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Course 5: Sustainability in Education

Hosting Organisation: Akademie für Politische Bildung und demokratiefördernde Maßnahmen
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Course introduction

Course focus

- Sustainability as a core educational responsibility
- Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) in adult education
- Linking learning, behaviour, and social change

Learning outcomes

Participants will be able to:

- Integrate sustainability and SDGs into adult learning
- Design sustainability-focused learning activities and projects
- Facilitate experiential and outdoor sustainability education
- Support behavioural change through education

Whats Sustainability Education

Sustainability:
environmental, social,
economic dimensions

Education for
Sustainable
Development (UNESCO)

From awareness to
action

Reflectionquestion How does sustainability already appear in your work?

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

- Overview of the 17 SDGs
- Interconnections between goals
- Relevance for adult learners and communities

Mini-task:

Choose one SDG relevant to your professional context.



Embedding Sustainability Learning Design

Sustainability:

content
method
value system

Hidden
curriculum and
role modelling

Exercise:

Identify sustainability elements in an existing course you teach.

Green Practices in Education Settings

Sustainable use of resources
Digital vs physical materials
Inclusive and ethical decision-making

Mini-reflection:
Greening a training centre or community programme.

Redesigning Lessons Through a Sustainability Lens

Task:

Take an existing lesson or training

Redesign it to include:

- sustainability perspective
- active learner involvement

Peer feedback round

Sustainability Campaigns & Initiatives

- Educational campaigns vs activism
- Raising awareness ethically
- Measuring impact

Group work: Design a small sustainability initiative for adult learners.

Environmental Project Simulation

Simulation scenario

Participants simulate planning an environmental education project:

objectives
stakeholders
risks
evaluation

Debrief: What compromises were necessary?

ShareModule(4): EcoTechExplorationAEC

Group Experiment Task

Explore eco-technology and sustainability-related exhibitions

Identify:

- technological solutions
- educational potential
- ethical considerations

Group output:

3 ideas for using eco-tech in adult education.

Shared Module (5): Visualising Sustainability AEC

Hands-on Group Activity

Explore digital installations related to climate and ecology

Discuss:

- emotional impact
- data vs storytelling

Creative task:

Create a visual concept explaining a sustainability issue.

System Thinking & Ecosystem Awareness

(Practice)

- Understanding interdependence
- Cause-and-effect loops
- Human impact on ecosystems

Exercise:

Map an ecosystem related to a local issue.

Preparing for Outdoor Ecosystem Simulation (Practice)

Learning outdoors as a sustainability method

Safety, ethics, and logistics

Facilitator role in nature-based learning



Planning task:

Define rules and learning objectives

ShareModule(9): Outdoor Ecosystem Game

Outdoor Group Simulation

Task:

Manage resources within a simulated ecosystem

Experience consequences of decisions

Focus:

- cooperation
- conflict
- sustainability trade-offs

Reflection Sustainability Learning

(Shared reflection)

Emotional and cognitive learning outcomes
Behavioural insights
Transfer to everyday life and work

Reflection questions:

What would you change in your own behaviour?
How can education support long-term change?

Shared Module 10: Final Presentation & Wrap Up

Final Group Activity

- Presentation of sustainability projects and lessons
- Peer feedback
- Discussion on transfer to:
 - adult education
 - social work
 - community development

Closing question:

How will sustainability shape your future teaching?