SustainEU

SUSTAIN-EU *launches the European Sustainability Expert e-Learning Course*

EPALE Article #2

Elaborated by: Group for European Integration [GIE]

SUSTAIN-EU: *A new open-access online learning opportunity to develop sustainability expertise across Europe*

The green transition is creating an unprecedented demand for professionals able to integrate sustainability into organisational strategy, operations and decision-making. However, access to high-quality, flexible and affordable sustainability training remains a challenge for many professionals, educators and jobseekers.

To respond to this need, the Erasmus+ project **SUSTAIN-EU** has successfully completed **Work Package 3 (WP3)**, resulting in the launch of the **European Sustainability Expert (ESE) e-Learning Course** - an innovative online learning programme designed to make sustainability education accessible to learners across Europe. The course is now available in English through the SUSTAIN-EU learning platform (https://sustaineu-platform.learninggateway.eu/), while translations into all partner languages will be completed by the end of August, making the programme even more accessible to a wider European audience.

From curriculum to digital learning

Building upon the European Sustainability Expert Curriculum developed during WP2, the SUSTAIN-EU consortium has transformed nine competence units into engaging online learning modules that combine academic rigour with practical application.

The course has been designed to support:

- professionals wishing to upskill or reskill in sustainability;
- jobseekers preparing for emerging green occupations;
- VET learners seeking recognised sustainability competences;
- organisations aiming to strengthen their sustainability capacity.

The e-learning approach enables participants to study at their own pace, from any location, making high-quality sustainability education more flexible and inclusive.

What does the course offer?

The European Sustainability Expert e-Learning Course provides comprehensive learning across the key dimensions of sustainability through nine competence units:

- Introduction to Business Sustainability
- Sustainability Science
- Ways of Thinking (Design, Futures, Circular and Systems Thinking)
- Data Collection and Management

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- Sustainability Plan Development and Implementation
- Sustainable Finance and Operations
- Carbon Accounting and Reporting
- Change Management and Transdisciplinarity
- Environmental Legislation, ESG Reporting and Auditing

The learning experience combines multimedia content, practical examples, self-assessment activities and interactive resources that help learners consolidate both theoretical understanding and practical competences.

An important innovation of the platform is the integration of an **AI-powered Tutor Bot**, designed to provide learners with personalised guidance, immediate feedback and additional explanations throughout the learning journey, enhancing engagement and supporting independent study.

Designed for European learners

The course has been developed according to European VET quality principles and reflects the competence profile of the European Sustainability Expert. Upon successful completion, learners receive Certificates of Competence that recognise the knowledge and skills acquired during the programme, supporting lifelong learning and professional development.

By offering the course as an open-access online resource, SUSTAIN-EU contributes to reducing barriers to sustainability education and helps prepare the workforce needed for Europe's green and digital transitions.

Building on the launch of the E-Learning Sustainability Expert Course...

While the E-Learning Sustainability Expert Course is now available to learners, the SUSTAIN-EU partnership has already taken the next step towards multiplying its impact. During the Learning, Teaching and Training Activity (LTTA) held in Vienna, Austria, in July 2026, the consortium delivered the first live pilot of the Continuous Professional Development (CPD) Programme for VET trainers.

The event combined professional development with *learning-by-doing*, allowing trainers to explore the sustainability curriculum and e-learning platform, experience the newly developed training modules, and provide valuable feedback for their refinement. By preparing participants to train fellow educators in their home countries, the LTTA marked an important milestone in ensuring the long-term sustainability and wider uptake of the SUSTAIN-EU learning resources. The CPD Programme and its innovative approach to trainer development will be presented in greater detail in the next article of this series.

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Looking ahead

With the English version already available and multilingual versions becoming available across all partner languages by the end of August, the SUSTAIN-EU e-Learning Course represents another significant milestone towards creating a common European framework for sustainability education.

The consortium now moves forward with the next phase of the project, focusing on supporting VET educators and trainers through the Continuous Professional Development (CPD) programme, ensuring that sustainability competences can be effectively integrated into vocational education and training systems across Europe.

For more information about the SUSTAIN-EU project, visit the project website and explore the European Sustainability Expert e-Learning Course.

Consortium Partners:

- Instituto de Soldadura e Qualidade, Portugal (coordinator)
- Spectrum Research Centre CLG, Ireland
- Grupul pentru Integrare Europeană, Romania
- Berufsförderungsinstitut Burgenland, Austria
- CONFIMI Industria Basilicata - Associazione dell'Industria Manifatturiera e dell'impresa privata di Basilicata, Italy
- Universitaet Paderborn, Germany

For more information about SUSTAIN-EU, visit our **website** (https://sustaineuproject.eu/) and follow our **social media pages**:

Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/sustaineuproject/
Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/sustaineuproject/
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Photo: *Participants of the SUSTAIN-EU Learning, Teaching and Training Activity (LTTA), Vienna, July 2026.*



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