

The methodology of the project

Given the multi-dimensional aspect of sustainable development, we consider that a “cross-cutting topic approach” is best adapted to tackle this diversity of issues and contents, as it allows working on different questions and experimenting with various approaches at the same time and in different countries.

The network, composed of 11 partners (1 general coordinator and 10 CPD providers), will be split in 3 working groups which will work on selected sustainable development-related topics.

Each one of the 3 working groups will be coordinated by one experienced partner.

The aim of each working group will be to develop Continuing Professional Development sessions based on tools, methods and resources on IBSE integrating one specific ESD topic. 3 professional development workshops (in English) will then be organized for teacher educators and teachers of the 10 participating countries.

1. Choice of topics addressed:

The ultimate selection of precise topics will be discussed and decided upon at the beginning of the project by the network participants (e.g. food, climatic change, biodiversity, eco-housing, etc.). The main aim will not be to merely develop new educational resources on already widely explored sustainable development-related topics, but to include a reflection on responsibility, citizenship and ethics issues related to sustainable development. This reflection work can be based on already existing resources or teaching sequences.

2. Organization of groups

In each country, the project partner (CPD provider) will nominate 2 teacher educators. During the initial phase of the project (kick-off meeting), each partner will choose to work on a specific topic.

Each topic working group will therefore be composed of 6 to 7 teacher educators.

Objective of each topic group: develop teacher **CPD tools on IBSE, focused on 1 ESD topic, and integrating a reflection on responsibility and ethics.**

3. Coordination

Each topic (group) will have a coordinator appointed to organise this collective work. The 3 appointed coordinators will coordinate meetings and exchanges between all partners involved on a same subject, will follow up the actions they implement, will ensure that all deliverables related to the topic are developed and will organise the workshops associated with the topic.

4. Work on topics

Each of the 3 topic groups will focus on one specific ESD aspect, and combine their efforts, experience, expertise and research to deepen their understanding and expertise on this specific topic. Over a one year period, each group will collaboratively develop tools on the ways to address that particular aspect through IBSE. At **national/local level**, the topics will be tested with classes within already existing CPD programmes.

5. European workshops

Working jointly on one specific topic, each group will also develop and carry out a **3-day CPD IBSE workshop** for European teachers and teacher educators (especially those involved in Comenius activities).

The 3 topic groups will meet 2 times during working seminars (for 25-30 teacher educators):

1st seminar to work on the chosen topic (December 2014 in Serbia)

2nd seminar (follow-up seminar) to prepare the handbooks and the final conference (March 2016 in Italy)

Each group will organize 1 professional development workshop for 50 people, open to outside participants (especially Comenius teachers and teacher educators) on its topic. These workshops will take place between September and December 2015, in Leicester (UK), Dublin (Ireland) and Trnava (Slovakia).

6. Handbooks

The European workshops will result in **3 handbooks** related to the topics. These handbooks will gather the materials developed by each working group and make them available to the general interested public through the project website.

2 public conferences, for 100 people, will be organized:

A first conference in Ljubljana, Slovenia, in September 2014, will present the state of the research and practice on ESD and IBSE. Environmental, economic, political, social, educational experts will provide an overview of the main challenges addressed by ESD and IBSE and of the latest trends in those fields. The presentations will nurture the work of the topic groups with up-to-date information on ESD and IBSE-related issues.

The second and final conference, in Berlin in November 2016, will present the results of the work carried out by the network, in particular the handbooks produced by the 3 topic groups, and highlight the contribution of the network to the development of ESD through IBSE.

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