



HEA Teaching and Learning Conference December 2024

Driving Changes in Teaching and Learning through Policy and Innovation

HEA AN tÚDARÁS um ARD-OIDEACHAS
HIGHER EDUCATION AUTHORITY



Integrating Education for Sustainable Development in UCC: toolkits, digital badges and people

Name of Institution/Organisation	Aims/Objectives
University College Cork	Aim: This case study draws on four different strands of work which collectively respond to the aim to equip teaching staff to develop and review curriculum offerings to integrate sustainability into teaching and learning.
Who led the initiative?	Objective 1: Enact desk-based research and consultations with students and staff to shape the design and subsequent development of an online SDG Toolkit for Teaching and Learning and related 90-minute workshop.
Collaboration between Centre for the Integration of Research, Teaching and Learning (CIRTL), Office of Sustainability and Climate Action, and Green Campus	Objective 2: Consult with staff and students through the 52 further and higher education partners that comprise the Irish Green Campus network to surface the challenges and opportunities that exist in our current teaching and learning system in relation to integrating a comprehensive Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) curriculum across all third-level education institutes in Ireland.
Date and timeframe of the initiative	Objective 3: Develop a self-paced, flexible professional development offering to support staff to think reflectively, to learn with peers and craft curricula to support the participatory modes of engagement required to effectively integrate the SDGs into assessment, teaching and learning and establish action-oriented approaches.
2019 - 2024	Objective 4: Recruit an Education for Sustainable Development Officer and enact an ambitious plan to develop and implement a series of initiatives with staff and students to embed education for sustainable development across the curriculum in UCC.
What was the reach of the initiative?	Rationale and Identified Needs
<p>SDG Toolkit</p> <p>The SDG Toolkit has had over 21,000 website viewers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 42.2% UCC • 15.9% other Irish • 24.4% other OECD (UK largest) • 7.9% non-OECD Global North • 9.6% from Global South <p>Invitation to share work as national and international case study of good practice.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Case study in Ireland's second national implementation plan for the SDGs - Case study for UN Academic Impact ESD Consultation <p>2 workshops were run by UCC Green Campus and Green-Campus Ireland. 54 registrations.</p> <p>Micro-credential</p> <p>50 graduates of short course since 2023 launch and hundreds of staff use parts of the course as a resource in developing their teaching practice.</p>	<p>Higher Education plays a critical role in advancing the aims of Education for Sustainable Development and realising the ambitions of the SDGs. Barriers to whole institutional integration of Education for Sustainable Development include disciplinary silos, insufficient funding, staffing and political will as well as external competitiveness between higher education institutions.</p> <p>Addressing the SDGs in higher education requires a “whole-institution” approach, and students are increasingly looking to their universities to address challenges such as climate action and sustainability. Educators are being encouraged to bring their curriculum in line with this global agenda. The initiatives that comprise UCC's work since 2019 has had the primary goal of ensuring students graduate from UCC with an education that teaches them not just the “what” of sustainable development, but the “how” and the “why”. These “global citizens” will be more employable to the increasing number of organisations placing a priority on sustainability as well as being more empowered in themselves to act to make the world a more sustainable and equitable place.</p>
 <p>UCC University College Cork, Ireland Coláiste na hOllscoile Corcaigh</p>	Frameworks, Policies, or Strategies Aligned (internal, local or national) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - UCC Institutional Strategic Plans 2017-2022 & 2023-2028 - UCC Academic Strategy 2018-2022 and Connected Curriculum framework - UCC Sustainability Strategy 2018-2022 - UCC Sustainability and Climate Action Plan 2023-2028

Categories	Elements	Topics	Target Groups
			Students
Coordinate		Education for Sustainable Development	
Consult	Innovation in Teaching		Wider community
Create	Professional Development		
		Innovations in Assessment and Feedback	
		Student Engagement and Partnership	
		Collaborative and Interdisciplinary Approaches	