Facilitating sustainable practices and climate action through digital learning

LESSONS LEARNED FROM AN UNIVERSITY-DRIVEN OPEN ACCESS LEARNING PORTAL

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Introduction

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- The importance and related impact of **ICT-based learning interventions to promote sustainable development** and to support reaching the global sustainable development goals (SDGs) is growing continuously.

- **Scalable open access learning interventions** can complement the much-needed upscaling of sustainable technologies and sustainable management practices on a global level.

- **Well-designed/state-of-the art online learning** represent a valuable crosscutting measure to leverage sustainability capacities and skills, in particular in regions of the world that lack access to sustainability know-how and quality education.

- Drawing from empirical evidence of a set of HAW Hamburg's open access examples on sustainable energy, sustainable tourism and climate action, this presentation explores the relevance of state-of-the-art open access interventions for not only reaching out to distant and non-academic learners but also to supporting the lifelong learning aspirations of a heterogenous target group.

One-stop learning platform

WWW.DL4SD.ORG

- Bundling of learning opportunities (online courses, virtual events, further online resources) in one central learning place

- Free & unlimited, open access (registration)

- Low entry 'barriers': low-bandwidth Internet access, responsible design allows computers and mobile device use, user friendly navigation
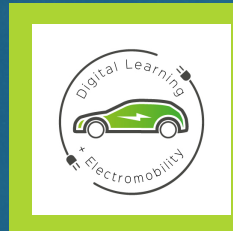
Wide variety of learning offers

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Online courses like

TOURISM
Sustainable Tourism for Small Island States

MOBILITY
E-Mobility

ENERGY
Sustainable Energy for Small Islands

CLIMATE
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SD TEACH-IN
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MOBILITY
Sustainable Urban Mobility

SDGS
Educational Toolbox

HEALTH
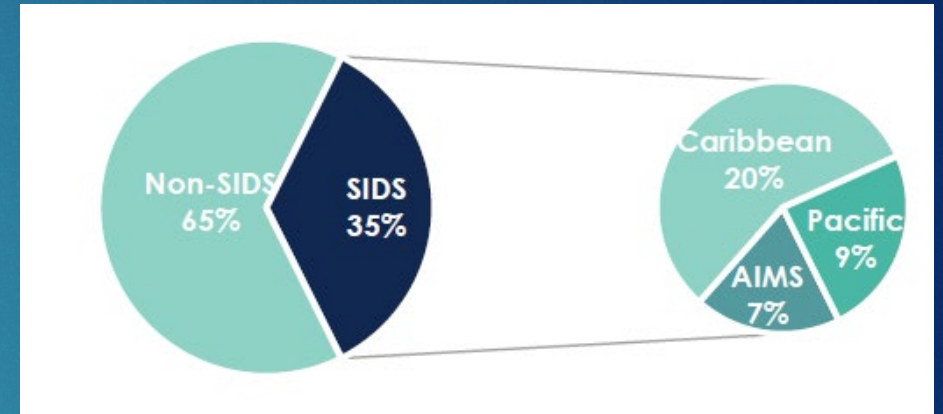Climate Change and Health

Virtual events like

Online resources

Characteristics / CLIMATE2020

- **CLIMATE2020** – unique **worldwide online climate conference**, presentation of 80 peer reviewed scientific papers, parallel program included 8 live webinars and a unique podcast series

- Target groups: academics, NGOs, ministries/authorities; companies; civil society

- Outreach :
  - 2,933 registered delegates from 155 countries
  - 12,497 unique visitors, 127,667 page views

- Participants' feedback:
  - "CLIMATE2020 was a unique event, very productive and rewarding in the ongoing Covid-19 climate:"
  - "That's a climate conference that walks the talk!"
  - "There is something really special about having live webinars versus merely watching a video. It's great to be able to participate and ask questions in real time."

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Characteristics / online course

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▶ **Sustainable Tourism in SIDS** – open access online course, 7 weeks from April 25th 2019 to June 13th 2019

▶ Target group decision-makers, academics; in Small island Developing States (SIDS);

▶ Outreach :

   ▶ 523 participants, 35% from target regions, (SIDS)

▶ Participants' feedback:

   ▶ I have never worked directly in tourism so this whole program was new to me but the information was presented in a very clear manner and the tutors were encouraging. I loved that the quiz was given in a format that was not intimidating.

   ▶ Good learning opportunity with creative engagement advantage, provides me with technical and practical sustainable tourism training skills.

Characteristics / online resource

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- **SDG Toolbox** – free online resource (PPT slides, teachers' handbook, implementation guide, supplementary material) that aim at providing lecturing materials to integrate the SDGs into university teaching; produced as open educational resources (OER) to allow free replication;

- Target groups: lecturers (bachelor/master levels)

- Outreach:
  - 145 lecturers from 45 countries
  - Outreach ongoing as new SDG modules are continuously added

- Lecturers' feedback:
  - "The availability of educational material with an adequate structure, allows to develop the themes in an efficient way and to reach significant learning that in turn allows the citizens to apply them in their daily context."
  - 90 minutes length preferred

Some lessons learned

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Based on qualitative and quantitative findings of the case studies, lessons learned illustrate the pro's and con's of such open access learning interventions for universities and further providers of online learning interventions.

100% VIRTUAL
Scalable learning design key to good outreach and true impact

PLANNING
Design and OER creation require extensive planning, quality control loops

RESEARCH
Free access attractive especially for developing countries where education is costly

MARKETING
Good on- and offline marketing key to success

COMMUNITY
Role of learning atmosphere, community

TECHNOLOGY
Low-tech, user-centric solutions for accessibiltiy learning impact

MANAGEMENT
Consider decentraliezd teamwork due to complex development

Conclusions

- Despite the urgency to critically reflect its far-reaching disruptive effects on future societal development, digitalization can massively drive sustainability learning through scalable online capacity-building.

- Scalable open access learning interventions e.g. those presented here, can complement the much-needed upscaling of sustainable technologies and sustainable management practices on a global level.

- Well-designed learning opportunities may therefore represent a valuable crosscutting measure to leverage sustainability capacities and skills, in particular in regions of the world that lack access to sustainability know-how and quality education.

Thank you for your attention & feel free to get in touch with us!

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