational Cooperation Koyam, Chile

Thank you very much, friends of VENRO. Thank you for your willingness to listen and this space to repeat something that we had requested earlier. In our point of view, there is a missing objective to add to “ESD for 2030” and the SDGs as a whole: the Right of Mother Earth should be included as SDG number 18.

When the current 17 SDGs were established, it was clearly only the interests of the human being and his little ego that were taken into account. Today, we know that the rights of nature are essential to install in all legislation, as is a review of corresponding punishment in the event of non-compliance. If we must respect the dignity of the human being to recognise and respect human rights, we should also respect and recognise the dignity of Mother Earth.

We, as people, inhabit a sacred space, and we cannot continue this desecration by savage capitalism. It is madness not to stop and think. Here, education can be an opportunity for change and an evolutionary leap towards true freedom, love and compassion.



In order to accomplish this, we need to restructure our schools, focusing on new objectives of solidarity and cooperativism inspired from our ancestral concepts and in our own mother tongue: agro-ecology, recycling, clean energy, clean oceans, reforestation, technological transfer, social economy and solidarity – all this has to be incorporated in schools as centres of dissemination and urgent practice.

We are asked to educate for peace by our major conventions. However, with the Mapuche territory surrounded by militias, it is not only difficult for ESD to be implemented here, but also to ensure the rights of poor children in the first place. However, we will still continue our work. Tomorrow, I will plant another tree again and fight for water to water it, even if this will get me into jail, like my brothers. But if it is not me, who else? And if not now, when?

A holistic, pluralistic and action-oriented approach to ESD strengthens the political agency of children and adolescents

by Laurens Bynens, Djapo, Belgium

Djapo is a Belgian CSO specialised in ESD. Combining theory and practice, we provide advice and various services in the field of ESD, ranging from stand-alone learning materials to short/long-term and in-depth coaching and assistance. We work with schools, (future) teachers, policy-makers and various organisations.

Our opinion is inspired by our experience in the formal education context of Belgium (Flanders), and our recommendations are, hence, mostly linked to formal education.

ESD should incorporate three principles:

1. **holism:** environmental, social and economic aspects of sustainable development, as well as aspects of time (past, present, future) and place (local and global);
2. **pluralism:** critical thinking and the inclusion of and respect for different perspectives;
3. **action-oriented teaching**, e.g. improving pupils' competences (skills, knowledge, willingness and alertness) needed to undertake action for sustainable development.

Djapo's approach does not advocate pre-determined answers or solutions to the social and global challenges of sustainable development. ESD issues are political in essence; they are connected with norms, values and emotions, and can be controversial or even polarising. These issues (e.g. climate change) can be a source of worry and hopelessness, but they also offer valuable opportunities for learning and interaction.

A well-considered approach is thus needed which consciously deals with the inextricable pedagogical tensions inherent in ESD, and which aims to increase young people's voice, sense of agency, the disposition to think critically for themselves, to relate to the world and to make their own conscious choices. Their school is a miniature society and a 'separate space-time' where there should be room to discuss, explore and experiment with ESD issues, and for them to holistically develop themselves.



Based on our own experiences, we believe the following principles could help advance the agenda of “ESD for 2030”:

1. In order to bridge the institutional gap between themselves and the formal education sector, CSOs need to consider:
 - a. the needs of teachers and schools (as opposed to solely ‘instrumentalising’ teachers and schools for their own goals and needs);
 - b. their own role as ‘external’ partners and how they can best support schools and teachers, who are crucial actors for ESD and Agenda 2030;
 - c. the relevant educational policies.
2. ESD programmes and interventions should try to integrate the dimensions of theory (the ever-growing academic work on ESD), policy and educational practice.
3. It can be challenging and requires considerable (structural) effort to integrate ESD into the school at the different levels (a whole school approach). The inclusion of ESD in the curriculum can be an important incentive for schools to introduce or further integrate (elements of) ESD.

References:

Baker, C., Clayton, S., & Bragg, E. (2020). *Educating for resilience: parent and teacher perceptions of children’s emotional needs in response to climate change*. Environmental Education Research, 27(5), 687–705

Bengtsson, S. E. L., Barakat, B., Muttarak, R., & Lutz, W. (2019). *The Role of Education in Enabling the Sustainable Development Agenda (Routledge Studies in Development and Society)*. Routledge.

