

2021 Small Private Online Course (SPOC) A Critical Engagement with Advancing the SDGs

Goal: Assess processes required to achieve the SDGs by 2030
Objective: To develop critical, transdisciplinary and innovative approaches to sustainable development initiatives

About this Course

Period	Monday 22 November – Friday 17 December 2021
Commitment	4 weeks ± 20 hours per week
Institution	Leiden Delft Erasmus Alliance (LDE)/ African Studies Centre Leiden (ASCL)
Level	300 (Upper intermediate)
Language	English
Participants	LDE students who have completed LDE African Dynamics Minor Block A Selected guest students from African based higher institutions
Activities	Asynchronous knowledge acquisition Synchronous discussions Online peer collaboration Group and individual knowledge application Formative and summative assessments
Certification	LDE students: 6 ECTS towards Minor African Dynamics Guest students: LDE endorsed certificate of completion

Course Structure

The Small Private Online Course (SPOC) is presented as a global classroom for LDE African Dynamics Minor students and a group of students from African based ODL Universities. Representing multiple disciplines, they collaboratively explore four key development planning approaches to address wicked sustainable development problems. The global classroom creates a space to mobilise knowledge from global to local scales across cultural boundaries. Through discussions and group assignments, theoretical knowledge is translated into practice from various perspectives.

Weekly Schedule:

- Lecturer introduction (one video)
- Readings/ Internet resources
- Facilitated discussions
- Graded multiple choice quiz
- Synchronous conclusion
- Assignment: Adaption plan (voluntary for guest students)

Course Syllabus

Orientation, structure, logistics and personal introductions

Topic 1 Systems Thinking (Week 47)

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) demands a systemic approach to address the multiple challenges facing humanity. Ensuring social well-being, economic prosperity, and environmental protection requires an understanding of the interdependence and an integration of complex dynamic systems and sub-systems.

Presented by: Faculty of Governance and Global Affairs, Leiden University College

Facilitator: Dr. David Ehrhardt

Outcome: Evaluate the significance of a systemic approach in sustainable interventions.

Targets:

1. Outline systems covering; social inclusion, economic development, environmental sustainability, and good governance
2. Examine the linkages and interconnectivity between elements of the whole of the system, and identify synergies and trade-offs within systems
3. Include the systems approach in a strategy for an integrated capacity building project

Topic 2 Partnerships (Lead: EUR: RSM- PRC) (Week 48)

SDG Goal 17 “Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development”, acknowledges that the attainment of the SDGs requires active and effective partnerships between public and private sector and civil society on a local, regional and global scale.

Presented by: Rotterdam School of Management, Erasmus University Rotterdam

Facilitator: Dr. Taslim Alade

Outcome: Assess the possibilities that partnerships offer in sustainable project initiatives.

Targets:

1. Become familiar with the terminology and ways of addressing complex partnering processes
2. Explain the impacts of cross-sector partnerships and the value of public and private partnerships in the context of development objectives
3. Identify principles for effective global, regional and local partnerships on issues related to sustainable development

Topic 3 Participation (Week 49)

Par 117 in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda reaffirms that “...indigenous peoples have the right to maintain, control, protect and develop their cultural heritage, traditional knowledge and traditional cultural expressions.” Community participation ensures that interventions are based on actual needs, grounded in the local realities and determined by those who will be impacted.

Presented by: African Studies Centre, Leiden University

Facilitator: Drs. Madi Ditmars

Outcome: Analyse the complexities of stakeholder participation in sustainable development.

Targets:

1. Appreciate the value and advantages of participatory planning
2. Develop skills to encourage beneficiaries to become driver of their own development processes (The participation ladder)
3. Evaluate project effectiveness through the Participatory Assessment of Development (PADev) approach

Topic 4 Adaptation (Lead: TUD: WRM) (Week 50)

The direct link between climate change and sustainable development, informs and shapes the global development agenda. Paragraph 14 in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, identifies climate change as “one of the greatest challenges of our time” and is concerned that “its adverse impacts undermine the ability of all countries to achieve sustainable development”.

Adaptation pathways is a planning approach to deal with climate change, mitigation and societal transformation. These strategies consider the dynamics of climate change and its linkage with socioeconomic and environmental processes.

Presented by: Civil Engineering and Geosciences: Water Management, TU Delft

Facilitator: Dr.ir. Maurits W. Ertsen

Outcome: Clarify how adaptation planning can be incorporated in planning sustainable projects.

Targets:

1. Examine Africa’s vulnerability and exposure to climate change and its impacts across all sectors
2. Integrate adaptation pathways in project planning to mitigate and manage climate change risks
3. Incorporate local and traditional knowledge and encourage communities to change behaviours

Wrap-up and Closure