

Empowering Students with Green Skills: Insights from the project HEI Green Path

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Abstract

The transition towards a sustainable future requires not only technological innovation but also profound changes in human behaviour, values, and societal systems. In this regard, green skills are becoming critical abilities for all students, including students in the Humanities and Social Sciences (HSS).

Critical thinking, ethical reasoning, communication, and the capacity to understand and impact the social, cultural, and political aspects of environmental concerns are all considered green skills in HSS. These skills are essential for tackling difficult issues including behavioural change, sustainable urban development, environmental governance, and climate justice. Sustainability transitions depend not just on technology solutions but also on socially conscious methods that influence public perception, legislation, and collective action, as demonstrated by current developments in education and the labour market.

The necessity to incorporate green skills into HSS curriculum is highlighted by the increased demand for them across different sectors such as business, education, media, and policymaking. Graduates are becoming more and more valued for their ability to communicate complex environmental challenges, mobilise communities, and support inclusive decision-making. HSS students play a crucial role in bridging knowledge and action by translating scientific insights into socially relevant narratives.

Initiatives such as the Erasmus+ KA220-HED project HEI GreenPath show innovative approaches to developing green skills in non-technical disciplines through interdisciplinary learning and active student engagement. Strengthening these competences is essential for a holistic and inclusive green transition.

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