

European Social Partners in Education Promoting environmental sustainability in school learning, teaching and management

What is the context of the project?

Fostering environmental awareness represents a crucial goal in contemporary school education, illustrating the interdependence between humankind and consequently, triggering a new understanding of our relationship with Nature in thinking and action. Nevertheless, there is not much data and knowledge available when it comes to how well schools implement environmentally friendly learning in their system and what (different) challenges and opportunities they face.

By facilitating the exchange of knowledge, practices and challenges, the European Federation of Education Employers (EFEE) in cooperation with the European Trade Union Committee for Education (ETUCE) aim to find answers to the following key question: “How can social partners in education contribute to promoting environmental sustainability in school learning, teaching and management?”



What is the objective of the project?

- Strengthen the on-the-ground implementation of international and European green and sustainable initiatives such as the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, in particular Goal 4 and 11, the Action Plan to implement the European Pillars of Social Rights, the European Green Deal with its ambitious goal for a climate neutral Europe by 2050 as well as therewith connected the Commission’s Proposal for a Council Recommendation on education for environmental sustainability.
- Implement and promote the current Work Programme of the European Sectoral Social Dialogue Committee in Education (ESSDE), in particular the selected theme “Education and Environment”.
- Build on the expertise gained out of therewith separate projects, such as the EFEE project “Green Skills in VET” and the ETUCE project “Education for Social Change: The role of Education Trade Unions in addressing sustainable environmental development“
- Examine how social partner in education can support institution leaders, teachers and students to foster an environmentally aware learning environment.
- Mapping the knowledge, experience and views of our members (being education employers and teacher trade unions) on creating more eco-friendly school systems, we aim to get insights in their needs and challenges, which will contribute to the identification and development of a joint approach (including future actions) of the ESSDE partners.

4 Peer Learning Seminars and 1 Final conference

- 4 Peer Learning Seminars in Kinsale, Ireland (5 May 2022); Warsaw, Poland (20 October 2022); Madrid, Spain (23 March 2023) and Helsinki, Finland (11 May 2023) for the collection of best practices on environmental
- 1 Final conference in Brussels, Belgium



How can social partners in education contribute to promoting environmental sustainability in school learning, teaching and management? - Project outcomes

EFEE-ETUCE Policy Recommendations

- The aim of the policy recommendations will be to inform European policy-makers on how to promote environmental sustainability in school learning, teaching and management, based on the findings gained out of the project

Survey

- A survey is sent to EFEE and ETUCE members to get a first better insight into their current knowledge, practices and challenges when it comes to environmental sustainable management, teaching and learning to the promotion of environmental sustainability in teaching and learning, and school management. The survey findings will inform the European social partners in education with regard to social dialogue actions needed on social dialogue and policy development for a joint social partner approach to enhance the implementation of Education for Environmental Sustainability.
- The survey will feed into the research report as well as shape the programme for the case study visits. Consequently, the survey will contribute to the EFEE-ETUCE Policy Recommendations on Promoting environmental sustainability in school learning, teaching and management developed in the framework of the project.

Research Report

- The analyzed results of the research activities (surveys, interviews, case studies) will be summarized in a research report by the research expert
- This research report will feed into the final project report and add substantial information and support to the EFEE and ETUCE Recommendations promoting sustainable and innovative teaching and learning methods.