



United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization

Education  
Sector

# Series of Online Workshops: The transformative power of ESD for the world beyond Covid-19

Concept Note



Design: Famille Redlich

## Series of online workshops: The transformative power of Education for Sustainable Development for the world beyond Covid-19

### Background

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

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

Societies cannot transform if why, what and how we learn remain the same. We need to harness the disruptive potential of the Covid-19 pandemic to highlight the relevance of ESD and ensure that educational systems transform in a way that supports a true transition to

sustainable development. “[ESD] provide[s] us with the tools to search for solutions at the global level and help us translate responses into concrete solutions for the local living environment” (read UNESCO's [blog post on Covid-19 and ESD](#)).

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

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

## Objectives

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

## Date

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The online workshops will be held once a month, every second Wednesday (except 12 November), starting September 2020.

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

## Audience

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

## Programme of the series of online workshops

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Outline		
<b>9 Sep.</b>	<b>12:30 GMT+2</b>	<b>The big conversation: ESD and the world beyond Covid-19</b> <i>To kick-start the series, the first online workshop is designed as a joint thinking</i>

		<i>process to collect observations and questions on the transformation we need in the world beyond the pandemic and how ESD contributes. It aims to provide an opening for a number of topics that will be discussed in the upcoming workshops.</i>
<b>14 Oct.</b>	<b>10:00 GMT+2</b>	<b><u>ESD in remote and digital settings: Lessons learned during the COVID-19 pandemic</u></b> <i>Reviews examples of how remote and digital ESD learning take place during the pandemic; and explores ways to ensure that ESD learning continues under challenging circumstances.</i>
<b>12 Nov.</b>	<b>14:00 GMT+1</b>	<b><u>Youth, ESD and resilience: empowered young people mobilizing beyond the crisis</u></b> <i>Discusses how ESD equips young people with knowledge, skills, values and attitudes be resilient under challenging situations, with a particular attention on the role of social and emotional learning.</i>
<b>9 Dec.</b>	<b>12:30 GMT+1</b>	<b><u>ESD and global health: Inter-linkage of the health of people and planet</u></b> <i>Focuses on the interconnectedness of the health of people and planet as highlighted through the COVID-19 pandemic, and questions how this can be better reflected in ESD practices.</i>
<b>Jan.</b>		<b>New year's break</b>
<b>10 Feb.</b>	<b>10:00 GMT+1</b>	<b><u>ESD and Climate Emergency: 'Bend the curve for climate change'</u></b> <i>Raises the parallels between the pandemic and climate emergency and discusses how the lessons learned from the public response to the Covid-19 crisis can help 'flatten the curve of climate change', in particular through ESD's contribution.</i>
<b>10 Mar.</b>	<b>14:00 GMT+1</b>	<b><u>ESD and lifestyle: Re-designing consumption and production</u></b> <i>Reflects on the trends in consumption and production observed during the pandemic, such as re-defining of our daily necessity and the return of single-use plastic, and highlights ways ESD can accelerate transformation towards a more sustainable economy.</i>
<b>14 Apr.</b>	<b>12:30 GMT+1</b>	<b><u>ESD for 2030 framework and Berlin: Time to act - Now or Never</u></b> <i>Summarizes the learnings from the series of online workshops and highlights the focus areas of the new framework ESD for 2030, as well as its roadmap on the way forward, from UNESCO World Conference on ESD in Berlin, Germany and beyond.</i>

## Working languages

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

## Technical specifications

The online workshops are organized on the platform Zoom and a YouTube livestream will be provided. The detailed agenda of each session and the link to access the session are shared in

advance through the online page for the series: <https://en.unesco.org/themes/education-sustainable-development/ESDfor2030-workshops>

## Organizers and partners

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

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

## Stay in touch

### UNESCO Section of Education for Sustainable Development



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