Sinakou, E. Donche, V, Boeve-de Pauw, J., & Van Petegem, P. (2021): *Development and validation of a questionnaire on for teachers’ instructional beliefs and practices in education for sustainable development*, Environmental Education Research, DOI:10.1080/13504622.2021.1921115

UNESCO. (2020). *Education in a post-COVID world: Nine ideas for public action*.

↘ <https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000373717/PDF/373717eng.pdf.multi>

What do German adolescents expect from “ESD for 2030”? – Perspectives of the German Youth Panel on ESD

by Martin Hagemeyer on behalf of the German Youth Panel on ESD (youpaN), Germany

In 2017, the German Youth Panel on Education for Sustainable Development (youpaN) was founded, prompted by a statement in the German national action programme on ESD and actively realised by Stiftung Bildung, a private foundation for education and youth participation. Today, the youpaN is part of the national strategy for sustainability, and is partly funded by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research. It consists of 30 young people aged between 16 and 27. The youpaN delegates one person with voting power for the national platform on ESD, which is Germany’s central institution for the implementation of ESD, and a substitute representative. In addition, every member of the youth panel works in one of the national forums on ESD, which in turn are obliged to support the work of the national platform. Therefore, the members of the youpaN can bring their own views and initiatives into the national ESD process.

Generally, the youpaN demands a fast implementation of the Berlin Declaration on “ESD for 2030”. In other words, the Declaration should fully be realised by 2030. In particular, the youpaN demands two transformations, as stated in the Preamble of the Berlin Declaration:

Firstly, we want economies to transform socially and ecologically to enable every human on earth and future generations to live in dignity and enjoy human rights. Those transformations can fundamentally be induced by education. However, this requires changes in the education systems. We want schools to be safe places without any discrimination and the highest level of equality of opportunities. To achieve this, the youpaN demands that 10 per cent of German GDP should be spent on education and research. This money could be invested in expanding teacher and assistant capacities, improving digitalisation and equipping school buildings.

Taking research into account, it is obvious that we need equity in all educative branches, considering not only all forms of schools, but also universities, professional training institutions and nonformal learning environments. For all these institutions, we would like to see a holistic, institutional approach applied, so that all students can learn and live in an environment the way they should learn according to “ESD for 2030”. Not only should the physical surroundings be modernised, the didactics should be, too. ESD must be a core element of all curricula, but students also need significantly more free space in education institutions. The youpaN is convinced that “ESD for 2030” can only be realised if students in all education institutions are able to choose more often themselves which projects they want to pursue, ideally with ESD relevance, and can get professional help at any

time. This way, all students will develop the most adequate experience of self-efficacy, which is crucial for “ESD for 2030”.

Secondly, the youpaN wants to address a special focus on commitment of the Berlin Declaration. As a youth panel, we think it is crucial to empower young people to become “change agents” for sustainability. However, this engagement should not be one-sided; besides knowledge, young people must be given the power to change relevant structures. Therefore, the youpaN demands an active participation of the youth in shaping “ESD for 2030” and education processes at all levels. Currently, youth participation for ESD only exists at national level. However, in Germany, all curricula are determined at the level of the Federal States. Hence, the youpaN demands the establishment of Youth Future Councils at Federal, State and municipal level. Meanwhile, the engagement of young people in society should be more appreciated. As long as fundamental decisions are made by an older generation, the youpaN deems political participation of different generations biased in a way that jeopardises a sustainable future. All generations, especially those who teach and are in power in sectors which are key to sustainability, should be aware of future problems and social cohesion. This is why the youpaN demands compulsory advanced trainings on ESD for leaders in economy and the offer of ESD trainings for leading politicians.



The role of the European Union in the implementation process of “ESD for 2030”

by Andrea Lapegna, Lifelong Learning Platform, Europe/Belgium

Overall, education and lifelong learning are key enablers and levers for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. The cognitive empowerment required to achieve many of the SDGs is often developed in education, as shown by research. When it comes to education for sustainable development, the strengthening of climate education and action has been identified as arguably the most impactful social tipping intervention in stabilising the Earth’s climate by 2050, adapting securely and building resilience.

