

The ELA Blog

How can teachers spark a greener future in the classroom?

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Today, we find ourselves at a pivotal moment in history, where it is impossible to overlook the pressing issues of **climate change** and **environmental sustainability**. Since future generations will bear the brunt of the environmental challenges we face today, it is crucial for teachers to address these topics in the classroom. Educators must learn how to discuss these issues in a way that inspires hope and the possibility of change.





The latest edition of the course **“Green Skills for Education: Promoting Environmental Awareness and Sustainable Actions in the Classroom”** took place in Tenerife from 09/02/2025 to 15/02/2025, welcoming participants from different countries. Heli from **Helsingin Medialukio** in Finland, Sabrina and Eva from **Schule Für ErwachseneOsthessen** in Germany, Ann and Leen from **Immaculata Instituut** in Belgium, Ana, Inácio and Joaquim from **Agrupamento de EscolasSeverim de Faria** in Portugal and Dóra from **Barcsi Széchényi Ferenc GimnáziumésKollégium** in Hungary.

The week began by exploring what constitutes **Green Skills** and why they are vital in today's society. On the first day, participants reflected on key terms within the **“green vocabulary,”** including the concept of **sustainability** and **sustainable development**. And later, the focus shifted to **greenwashing**, where participants discovering the ideas to distinguish genuinely sustainable products from those falsely marketed as “green.”

Another major topic was the **Agenda 2030** and the **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**.

Participants discussed the seven SDGs most closely related to environmental sustainability. They also learned that all activities, games, and theoretical sessions during the course were directly tied to specific SDGs, demonstrating how these goals can be integrated into classroom learning.



Throughout the course, participants experienced first-hand how even small actions can make a big difference. They explored engaging ways to involve both young students and adults in sustainable practices. Activities encouraged reflection on critical issues such as **global warming**, **carbon footprints**, and **consumerism**.

Two days of the course were dedicated to non-formal methods for teaching about climate change. Participants practiced **outdoor activities** designed to nurture a deeper connection with nature among students, as well as methods to foster creativity and engagement. Additionally, they explored **Project-Based Learning (PBL)** as a strategy to promote a greener mindset in the classroom.







A significant part of the course focused on incorporating **ICT tools** to enhance engagement while minimizing waste, aligning with the program's daily green practices. These tools proved invaluable in supporting activities that encourage participation and sustainable habits.

One of the most rewarding aspects of the course was the opportunity for participants to exchange **best practices**. Teachers shared their experiences in fostering sustainability, drawing inspiration from one another's projects and activities. By the end of the week, participants left Tenerife with smiles on their faces, new knowledge in their minds, and hearts full of meaningful experiences.

Discover more about this course [here](#).

