



Engaging SDGs for Transformative Education  
and Enhanced Sustainability in Universities



Co-funded by  
the European Union

## Newsletter n.2

March 2025

### About SDG4U

SDG4U's key priority is to stimulate innovative learning and teaching practices through engaging SDGs to transformative education and sustainability practices in universities. The project supports and enhances the implementation of SDGs in higher education by embedding sustainability across teaching, research, operations, and community outreach. The project is funded by the Erasmus+ programme of the European Union and spans over 36 months (December 2022 – December 2025).

More at: [www.sdg4uproject.eu/](http://www.sdg4uproject.eu/)



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# Benefits of the SDG4U Mapping tool

## *What is the SDG4U Mapping Tool?*

The SDG4U Mapping Tool was created to assist academic institutions in integrating the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the UN into their operations, research, teaching, and community engagement. It gives a picture of how sustainability is integrated into higher education by enabling professors, students, and university officials to map courses, modules, and university activities on the 17 SDGs. To promote user involvement, the tool includes gamification features including badges, public statistics, and interactive data visualization. It was created with the Agile technique and is an open source, guaranteeing ongoing enhancements based on user input. The tool, which is a component of the Erasmus+ project called SDG4U, attempts to encourage institutions to adopt sustainable practices and transformative teaching and learning.

## *What Benefits Does It Offer to Professors and Students?*

The SDG4U Mapping Tool is a useful tool for improving sustainability in higher education because it provides substantial advantages for both professors and students. The application gives professors a way to align their classes with the SDGs and considers how they could include sustainability in their teaching and learning methods. Professors can use a 0–5 scale to rate how closely their courses relate to SDGs by answering a number of quick questions. This technique encourages cooperation with colleagues working on related sustainability subjects in addition to assisting them in identifying areas for improvement. Professors have access to extensive course statistics, including feedback from students, which they use to improve their teaching methods and course material. Because they can see how their courses relate to more general sustainability goals, the tool also encourages professors to embrace multidisciplinary approaches. Furthermore, the optional reflective questionnaire encourages professors to consider their role in advancing sustainability, which can result in more creative and effective teaching methods.

The tool provides students with a special chance to interact meaningfully with sustainability. Students can assess how well their classes address the SDGs, giving professors insightful criticism and assisting in the ongoing development of the course material. Students become more conscious of sustainability issues and learn how their education relates to global issues because of this approach. Because users can quickly discover which courses relate to their interests in particular SDGs, the tool also helps students make well-informed course selections. Students gain a stronger grasp of sustainability and critical thinking abilities by taking part in the mapping process, which can affect their actions both personally and professionally. All things considered, the tool encourages a culture of accountability and creativity in higher education by enabling professors as well as students to contribute to a sustainable future.

# Try the SDG4U Mapping Tool!

The SDG4U Partners were committed to develop a **teaching and training tool for mapping and promoting SDGs in Higher Education and supporting the incorporation of SDGs into existing and new curricula**.

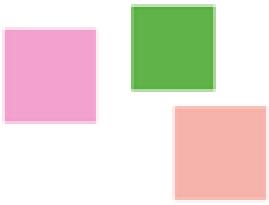
The [Mapping Tool](#) is designed to keep track of how universities embed SDGs in their courses, with the overall aim of getting a picture of where higher education institutions stand in terms of supporting SDGs. It also provides examples and inspiring means to enhance effective engagement of HEIs, teachers and educators, students and researchers, with SDGs. It is expected to identify and map the existing modules/courses that contain SDGs in their content and further contribute to the development of new trans-disciplinary modules and courses in European universities. In turn, students will have a tool to select their courses based on the integration of SDGs in the curricula. Last but not least, the SDG4U Mapping Tool will bring inspiration for future-oriented curricula that better meet the needs of individuals, institutions and societies.

***[inspire sustainable learning,  
one module at a time](#)***



[View SDGs](#)

[View Courses](#)



# Building Awareness & Engagement with the SDGs

## *Pre-awareness Surveys*

Pre-awareness surveys have been undertaken in all partner universities aiming to identify sustainability-related perceptions and practices as well as understanding of SDGs within the University Communities (faculty, students, staff). More than 800 people from the 5 partners' institutions have responded to the survey.

A post-awareness Survey will be implemented upon the end of the SDG4U Campaign.

## *SDGs Awareness Campaign*

SDG4U aims to raise awareness and actively engage people on the promotion of the Sustainable Development Goals through an awareness campaign targeting the university community and the general public in Europe and beyond. The campaign involves webinars, social media posting and in-presence institutional events, to ensure the maximum visibility and engagement.

Partners will focus on all 17 SDGs, their targets and how they can be achieved. The **SDGs Awareness Campaign** will support the adoption of SDGs contributing to the 2030 Sustainable Agenda, encouraging everyone to play a role.

## *Workshop on campaign planning*

On February 20th, 2025, the SDG4U Consortium hosted a dynamic workshop focused on the **Pre-Awareness Survey Findings** and the development of a powerful campaign to promote the integration of Sustainable Development Goals in higher education institutions. The event aimed to explore current awareness levels surrounding SDGs and to design effective strategies for promoting inclusive and equitable education. To know more, consult the dedicated news [HERE](#).

## *Inspiring Cases*

Preliminary actions to the campaign include a **collection of inspiring practices** focused on teaching methodologies to integrate the SDGs into courses/modules in higher education. Multiple cases were identified from the literature across the three dimensions (Interdisciplinarity, Action-based

learning, Multi-actor involvement) of ESDGs, as mooted by SDSN (2020). The literature review has as its ultimate goal the mapping of the practices used by universities and at the same time provided a very good basis for the creation of innovative educational material and support for LifeLong Learning (LLL).

