

Ref ► **Press release – Sustainability Education: The Global Education seminar fosters an exchange from North and South perspectives.**

Lisbon, 10 April 2024 – The [Global Education seminar “The benefits of an intercultural and holistic approach to education for sustainable development: a North-South perspective”](#) will take place on 19 April 2024 in Valletta, from 9:30 to 17:00.

The [ILEGEND III](#) seminar is organised by the [North-South Centre of the Council of Europe](#) and focuses on intercultural learning, which contributes to bringing new perspectives and values to one of the most pressing matters of our time: education for sustainable development.

Teaching for sustainable development entails more than teaching *about* sustainable development. It tries to include a diverse range of knowledge, frameworks, examples, and best practices to be integrated into sustainability education. Still, tensions in the balance between economic development and environmental conservation manifest in an educational setting when prioritising basic educational needs or preparing students for employment in sectors that may not priorities sustainable practices.

The three panels of the thematic seminar provide a space for policymakers, practitioners, and experts to identify through interactive exchanges how to enhance intercultural learning in sustainability education, thus teaching *for* sustainable development.

The opening seminar will feature the participation of **Dr. Alfred J. VELLA**, Rector of the University of Malta. The following panel discussions feature the interventions **Karim Tedjani**, member of the UNESCO national committee “Man and Nature” in Algeria, **Momodou Sallah**, Director of the Centre for Academic innovation of De Montfort University in the United Kingdom, as well as Professor **Mark Mifsud**, Director of the Centre for Environmental Education and Research and Professor of Education for Sustainable Development at the University of Malta, and **Natalija Aceska**, Ministry of Education and Science of North Macedonia and Council of Europe Expert on Education for Sustainable Development.

The whole event aims at incentivising dialogue, cooperation, peer learning, and collective engagement at all levels of society, sharing examples and best practices stemming from different cultural perspectives in Europe, Africa, the MENA region, and indigenous communities. This means strengthening the link between education for sustainable development, human rights protection, and global citizenship.

Notes for editors

About the North South Centre of the Council of Europe

Key instrument of the external dimension of the Council of Europe, the North-South Centre (NSC) serves as a vector for transmitting its values, standards, and tools beyond the European continent through political dialogue, networking, and the implementation of cooperation projects. As an Enlarged Partial Agreement of the Council of Europe, it brings together several European and African countries to exchange ideas and act on shared issues. With a solid 34-year expertise in the fields of global education, intercultural dialogue, and youth sector cooperation in Europe and beyond, and a broad geographical mandate with a focus on the Southern Neighbourhood and Sub-Saharan Africa, the NSC through its institutionalised “quadrilogue” approach engages high-level representatives from governments, parliaments, local and regional authorities, as well as civil society from different regions of the world to work together on issues of common interest. The forefront role played by civil society, thanks to a robust network of youth organisations, ensures a structured, inclusive and sustainable participation with a multiplier effect.

About iLEGEND III

The Thematic Seminar is part of iLEGEND III: Intercultural Learning Exchange through Global Education, Networking and Dialogue (2023-2026), a Joint programme of the European Union and the Council of Europe: co-funded by the European Union and the Council of Europe and implemented by the North-South Centre of the Council of Europe. The overall objective of the project is to increase the active engagement of EU member States, candidate and potential candidate countries’ citizens, in particular young people, in safeguarding sustainable development and confronting global challenges and inequalities at local and global level.

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