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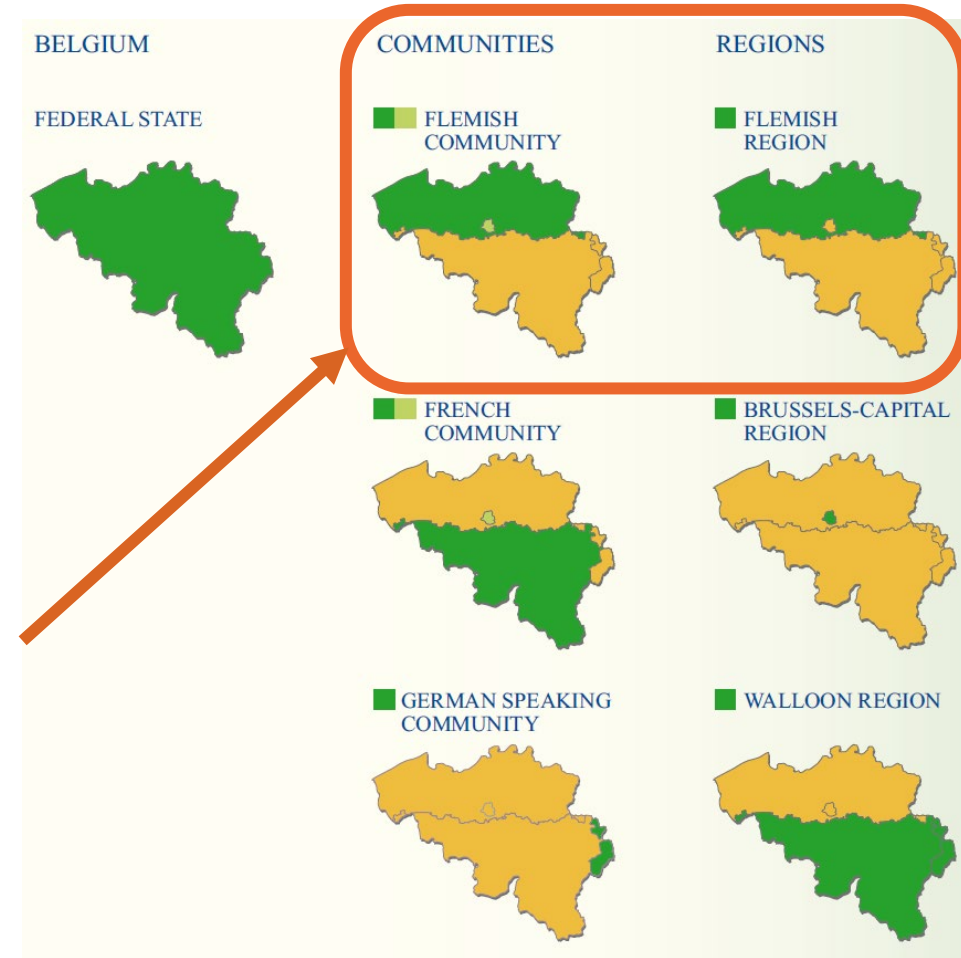
# Recent developments ESD in Flanders

Elke Vanwildemeersch, Policy advisor  
Sustainability Education Hub  
Ministry Environment & Spatial Planning - Flanders

DEPARTEMENT  
OMGEVING

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# Belgium – Communities & regions



# Sustainability education: main actors



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Department Environment &  
Spatial Planning

- Centre of expertise on ESD  
Flanders: Sustainability Education Hub
- Programmes (formal education, lifelong learning, organisations and citizens)

Department  
Education & Training



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is onderwijs & vorming

- Learning objectives (key competence on ESD)
- School infrastructure
- Reference framework QI education



## Cooperation

- Policy making & networks: regional-federal-international
- Operational: Commission Sustainable Higher Education, MOS...

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# Policy networks



# Policy networks Flanders

Initiatives to coordinate  
(ESD + Green Skills)

Green Skills Roadmap  
Flanders



unesco

ESD for 2030 Country Initiative:  
advancing policy

Goals 2024-2029

1 governance structure +  
coordination

- Vision, mission, strategy
- Definitions
- Monitoring & evaluation

?