Highlighting practices from universities around the world leads to the creation of an important list of methods and tools for promoting the SDGs within the academic community, while at the same time contributing to collaboration between academic institutions and stakeholders through the exchange of knowledge and experiences.

### ***Campaign Inauguration at ACG – Deree Science Day***

On Saturday, March 15, 2025, [Deree Science Day 2025](#) brought together students, families, and science enthusiasts for an inspiring day of exploration. Organized by the Center of Excellence in Sustainability (CoES) & the Department of Science and Mathematics, Deree – American College of Greece, the day was filled with **hands-on experiments, insightful talks, and interactive workshops**. Initiated by the E.U. Erasmus+ project SDG4U, the event was connected to and promoted the 17 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. The Deree Science Day signifies the inauguration of the SDG4U Campaign for the American College of Greece Research Center.

Prior to the Deree Science Day, on March 11, the SDG4U project was presented to Faculty members of the American College of Greece in an effort to promote the upcoming campaign and the academic seminars of the SDG4U.

### ***Call for action***

Another important contribution is the collection of **successful educational initiatives** (such as courses, seminars and webinars) and methodologies related to the implementation and promotion of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The Call for action aims to promote insights into the educational initiatives adopted by partners to enhance the promotion of SDGs in courses in higher education. It also aims to examine the educational methodologies employed by partners to implement these initiatives effectively. The results emphasized the strong commitment of project partners to sustainability-focused courses and educational initiatives and also revealed the most commonly used educational methodologies within these courses.



# Higher Education Authority (Ireland) ESD

## Webinar Series

### ***UCC's SDG Toolkit and SDG4U Mapping Tool featured!***

The Higher Education Authority (HEA) [Education for Sustainable Development \(ESD\) Spotlight Series](#), in collaboration with higher education institutions across the Island of Ireland, showcases innovative and inspiring ESD initiatives taking place in the sector. This series celebrates the vital role of higher education institutions in embedding ESD and responding to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through curricula, research, and campus practices, addressing key global challenges and driving transformative action that benefits students, academic communities and society at large.



*Dr Barimo discussing the module mapping tools from both UCC and the SDG4U Project.*

Earlier in March, [University College Cork was featured in this series](#). Dr John Barimo, manager of SDSN Ireland, delivered the section about UCC's regarded SDG Toolkit from its development to its implementation both within UCC and beyond. The SDG4U project was also acknowledged as another version of the module mapping tool with its project partners in Greece, Spain, Ireland and the UNIMED network.

#### *HEA ESD Spotlight Series:*

<https://hub.teachingandlearning.ie/esd-spotlight-series/>

#### *UCC Edition:*

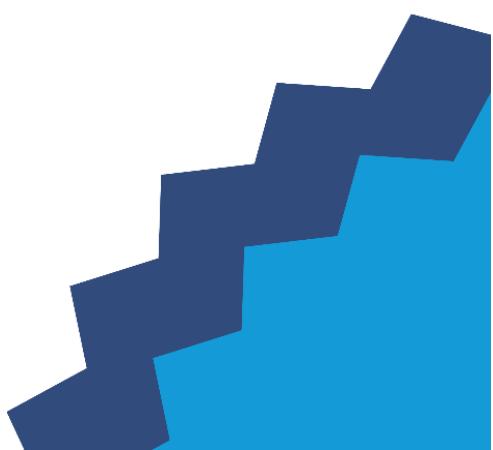
<https://hub.teachingandlearning.ie/esd-spotlight-series/esd-spotlight-recordings/#UCC>



## Advancing Capacity Building for SDGS in Higher Education through Training and Tailored Educational Resources

As part of their ongoing contributions to the SDG4U project, partners have developed a set of educational materials designed to facilitate the adoption of sustainability practices within higher education institutions. A flagship initiative is the upcoming Train the Trainer seminar, set to take place in a hybrid mode (both in-person and online) at the end of May 2025. This training will equip academic staff with the skills, knowledge, and pedagogical strategies necessary to embed the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) across disciplines and curricula, empowering them to become change agents within their institutions.

In parallel, the partners have also produced targeted content streams for both university staff and students. These include learning materials, guidance tools, and awareness-raising activities that promote cross-sector collaboration, foster inclusive engagement, and encourage active reflection on the role of education in achieving the SDGs. Through these efforts, the partners collectively support the transformation of higher education institutions into spaces of sustainability, innovation, and societal impact.





# Join SDG4U

## *Next steps and opportunities*

The next steps of the SDG4U project focus on expanding its impact and engagement!

A key opportunity for all is the upcoming "**SDGs Awareness Campaign**" designed to increase public understanding of the Sustainable Development Goals and their significance for global progress. Join us to learn more about SDGs in Higher Education and beyond!

A key opportunity for academic staff in European universities is the upcoming "**Training of Trainers**" foreseen for May 2025. The training will equip participants with the necessary skills to become SDG advocates and educators, fostering a ripple effect of knowledge-sharing in communities. These initiatives will strengthen the project's capacity to inspire action and create long-term momentum toward achieving the SDGs.

**Follow us on social media**  
**and visit the project website**  
**not to miss any opportunities**  
**and to stay tuned on next steps!**

More at: [www.sdg4uproject.eu/](http://www.sdg4uproject.eu/)

