

Integrating Sustainability into Art and Design Education: Curriculum Development

- **Conference:** ISDRS 2023 (11-13th of July 2023, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia -UKM: <https://2023.isdrsconferences.org/>)
- **Theme:** “Half-way through Agenda 2030: Assessing the 5Ps of SDGs (people, planet, prosperity, peace, and partnership)”
- **Track proposal: 6.c** (The power of art and culture in sustainable cities and communities: <https://2023.isdrsconferences.org/the-power-of-art-and-culture-in-sustainable-cities-and-communities/>)
- **Relevant SDGs and targets:**
 - **SDG4. Target 4.7**
 - **SDG13. Target 13.3** (Improve education, awareness-raising and human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning)

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Abstract (499 words)

Sustainability is an important factor in art education. Several artists, in line with the UN Agenda 2030, have embraced the idea of art for sustainability in different ways to reflect the protection of natural landscapes, the consequences of industrialization and the growth of cities, and the use of resources. However, these topics are rarely taught to art students in higher education, considering belonging to science subjects. On the other hand, to change art students' attitudes toward sustainability, it is essential that social conscience and responsibility emerge from both knowledge and values. In this context, the ERASMUS+ ARDES project - Short Learning Programme (SLP) for ART and DDesign and Sustainability with special focus on environment and climate change (CC) (2022-2024)- has been set up through a strategic partnership among 5 European partners: MyDocumenta (Spain), European University Cyprus (Cyprus), Universidade Aberta (Portugal), EINA (Spain) and the associated partner LABA Valencia (Spain). The project intends to provide open educational resources for art students by integrating knowledge and values associated with sustainability and CC through art activities, design techniques, and digital solutions. This paper aims to present the initial results of the curriculum development of this SLP through formal learning modules and extracurricular community work concerning sustainability and CC.

The SLP, made of 156 academic hours plus an extracurricular community activity, consists of 3 main modules: i) **Module 1**- Art, Design, Sustainability, and CC within historical and contemporary contexts; aiming to introduce the concepts of sustainability, the link with art and design, and sustainability assessment methods in art and design context; ii) **Module 2**- Art and Design for Communicating Sustainability and CC; aiming to use art and design as strategic tools for utilization of visual communication, thus helping students to compile design projects concerning sustainability and CC; and iii) **Module 3**- Digital tools for the interactive engagement of audiences with Art and Design; aiming to introduce the concepts and application of big data and the principles of audience engagement.

Two learning plans were developed: 1) a "Module Plan" containing the modules objectives, competencies, essential questions, resources, and assessment methods, and 2) a "Lesson Plan" covering the details of the educational materials and activities in each lesson. Various learning materials were developed, including text, slides, videos, and engaging tools. Also, diverse individual/collaborative activities were designed, classified from project-based activities, reflection on existing art productions, designing artwork, working with European and local databases, and live performance, all in the concept of sustainability and CC.

In the next step (Oct 2023), the SLP will be piloted in partner Universities, targeting postgraduate students in art studies. The effectiveness of the training will be later assessed through a questionnaire. It is expected that by the end of the training, the students will be able to recognize how sustainability and CC integrate into the concepts of art and design, to later enhance their motivation, opportunity, and ability for sustainable actions in society, thus contribute to SDG 13, target 13.3 and SDG4, target 4.7.

Keywords: Sustainability, Climate Change, Art, Design.