At EU level, the main issues and obstacles are as follows: i) the stagnation of and relative decrease in investment in education ii) inadequate and insufficient support for educators, iii) lack of coherent and interlinked education policies and iv) low integration of sustainability in education systems and across curricula. At LLLP, we consider that the EU has an important role to play in i) ensuring adequate, long-term funding at European, national and regional level, ii) supporting current and future educators’ professional development, iii) mainstreaming innovative paedagogies suited to education for sustainable development across the curricula and making education systems sustainable in the long term, iv) achieving policy coherence across different areas.

We hold that the programme “ESD for 2030” fits well with the work conducted by LLLP and our members. Its focus on advancing policy, transforming learning environments, building capacities of educators, and mobilising and empowering youth will be key to supporting the work of CSOs working at all levels and in all sectors of education

and training. Ensuring an inclusive network of stakeholders and the mobilisation of resources across Member States will be crucial to implementing the roadmap and achieving the goals set forth by the programme. The main strength of the framework is the recognition of ESD as holistic and transformational, encompassing learning content and outcomes, paedagogy and the learning environment itself. In our view, its weakness lies in the focus on sustainable development and not on sustainability itself. We consider that the aim should be to build sustainable and resilient education systems and not narrow it down to serving the purpose of development. Learners everywhere should be equipped with skills and knowledge and be able to exercise critical thinking to live in tune with their society, environment and the planet, and should eventually decide on their own development goals according to this balance.

As a civil society network operating at EU level, the relevant commitment here is from the EU institutions. The EU has included the green dimension as part of the Communication on the European Education Area and is now working on a set of Recommendations on education for environmental sustainability. Both policy documents align well with UNESCO’s “ESD for 2030” roadmap and the main five priority areas. The EU shares the priorities on ensuring policy coherence across different levels and building synergies across different education and training sectors. Similarly, there is a commitment to support the capacity building of educators, implement transformative paedagogies, and foster cooperation among different stakeholders across and within EU countries. All these initiatives will directly support the realisation of “ESD for 2030”. In order to develop and implement these various initiatives, the Commission is reaching out to civil society actors to ensure that their voice is heard throughout this process. LLLP and its members have been actively participating in the



consultation processes part of the aforementioned EU initiatives.

References:

Bengtsson, S. E. L., Barakat, B., Muttarak, R., & Lutz, W. (2019). *The Role of Education in Enabling the Sustainable Development Agenda (Routledge Studies in Development and Society)*. Routledge.

Lifelong Learning Platform (2020). *Europe's share of GDP for education and training has never been this low. A comparative analysis*. Available at: <https://lllplatform.eu/news/europes-share-of-gdp-for-education-and-training-has-never-been-this-low-a-comparative-analysis-investment-education-eurostat/>

Lifelong Learning Platform (2020). *Lifelong Learning for Sustainable Societies, 2020*. Available at: <http://lllplatform.eu/lll/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/LL4SS.pdf>

Lifelong Learning Interest Group of the European Parliament (2020). *Sustainability is not only about the environment*. Available at: <http://lllplatform.eu/news/lifelong-learning-interest-group-sustainability-is-not-only-about-the-environment/>

Lifelong Learning Platform (2020). *Lifelong Learning for Sustainable Societies – Let's make it happen!*. Available at: <http://lllplatform.eu/news/lifelong-learning-for-sustainable-societies-lets-make-it-happen/>

Otto, I. M. et al. (2020). *Social tipping dynamics for stabilizing Earth's climate by 2050*.

5. TAKING ACTION – THE IMPLEMENTATION OF “ESD FOR 2030” IN THE UNESCO MEMBER STATES

In late 2020, UNESCO launched its new programme “ESD for 2030” in order to enable education for sustainable development to fulfill its key role in realising the SDGs. It is now the turn of UNESCO member states to take action and commit to the implementation of “ESD for 2030” in their national contexts.

On October 11 2021, we discussed together with UNESCO’s regional officers from Southern Africa, the Arab States, Europe and Latinamerica and the Caribbean, the state of ESD in different world regions, the expectations towards the UNESCO member states and their initiatives to contribute to the decade of action.

You can find the recording of the session ↘ [here](#).

