The ESD and teacher education in Estonia

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“e-Estonia”,

- Estonia became a **European Union member state** in 2004.
- **Population:** 1,340 million
- WiFi covered areas, for 45,000km² totally [www.wifi.ee](http://www.wifi.ee)
- All Estonian schools are connected to the Internet.
- We use Electronic ID card, E-government, E-elections, **E-services in education:** e-School, University via internet
- According to the PISA 2012, 2009, 2006 results, the Estonian students` achievement in science was one of the best in the world. We have achieved the excellence through the equity. The association between performance and SES is weak. We have the lowest level of low-performers in Europe in reading math, science.
ESD in Estonia
National Curriculum

• According to the National Curriculum, sustainable development and also ICT has been recognized at all school levels as a cross-curricular objective already in 2002. The Estonian National Curriculum for Basic Schools and Upper – Secondary Schools present a topic *the environment and sustainable development* as a cross-curriculum theme.

• Cross-curricular topics are a means of integrating general and subject field competences, subjects and subject fields and are taken into account in developing the school environment.

• All Estonian schools have to prepare the school curriculum on the basis of the National Curriculum. These school curricula must specify how to implement the sustainable development into everyday school-life.
ESD as a part of teachers’ initial training

• At school level the ESD study may implement through the structure of the learning environment, subject study and collaboration with the regional institutions and enterprises, other educational and cultural institutions and civic associations.

• Initial teacher education is provided by universities and professional higher education institutions develop professional and didactical competency of teachers of all levels to implement the topic of cross-curriculum topics.

• Teachers of all levels are expected to obtain the professional and didactical competency; skills to create a safe study environment and to develop school curricula, to co-operate with other teachers and implement environment and sustainable development.
ESD as a part of educators’ in-service training

• The Estonian ministry of the environment and the environmental board have implemented the “Environmental education development program” co-financed by European Union Social Fund.

• The program aims to develop formal in-service training programs, focusing on the integration of the ESD topics for university-educators and teachers of all levels (incl. kindergarten).

• Furthermore, the program aims to develop methodological materials and teacher-toolkits.

• The program have been launched at the end of 2013.
ESD in-service trainings for school teams

- The two main major Estonian universities provide initial teachers’ education programs, have prepared ESD in-service programs and organise these courses in 2014-2015.
- The participants (~8% of Estonian schools) of the in-service trainings are school teams (3-4 teachers). At least one member of the team must be a school leader.
- The aim is to improve teachers` ESD teaching and methodological skills. Training includes classroom instruction, practical and independent work (78 hours). The holistic learning approach are introduced and active learning methods are implemented in trainings.
- At the end of the course the school team must develop a school-level joint project for ESD, which contributes the development of students' sustainable development skills and attitudes.
Thank you!
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