

“Green” And “Blue” Education: Empowering Teachers and Students Across Europe

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Abstract

United by the European Green Deal’s goal - for Europe to become the first climate-neutral continent by 2050 - green initiatives, related to “natural and semi-natural areas with other environmental features”, and blue initiatives, covering oceans and the blue economy (European Commission, 2024), place students and teachers at the forefront of sustainability actions in Europe. An increasing number of projects on these topics is supported by the European Union’s programmes for research and innovation, education and mobility, such as LIFE Programme, Horizon 2020, Horizon Europe, Erasmus+. This presentation sheds light on projects advancing education for environmental sustainability (EES) across the EU. It highlights how these initiatives provide flexible, scalable professional learning to support classroom implementation. A variety of pedagogical methods, adaptative tools, and innovative training opportunities for educators of all age groups will be explored, based on the findings of a recent research paper. A particular will be a large-scale international EU-funded project with a multifaceted approach to bring people together to plant 500 million trees in Europe, harnessing and monitoring nature’s own carbon capture mechanism and enabling citizens to take action, starting from our most valuable investment: education.

Keywords: classroom; learning; STEM; sustainability; training