Our guests were:



Carolyn Medel-Añonuevo is the Head of the Education Unit of the UNESCO Regional Office for Southern Africa since January 2015. She is leading the team in its priority areas of work: teachers, TVET, higher education, literacy, education for sustainable development, global citizenship education and ICT for Education. Prior to her assignment in Southern Africa, she was the Deputy Director at the UNESCO Institute for Lifelong Learning (UNESCO Category I Institute) in Hamburg, Germany. Before joining UNESCO in 1993, she was Assistant Professor at University of the Philippines teaching sociology and other social science subjects. She was also involved in a wide range of researches commissioned by the World Bank, UNIFEM, UNICEF and ILO in the areas of Urban Poor Women, Child



Labor, International Migration and Youth Studies. Simultaneous to her work at the University and undertaking research, she was also the Director of the Center for Women's Resource, a nation-wide NGO involved in training and research on women's issues.

Cristian Bravo is a Specialist on Education for Sustainable Development and Global Citizenship Education (GCE) at OREALC the UNESCO regional bureau for education in Latin America and the Caribbean. His main interest are related to promote CSOs contributions to the education sector and facilitate political dialogue on climate action and awareness, human rights standards and its linkages with the SDG2030 Agenda and with the UNESCO-programme "ESD for 2030". Previously, he served as Head of the Human Rights Coordination of the Cabinet of the Ministry of Education of Chile (2015-2018), contributing to the education human rights plan (2018-2021) and educational regulations to guarantee the rights of trans children and other historically excluded groups, as well as initiatives for training teachers and educators in human rights education, pedagogy of memory and gender inclusion. He was also focal point in Chilean's national negotiations with the IACHR on cases related to systematic violations of human rights and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity, unjustified police violence, and the rights of indigenous peoples.



Bernard Combes coordinates the implementation of UNESCO's Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) for 2030 priority action areas on Accelerating local level actions and on Empowering and mobilizing youth to foster local networks and platforms for learning and multi-stakeholder collaboration to better integrate ESD programmes and perspectives into inter-generational dialogues, communities' planning and decision-making processes. He is also the Education Sector focal point for biodiversity and UNESCO focal point for the Earth Charter, and among other things, works to reinforce cooperation with other agencies and stakeholders in Communication, Education and Public Awareness in the areas of biodiversity, water, oceans, cities and sustainable lifestyles.





Won Jung Byun is currently Senior Project Officer in the Section of Education for Sustainable Development at UNESCO Headquarters. Won's work at UNESCO is mainly focused on ESD policy, in particular on preparation and launch of the new global framework on ESD for the period of 2020-2030 called „ESD for 2030“ and its roll-out through its roadmap, including through the organization of the UNESCO World Conference on Education for Sustainable Development (May 2021, Berlin, Germany). Before joining UNESCO, she has worked as executive director for the United Nations University's programme Regional Centre of Expertise on Education for Sustainable Development (RCE) Tongyeong, Republic of Korea since 2005 and co-founded Tongyeong Education Foundation for Sustainable Development (2011) and an education centre called Sejahtera Forest (2015), to promote ESD at local, national and regional level.



Salim Shehadeh has been working at UNESCO Regional Bureau for Education in the Arab States since October 2016 as Programme Specialist, responsible for Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET). He has more than twenty-year experience in this area. He worked as Chief of the TVET & Youth UNIT at UNRWA HQ, located at Amman, before for nearly 14 years. He also has working experience as Training Officer of UNAMID Darfur Office in Sudan. Before that, he was Electronics Lecturer and Program Coordinator at Al-Musanaa Technical Industrial College in Oman and the Chief Instructor and Lecturer at SCS Business and Technical Institutes in the USA from 1985 – 1993. Salim Shehadeh holds a Master degree in Electrical Engineering (Electronics) from New Jersey Institute of Technology (NJIT), USA.

6. GETTING INVOLVED – THE ROLE OF CIVIL SOCIETY IN IMPLEMENTING “ESD FOR 2030”

Civil Society actors are one of the driving forces behind education for sustainable development. World wide they contribute to the realisation of SDG 4.7 through numerous educational programmes and projects.

On 12 October 2021, we discussed together with civil society education experts from Africa, Asia, Europe and Latinamerica, the role of civil society in the implementation of „ESD for 2030“ and civil society’s expectations towards their national governments. Furthermore, Felipe Urbas Sinópoli presented an input to “Think ahead – on education today and the challenges of the future“

You can find the recording of the session ↘ [here](#).