Elections  
09/06/2024



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# Policy network Belgium

- ▶ Since August 2023 : network policy actors ESD & EE
- ▶ Coordination by MinEnv Flanders
- ▶ Exchange on programmes, ed. resources, research, international
- ▶ Policy actors in Belgium =



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# **Sustainability Education Hub**

# **Duurzaam Educatiepunt**

# Duurzaam Educatiepunt

Department of Environment and Spatial Planning – Flanders

## VISION

1

ESD-Competences

2

Sustainable teaching and learning environment

3

Active involvement on personal and professional level



**Green transition and sustainability**



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# Duurzaam Educatiepunt

## Target groups

1

Compulsory education

2

Higher education

3

Educational organizations (incl local governments)

4

Lifelong learning

5

Citizens

## Strategies



Training



Trajectory  
guidance



Networking &  
initiative



Subsidies

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# Flagship programmes

# Compulsory education



MOS supports schools (both teachers and school leaders) to create a **sustainable learning and living environment** in and around their school.



## Partnership





## Network and initiative



~50%  
5200-6200  
school sites



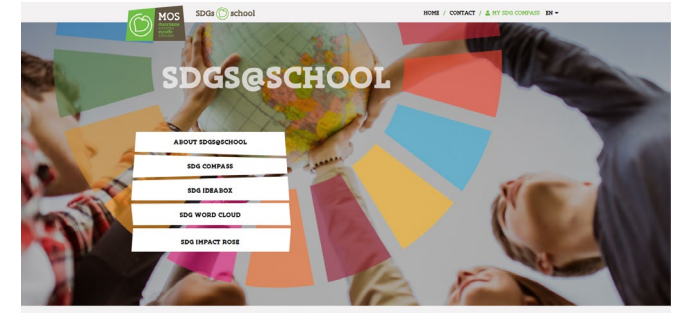




Training

Conferences, networking events  
Education resources, online & offline

[English webpage](#) with translated materials



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- Importance of the local MOS-coaches!

## Coaching principles

- Student participation
  - Teamwork (whole school approach)
  - Network
  - Experience
  - Scientific research
- 
- Climate change (climate gangs)
  - Greening schoolgrounds & outdoor education
  - & tailor-made





## Subsidies

# Greening playground and outdoor education

## Subsidy call Nature@school

### Criteria (WSA)

- Sustainability
- Educational value
- Participation
- Open schooling
- Cost-benefit
- **35 million € 2022-2023-2024**
- **295 schools ('22-'23)**
- **Changing mindset + boosting sector**



Coaching trajectories + training  
Action days  
Research

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Network and initiative

# Greening playgrounds: playground with future (operational network)



Ook deze organisaties kunnen je helpen in het proces



# Operational ESD networks: primary & sec education



[Professional Learning Community](#) Sustainable Facility Management



# Sustainable higher education: flagship programme DuP



**Training**



**Trajectory  
guidance**



**Networking &  
initiative**





Training

# Training

## Online courses to support lecturers and education support staff

- ✓ [Online course 'Teaching for and about sustainability'](#)
  - What is sustainability: frameworks and definitions
  - Sustainability in education
  - ESD & WIA
- ✓ [Online course ESD teacher training](#)
- ✓ Online course 'Community Service Learning for sustainability'
- ✓ Online course circular economy

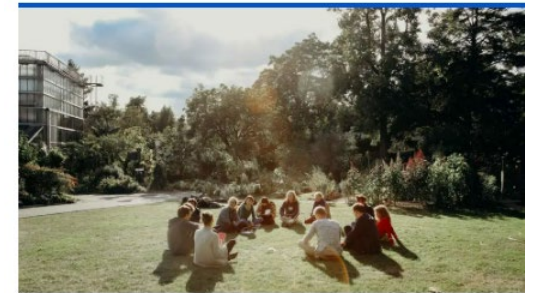


[Leerplatform 'duurzaamheid in de lerarenopleidingen'](#)

## Training offer

for educational support staff  
on climate education (outcome of research)

...



11 mei: Expertenpanel 'Klimaateducatie in het hoger onderwijs' (ONLINE)



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# Trajectory guidance

## Supporting higher education in embedding sustainability in education

- ✓ Starting point: concrete demand (& buy-in)
- ✓ Mapping the problem
- ✓ Facilitate a tailor-made change process

...

### Sustainability in primary education teacher training

A design process in collaboration with Hogeschool PXL

Sustainable Education Point supports the primary education teacher training to screen the curriculum with regard to sustainability and the SDGs and to make sustainability more visible in the various courses and to integrate it into the curriculum.

### Circular economy roadmap in business management training

A process in collaboration with HOGENT

In this process, we support HOGENT in the development of a roadmap for the transition to a focus on the circular economy in the Business Management course.

