

Whole Institution Approach (WIA) to ESD

**Institutions as Communities of
Transformational Learning**

Definition of ESD

- **Inclusive**
- **Lifelong and life-wide**
- **Holistic: integrating learning content, pedagogy and context**
- **Transformative: empowering learners for change**
- **Enabling individuals to adopt sustainable choices/lifestyles**
- **Based not only on techno-fixes, but on building a sound ethos**
- **Implies a systems approach involving learners, content, context (including the community) ... an ecosystem**

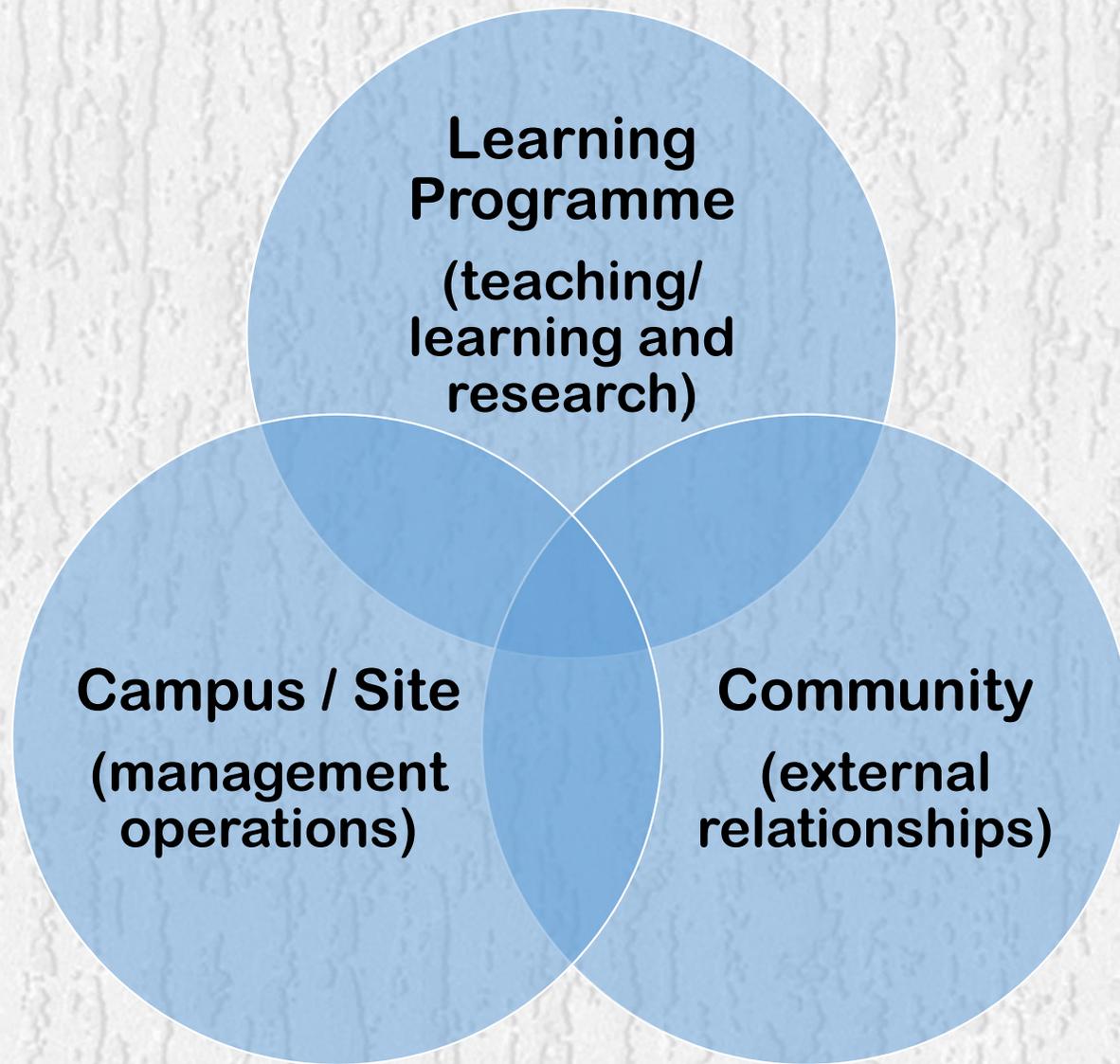
Whole Institution Approach ... a definition

Whole School
Approach



Whole Institution
Approach

- Implication: ESD goes on beyond schooling
- Mainstreaming sustainability into all aspects of an institution
- Implication: reviewing and revising institution's internal operations and external relationships
- Each institution decides on its own actions regarding three overlapping spheres...



WIA ... achievements

- ESD is an essential component in any strategy aimed at achieving the SDGs
- ESD is a lifelong and life-wide journey implying continuity between formal, informal and non-formal settings
- Easy to register success in the Formal sector as it is more structured. Yet it is usually not flexible and resists change.
- Steering Committee's commitment "*to ensure that there was an ESD school plan in every school*" (need to go beyond publication of documents)

WIA ... challenges

Clearly define the meaning of the term whole institution approach and its implications

**... if everything that reports profess
has been achieved we have arrived!!**

Who should define it? Experts? Institutions? Both?

WIA ... challenges

Develop a concrete framework with areas of generic interest that can be applied to a variety of contexts:

- Leadership
- Quality development
- Youth as part of the participatory processes
- Staff development
- Further training
- Campus management
- Innovation – being open to change and collaboration
- Communication networks within the institution and beyond it

... there is no one size fits all

WIA ... challenges

To identify and describe:

- a) the intrinsic elements ... getting a shared vision and how to achieve it**
- b) the obstacles (that promote the status quo and a business as usual approach) and appropriate measures to address them**

WIA ... challenges

To identify the stakeholders (internal and external) that can develop jointly a shared vision for the implementation:

- a) who know what ESD and WIA are and their implications**
- b) representing various sectors and levels**

WIA ... inherent challenge

To depart from a mindset based on traditional practices still dominant in the formal sector:

- a) Emphasis on knowledge transmission**
- b) Finding new 'toys' to convey content**
- c) Norm referenced vrs criterion referenced assessment**
- d) Competition vrs collaboration**
- e) Preparation for a defined future**

Activities, suggestions and actions

1. Develop a platform for countries to upload examples of good practices
2. Collection of good practices
3. Include a specific section on WIA in the next cycle of national reports

From the above actions develop the following through expert analysis:

1. A practical checklist that promotes self-reflection on WIA
2. Produce a brief and practical guide tool to WIA implementation.
3. Develop a set of key competences for stakeholders
4. Provide an accreditation scheme or a set of quality criteria for formal, non-formal and informal sectors.

For reflection...

- **Could the non-formal and informal sectors provide a better chance to implement a WIA because they are more flexible?**
- **Are policy documents (especially those of a top-down origin) enough to ensure change in old structures/institutions?**
- **Could each country come up with its own plan for WIA (based on the COP21 model of action)?**