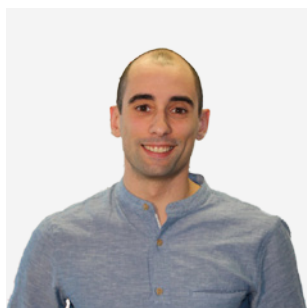
Our guests were:

Juma Wasili is cofounder of the Nyasa Rainbow Alliance (NRA), an LGBTIQ led human rights organisation based in Malawi. He works as an administration manager at NRA, focusing on sexual and reproductive health services, litigation, research and documentation and human rights advocacy. Additionally, Juma Wasili works as a project manager for FriendsCircle Hanover, a Germany based organisation in Malawi. The organisation, among others, actively advocates for equal and free education. Through collaboration with other German organisations, they have been able to construct school blocks and gardens in Malawi. Juma Wasili holds a bachelor degree in Community Development from Blantyre International University.

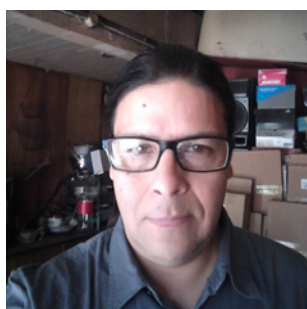




Malathi Santhanam is working for the Karl Kübel Foundation for Child and Family in India. Her major professional commitments are coaching CSOs in strengthening skills at community level, institutionalising child protection policy; conceptualising, designing, and validating training modules; to explore SDG parameters; conceptualise and conduct Theory of Change workshops; mentor global youth volunteers and strengthen mental health. Her international exposure and sharing of expertise motivates her to ensure that “no one is left behind” from development processes. Dr. Malathi Santhanam holds a bachelor degree in economics and a master in sociology. In her doctorate thesis she focused on social networks of rural agriculture and women headed households.



Andrea Lapegna is the communication and campaign coordinator of the Lifelong Learning Platform in Belgium. Besides overseeing communication activities, his policy portfolio include global citizenship education, education for sustainable development, international migration phenomena and African geopolitics. A proud lifelong learner, he is also an associate fellow at the Aspen Institute, a pod-caster and a trained musician.



Jorge Alejandro Huichalaf Díaz is President of the Educational Cooperation Koyam. From 2017 to 2021 he was president of the Cooperativa de Ahorro y Crédito Endógena Mapuche Küme Mogen a savings and credit cooperative which gives access to financing and thus to self-determined economic development to the inhabitants of the Mapuche areas in Chile. He holds a master degree in education and is member of the group learn to change Hannover.



Felipe Urbas Sinópoli is a 20 year old Argentinian activist. He has been working on the SDG's on the national and international scale for the past 6 years. He has been the Latin-American youth representative in the Global Campaign for Education and has worked alongside the biggest experts and NGO's in the Gender and Education sectors of global development. Right now he's working as Advocacy Coordinator for the Youth-led organization 'Transform Education' - Hosted by UN Girls Education Initiative.



7. DIGGING DEEPER – KEY CHALLENGES FOR A FUTURE PROOF ESD

Climate change, growing inequality, the threat to democratic structures and a lack of political participation – there are various interconnected challenges in the quest for a sustainable and just future. In 2020, VENRO asked international education experts and practitioners to name key issues, which ESD has to address in order to contribute to a socially, economically and ecologically sustainable future.

In workshop sessions on 13 October 2021 we dug deeper into these key issues and discussed how civil society actors can pick up these issues in their educational practice.

International cooperation for a postcolonial ESD

This workshop aimed at introducing methodology developed by the Gesturing Towards Decolonial Futures (GTDF) collective, in particular the social cartography „The House Modernity Built“.

The GTDF collective is a trans-disciplinary, trans-national collective of researchers, artists, educators, students, Indigenous communities and knowledge keepers working on the interface of questions related to historical, systemic, and ongoing colonial violence and the ecological unsustainability of our current habits of being, including the threat of social and ecological collapse (decolonialfutures.net).

The social cartography „The House Modernity Built“ is a representation of a theory of change. As

such it offers the analysis of systemic violence and unsustainability, and the analysis of our intellectual and affective investments.

It is also responding to the situation where we are right now – in the midst of a multi-faceted crisis, concerning global health issues, as well as social, economic, ecological and political issues, combined with a climate disruption and subsequent challenges on the horizon. The key questions are: how did we get there? How can we respond to the global challenges with a deep sense of both social and ecological accountability?

