

The study guide for the module

EDUCATION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT, ESD

Universidade Aberta, Portugal

6 ECTS (156 study hours)

Teachers:

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Aims and learning outcomes

Dear students, this guide will help you to understand course structure, learning content, assignments and learning dynamics in virtual learning environment. It will explain to you how to study and how your personal achievements will be assessed. You will find information on help contacts, contact hours with the teacher and other important issues.

The main **aim** of this course is for you:

- a) gain knowledge and develop competences relating to the main concepts associated with sustainable development, sustainability science, and education for sustainable development;
- b) analyse the main policies, plans, programs and practices associated with Education for Sustainable Development. At the end you will have to develop a project plan on Education for sustainable development to be applied at informal, non-formal or formal context, in any level of education.

Having successfully completed the course, you will be able to reach the following **learning outcomes**:

- define the main concepts associated with *sustainable development, sustainability, sustainability science, and education for sustainable development*;
- analyse intercultural discourses within education for sustainable development;
- analyse the main policies, programmes and strategies of education for sustainable development, at national, European and international levels;
- explore the main practices within education for sustainable development , namely *whole-school approach, community engagement, challenges in teaching, interdisciplinary, techniques and tools for sustainability assessment*;
- share, confront, and build-upon identified knowledge related to intercultural experiences within education for sustainable development;
- develop a project within education for sustainable development.

The learning material for the course include

- Literature (papers, book chapters, official reports, etc.);
- audiovisual materials (videos, power points, etc.).

Contents and Sequence of learning activities

The course topics are preceded by a *Boot camp week* which aim to introduce the participant to the:

- e-learning platform environment;
- pedagogical model at UAb;
- main forms of communication and interaction.

The main course topics and assignments are:

Content (topics)	Study week	Meetings/ Learning materials	Assignments
1. Main concept within sustainable development	Week 1 – 3 (20 March – 9 April)	Video and Slides Papers Book chapters	Individual reflection work and debate about the main concepts within sustainable development
EASTER BREAK	Week 4 (10 – 16 march)		
2. Intercultural discourses within education for sustainable development	Week 5 -7 (17 April – 7 may)	Video and Slides Papers	Individual work with papers Group work on national legal basis, ethnicity PPT assignment Discussion of PPT
3. Policies, programmes and strategies of education for sustainable development	Week 8 – 11 (8 May – 4 june)	Video and Slides Report, programmes, policies	Group work with exchange knowledge of national realities PPT assignment Discussion of PPT
4. Practices within education for sustainable development	Week 12– 15 (5 June – 2 july)	Video and Slides Papers	Group wok for analysis of practices (methods) relating to practices within education for sustainable development
5. Project plan development within education for sustainable development to be applied in formal or informal context	Week 16 - 19 (3 - 30 July)	All learning material Additional material resulting from students research	Written project plan with oral presentation and synchronous discussion (group work) Peer-assessment

Online learning method

The online method of work, adopted in this course, values simultaneously (i) individual work and (ii) collaborative work. Thus, there will be moments of independent learning and of collaborative learning, that will involve:

- individual work periods, including readings, and critical analysis of learning materials,
- interaction periods between students, to carry out the proposed activities (e.g. participation in thematic discussions, preparation of comments, or group assignments), as shared reflection of points of views, leading to a deepening of the topics under study,
- interaction periods with teachers.

The teaching-learning activities of this course take place in the Moodle e-learning platform of the Universidade Aberta, Portugal. All information and activities related to this course will be made available in the virtual classroom environment. Emphasis is given on asynchronous communication, with relevance to the discussion forum. Taking into account the readings, the access to the platform, downloading files, eventual research, the development of individual reflections and participation in group assignments or in general discussions, it is advised that each student prepares a weekly schedule of his/her work.

Each topic will comprise:

Videos - Introductory video and slides

Task Guidelines - Orientations for the readings and activities relating to each of the topics, will be made available according to schedule.

Readings - required bibliographical material supporting learning

Quizzes - practice quizzes that aim to help review and recall the content of sections within the topics.

Activities - serve as learning and assessment activities at the same time.

Forum - specific Forum for group work development and for Debate

It is estimated that on average, each student may need 8 hours per week to connect online, using the platform to participate in the activities. It is recommended that you consult this module site on a daily bases.

Assessment

During the course, you will be assessed in 4 activities, mainly team work (continuous assessment). Then you will have to develop a project plan assignment, according to the following table:

<i>Topic</i>	<i>Type of activity</i>	<i>Assignment Deadline</i>	<i>Total of the final mark</i>
1. Main concepts	Individual work (Brain debate)	9 April	17,5 %
2. Discourses	Group work (3 to 4 people)	7 May	17,5 %
3. Policies	Group work (3 to 4 people)	4 June	17,5 %
4. Practices	Group work (3 to 4 people)	2 July	17,5 %
5. Project plan	Group work (2 people), with oral presentation and discussion	30 July	30 %
Total:			100 %

Assessment criteria:

The assessment assumes a continuous perspective and is based on the following elements:

- Participation in discussions of the forums;
- Group and individual work;
- Final individual work.

The assessment process has a **continuous and formative character**, which is based on timely quality feedback, and aims for a progressive improvement of student's competences.

1) Participation in Discussions

Intervention content:

- Identifying the core ideas of the topics;
- Formulating well-grounded opinions;
- Developing critical comments about the colleagues' views;
- Taking others' opinions into account and rethinking your point of view.

Interaction modes:

- Regular participation in the discussion and meets the deadlines;
- Interaction with colleagues seeking to encourage discussion and focusing the debate on the proposed themes;
- Demonstrate an ethical attitude with colleagues and contributes to group cohesiveness.

2) Individual work

- Organize a written text properly;

- Analyze documents;
- Construct arguments based on the literature provided.

3) Final Project work

- Show knowledge of the concepts mobilized on the course;
- Demonstrate ability to discuss, reflect and elaborate ideas based on the concepts and issues addressed;
- Constructs arguments based on the relevant literature.

The final work will include a **synchronous oral presentation** and discussion with the teachers.

Let's study, collaborate and improve!