

University-wide competency framework for sustainability

In a rapidly changing world, we need students who are flexible, resilient and show sustainable actions to make a difference in their careers and overall society. Hasselt University wants to meet these new challenges from its civic engagement. In order to tackle the challenges and to ensure that the students receive this new mindset during their education, they have decided to include these topics in the educational policy plan of the institution. The topics are: civic, sustainable, diverse and inclusive, educational innovation. We will focus on the topic of sustainability.

In order to prepare students for these new challenges, a university wide competency framework is developed. This competency framework consists of an integration of 21st century skills and sustainability competencies. This competency framework is therefore closely linked to the topic of sustainability in the educational policy plan of Hasselt University. The goal of implementing the competency framework into the curricula and the courses is precisely to train our students to be able to apply these competencies and use them more consciously in one's own academic discipline and beyond. In this way they are prepared to function in the complex world of tomorrow.

The competency framework for sustainability is based on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development of the United Nations, the GreenComp framework of the European Union, the model of the Donut economy of Kate Raworth and recent literature regarding sustainability competencies (Brundiers et al., 2021; Ploum et al. 2018; Wiek, Withycombe, & Redman, 2011).

We are exploring different ways of implementing this competency framework for sustainability in all curricula at Hasselt University. Therefore, we offer a toolbox for all educational managers and professors at our university. This toolbox consists of theoretical background on sustainability, examples of learning goals, teaching and evaluation methods, materials from workshops etc.

During the action atelier we will focus on the implementation of this competency framework for sustainability in curricula and courses.

Organization of the action atelier:

- We start with a short presentation of our competency framework for sustainability.
- The participants are divided into different groups in which they are challenged to think about interesting learning goals, teaching and evaluation methods for each competency, but also essential conditions for the implementation.
- We organize a pass-through system so that participants get the chance to discuss each competency.
- We round-up with a plenary discussion.

This action atelier will inspire us and all participants on how to transform our students to become agents for sustainable development.

References

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