The following set of questions enables a deeper reflection on postcolonial ESD:

How has education been complicit in developments related to the current situation?

- How does it perpetuate the ways of thinking, relating and acting that has brought us to this unprecedented stage of multiple global crises, whereby non-human life on Earth is in sharp decline (and we may be heading towards what looks like the edge of human extinction)?

- Is it even ethical to perpetuate the cultural norms and ideals that have brought us to this potential social and environmental collapse? And can the cultural paradigm that created this situation also point us to a way out?
- How can education support a shift towards a reconfiguration of the systems we rely on based on deep social and ecological accountability?

The workshop was facilitated by

Tereza Čajková
Gesturing Towards Decolonial
Futures Collective



Transformative education for global change – changing the narratives

This workshop focused on changing the ESD narrative for transformative education towards a more just and sustainable world. Instead of focusing on “what needs to be changed”, the workshop discussed “what can be done”.

During the workshop, two project examples from India and Germany were presented. Referring to the UNESCO Roadmap “ESD for 2030”, the two project examples were oriented towards the priority action areas 2: “Transforming learning environments” and 5: “Accelerating local levels of action”.

The former action area focuses on the leading role of educational institutions in the implementation of sustainability as a holistic approach within the framework of organisational development. The latter action area addresses the role of community level stakeholders in acting upon and practicing sustainable choices, and the cooperation between learning organisations with the community to enhance ESD on a local level. Both areas address transformative change through positive action at different levels (individual, institutional and community), underlining the role and responsibility of educational institutions and community stakeholders for systemic transformation.

After a short introduction to the above-mentioned frames of reference, the workshop continued with a presentation of the project “international ESD Alliances” by Mirja Buckbesch, DVV International. Focus of the project is the implementation of ESD in the terms of the “Whole Institution Approach” (WIA) at Adult Educations Organisations. The WIA incorporates sustainability in all parts of the educational institution and is not limited to the educational programme. It also includes the design of the learning environment, the management of the organisation as well as the impacts in networks. In this way, Educational Institutions are authentic promoters of sustainability values, and illustrate how sustainability can be put into practice.

The second project presentation by Viveka Jani gave the audience insights to the “Handprint” concept and gave examples of good practice from India. The “Handprint concept is an example

how to change the ESD narrative towards multi-level positive and action-oriented solutions for transformation. Handprint represents positive action, commitment, and collaboration for a more sustainable world. Handprint is a new, systematic method and metric to evaluate actions taken to mitigate environmental impact and quantify the positive impacts of a product during its lifecycle.

Those two project presentation were followed by a lively discussion in smaller break-out-sessions where the participants shared other examples in sense of “changing the narratives” from their own field of work. They gave some insights of positive impacts of change and actions of implementing transformation at local level. In a second break-out-session the participants discussed which stakeholders are essential partners when it comes to positive narrative of change.

The workshop was facilitated by

Viveka Jani (l.)
ESD and climate change educator, India

and

Mirja Buckbesch (r.)
DVV International, Germany



Participation of children and youth

In this workshop the global campaign ↘ “Dialogue Works – Anchoring working children’s participation in societal and political processes” (2020-2024) was introduced. The campaign is steered by the two child advocacy organisations Kindernothilfe (KNH) and Terre des Hommes International Federation (TDHIF). It is co-funded by the German Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development. The project aims to expand spaces for working children to participate in local and global political debates and to express their individual experiences, perspectives and recommendations to political and societal stakeholders. The core of the campaign are Children’s Advisory Committees (CACs) that have been formed in 15 countries worldwide and that serve as a platform for working children to plan and implement advocacy dialogues with key stakeholders, thereby realising their right to be heard (Art.12 UNCRC).

The project builds on the success and outcomes of its predecessor, the global campaign and research project ↘ “It’s Time to Talk! – Children’s Views on Children’s Work” (2016 – 2019). The objective was to realise working children’s right to have a voice in matters affecting them in local and global policy dialogues. For this purpose, more than 1,800 working children have been consulted in 36 countries across the globe using a participatory and rights-based approach.

Dialogue Works educates children and young people to participate actively and in a self-determined manner in shaping the present and future in terms of sustainable development. It helps children to acquire knowledge, raising their own voice and getting involved in their own interests. The ability to help shape and have a say is a central principle for a successful sustainable development.