### Learning track 'Sustainability' in the Commercial Engineer and TEW courses

Design process in collaboration with the VUB.

In this process, we support the VUB in developing a curriculum on sustainability in the commercial engineering and TEW courses, with the subject 'Sustainable Economics' as the core.





# Network and initiative

## Commission on Sustainable Higher Education

- ✓ Expertise exchange, shared leadership and networking
- ✓ Accelerating the transition to sustainable higher education in Flanders

## Future Proef Award

- ✓ Award for professional bachelor's thesis, academic master's and graduates
- ✓ Pre-selection per institution + selection at Flemish level

## Inspiration

- ✓ Future forward talks,...

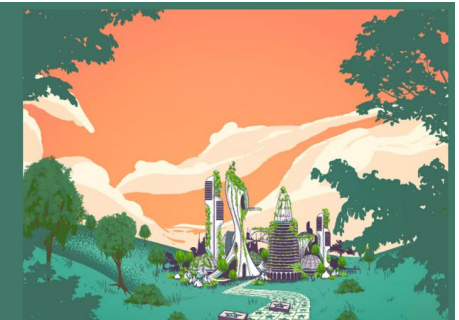


Memorandum on Sustainable Higher Education Commission



Future Forward Talk: how can you deal with resistance?

The Future Proef Award rewards theses or final projects in Higher Education that contribute to a sustainable future. Duurzaam Educatiepunt (Flemish Government), the Flemish higher education institutions and the Foundation for Future Generations together make this competition possible.





Network and  
initiative

# Operational networks: Commission on Sustainable Higher Education

- ▶ **Goal: achieve WIA in higher education institutions**
  
- ▶ **All HEI of Flanders present: mandate!**
- ▶ **Departments of Environment (coordination), Education&Training, Work&Social Economy**
- ▶ **Higher Education Councils**
  
  
- ▶ **Goals 2023-2025 & working groups**
  - Common language/lexicon
  - Experimenting to improve internal cooperation and exchange (experts-mandate holders)
  - Strategy and tool to improve basic knowledge on ESD
  - Sustainability in quality assessment
  - Sustainable Facility Management



# Promote research on and development of ESD



## KLIMAATEDUCATIE MET IMPACT

KADERTEKST OVER  
DOELTREFFENDE  
KLIMAATEDUCATIE

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Climate education with impact



## WETENSCHAPPELIJK RAPPORT EN BEVRAGING Natuurbetrokkenheid bij jongeren in het Secundair Onderwijs

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Nature education in Secondary Ed.:  
importance, levers & thresholds

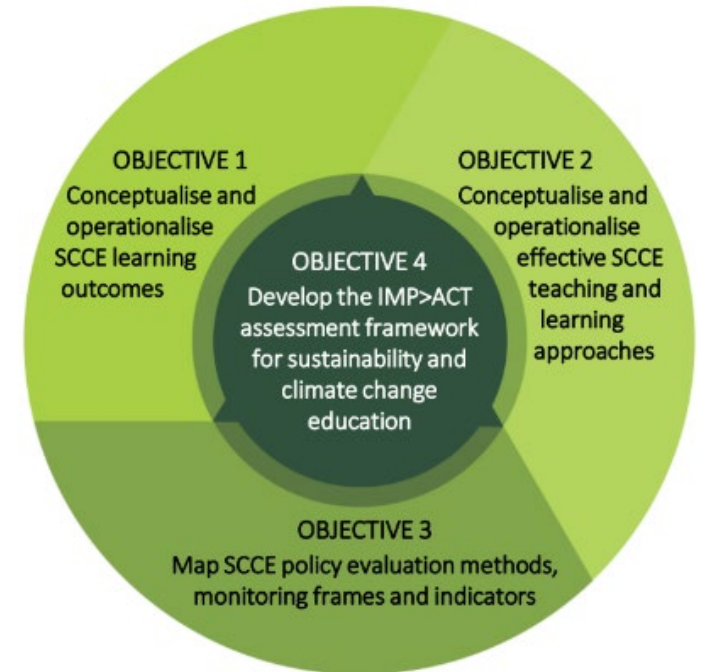


Figure 1.1 IMP>ACT Objectives

Impact assessment for action competence: [IMP>ACT](#)

Horizon Europe-project

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# Promote research on and development of ESD

- Team policy advisors + educators
- Centres = living labs for ESD-experiments/action research (< research recommendations)



De Helix (Grimminge)



Brussels



Duinpanne (De Panne)



De Vroente (Kalmthout)





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Many thanks for  
listening