You can find the recording of the session ↘ [here](#).

The workshop was facilitated by

Elke Weisser
(EPIZ Berlin)

with inputs from

**Lea Kulakow (l.) and
Laura Goldschmitt (r.)**
(Kindernothilfe, Project Dialogue Works)



8. VENRO MEMBERS

A

@fire Internationaler Katastrophenschutz
 Deutschland e. V.
 action medeor
 ADRA Deutschland
 AGIAMONDO
 Aktion Canchanabury
 Aktion gegen den Hunger gGmbH*
 AMICA e. V.
 ANDHERI-HILFE e. V.
 Apotheker helfen e.V.
 Apotheker ohne Grenzen e. V.
 Arbeiter-Samariter-Bund Deutschland
 Arbeitsgemeinschaft der Eine-Welt-Landesnetzwerke
 in Deutschland (agl)
 Arbeitsgemeinschaft Entwicklungsethnologie
 arche noVa
 Ärzte der Welt
 ASW – Aktionsgemeinschaft Solidarische Welt
 AT-Verband
 AWO International

B

Behinderung und Entwicklungszusammenarbeit (bezev)
 BONO-Direkthilfe
 BORDA e. V.
 Brot für die Welt – Evangelischer Entwicklungsdienst
 Bund der Deutschen Katholischen Jugend (BDKJ)
 Bundesvereinigung Lebenshilfe

C

CARE Deutschland e. V.
 Caritas International
 Casa Alianza - Kinderhilfe Guatemala
 CHANGE e. V.
 ChildFund Deutschland
 Christliche Initiative Romero
 Christoffel-Blindenmission Deutschland

D

Dachverband Entwicklungspolitik
 Baden-Württemberg (DEAB)
 Das Hunger Projekt
 DED-Freundeskreis

Deutsche Entwicklungshilfe für soziales Wohnungs- und
 Siedlungswesen (DESWOS)
 Deutsche Kommission Justitia et Pax
 Deutsche Lepra- und Tuberkulosehilfe (DAHW)
 Deutsche Stiftung Weltbevölkerung (DSW)
 Deutscher Paritätischer Wohlfahrtsverband
 Deutsch-Syrischer Verein e. V. (DSV)
 DGB-Bildungswerk BUND – Nord-Süd-Netz
 Difäm – Deutsches Institut für Ärztliche Mission
 Don Bosco Mondo
 DVV International – Institut für Internationale
 Zusammenarbeit des Deutschen Volkshochschul-
 Verbandes

E

Eine Welt Netz NRW
 EIRENE – Internationaler Christlicher Friedensdienst
 EPIZ – Zentrum für Globales Lernen in Berlin
 Erlassjahr.de – Entwicklung braucht Entschuldung
 Evangelische Akademien in Deutschland (EAD)

F

Fairtrade Deutschland e. V. (früher: Transfair)
 Fairventures Worldwide
 FIAN Deutschland
 Forum Fairer Handel
 FUTURO SÍ

G

gemeinnützige energypedia UG
 Gemeinschaft Sant'Egidio
 German Doctors
 German Toilet Organisation
 Germanwatch
 GLS Zukunftsstiftung Entwicklung

H

Habitat for Humanity Deutschland
 Handicap International
 Help – Hilfe zur Selbsthilfe
 HelpAge Deutschland
 Hilfe für Afrika e. V.
 Hoffnungszeichen / Sign of Hope
 humedica



I

Indienhilfe
INKOTA-netzwerk
Internationaler Bund (IB)
Internationaler Hilfsfonds
International Justice Mission Deutschland
Internationaler Ländlicher Entwicklungsdienst (ILD)
Internationaler Verband Westfälischer Kinderdörfer
Islamic Relief Deutschland

J

JAM Deutschland
Johanniter-Auslandshilfe

K

KAIROS Europa
Karl Kübel Stiftung für Kind und Familie
KATE – Kontaktstelle für Umwelt und Entwicklung
Kinderhilfswerk Stiftung Global-Care
Kindernothilfe
Kinderrechte Afrika
KOLPING International Cooperation e. V.

L

Lateinamerika-Zentrum
Lesben- und Schwulenverband (LSVD)
Lichtbrücke
Light for the World

M

Malteser International
Marie-Schlei-Verein
materia – Stiftung Frau und Gesundheit
medica mondiale
medico international
MISEREOR
Mission East Deutschland e. V.
Missionsärztliches Institut Würzburg

N

NETZ Partnerschaft für Entwicklung und
Gerechtigkeit e. V.
Neuapostolische Kirche-karitativ e. V.
nph Kinderhilfe Lateinamerika e. V.

O

OIKOS EINE WELT e. V.
Ökumenische Initiative Eine Welt e. V.
Opportunity International Deutschland
Ora International Deutschland
OroVerde – Die Tropenwaldstiftung
Oxfam Deutschland

P

Partnership for Transparency Fund e. V. (PTF Europe)*
Plan International Deutschland

R

Rhein-Donau-Stiftung

S

SALEM International
Samhathi – Hilfe für Indien
Save the Children Deutschland
Senegalhilfe-Verein
Senior Experten Service (SES)
Society for International Development
Chapter Bonn (SID)
SODI – Solidaritätsdienst International
SOS-Kinderdörfer weltweit
Stiftung Childaid Network
Stiftung der Deutschen Lions
Stiftung Entwicklung und Frieden (SEF)
Stiftung Kinderzukunft
Stiftung Nord-Süd-Brücken
SÜDWIND – Institut für Ökonomie und Ökumene
Susila Dharma – Soziale Dienste

T

Tearfund Deutschland e. V.
Terra Tech Förderprojekte
TERRE DES FEMMES
terre des hommes Deutschland
Tierärzte ohne Grenzen (ToG)

V

Verband Entwicklungspolitik Niedersachsen (VEN)
Verbund Entwicklungspolitischer Nichtregierungs-
organisationen Brandenburgs (VENROB)
Verein entwicklungspolitischer
Austauschorganisationen e. V. (ventao)



W

W. P. Schmitz-Stiftung
WEED – Weltwirtschaft, Ökologie & Entwicklung
Weltfriedensdienst
Weltgebetstag der Frauen – Deutsches Komitee
Welthaus Bielefeld
Welthungerhilfe
Weltladen-Dachverband
Weltnotwerk der KAB Deutschlands
Werkhof Darmstadt
Werkstatt Ökonomie
World University Service
World Vision Deutschland

* Guest member

VENRO has currently 143 members (As of October 2021)



9. IMPRINT

Publisher:

Verband Entwicklungspolitik und Humanitäre Hilfe
deutscher Nichtregierungsorganisationen e. V. (VENRO)
Stresemannstr. 72
D-10963 Berlin
Telefon: 030/2 63 92 99-10
Fax: 030/2 63 92 99-99
E-Mail: sekretariat@venro.org
Internet: www.venro.org

Editor: Lara Fedorchenko

Final editing: Janna Völker

We thank for their contribution: Mirja Buckbesch, Laurens Bynens, Tereza Čajková, Imke Haeusler, Martin Hagemeyer, Jorge Huichalaf Díaz, Laura Goldschmitt, Viveka Jani, Ruth Kapereamera, Jean Kasereka Lutswamba, Lea Kulakow, Andrea Lapegna, Ruhi Naz, Malathi Santhanam, Jacob Sovoessi, Juma Wasili and Elke Weisser

Layout: ansicht Kommunikationsagentur, Wiesbaden, www.ansicht.com

This publication was supported by ENGAGEMENT GLOBAL

With funding from the



The Association of German Development and Humanitarian Aid NGOs is solely responsible for the content of this publication; the positions presented here do not reflect the position of Engagement Global or the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development.

Webversion

Berlin, December 2021



VENRO is the umbrella organisation of development and humanitarian non-governmental organisations (NGOs) in Germany. The association was founded in 1995 and consists of around 140 organisations. Their backgrounds lie in independent and church-related development co-operation, humanitarian aid as well as development education, public relations and advocacy.

VENRO's central goal is to construct a just globalisation, with a special emphasis on eradicating global inequality and poverty. The organisation is committed to implementing human rights and conserving natural resources.

VENRO

- represents the interests of development and humanitarian aid NGOs vis-à-vis the government
- strengthens the role of NGOs and civil society in development co-operation and humanitarian aid
- sharpens public awareness of development co-operation, humanitarian issues and sustainable development

VENRO – Association of German Development and Humanitarian Aid NGOs

www.venro.org