European Commission

WHY THIS PROPOSAL ON LEARNING FOR ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY:

94% of EU citizens say that protecting the environment matters personally to them.

Six in 10 young people globally are "very" or "extremely" worried about climate change.

Many young people consider that **education and training is failing to prepare them** to tackle climate change, protect the environment and live and act more sustainably.

3 in 4 respondents to the Commission's public survey ranked education and training as the most important sector to help people understand and take action on climate change and the environmental crises.

Despite clear progress and growing public and policy attention, **learning for environmental sustainability is not yet a systemic feature** of education and training policy in the EU.

Putting environmental sustainability at the heart of education and training will help equip learners with the competences they need for a greener and more sustainable future.

Education and Training

LEARNING FOR ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY...

...STARTS EARLY

High-quality early childhood education and care can foster pro-environmental values, attitudes and skills.

...IS LIFELONG

People of all ages need rich learning opportunities for environmental sustainability in many different contexts and settings.

...REQUIRES SUPPORTIVE LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS

The entire learning experience counts, in- and outside of the classroom. Schools and campus buildings and grounds also need to be green and sustainable.

...IS ENGAGING AND POSITIVE

Knowledge and skills from different fields are needed as well as social and emotional learning and hands-on, practical experiences.

...SUPPORTS EDUCATORS, INCLUDING LEADERSHIP TEAMS

Whatever their discipline or sector, all educators are sustainability educators. Support and training are essential to help them prepare their learners for a more sustainable future.

...FOSTERS COLLABORATION & PARTNERSHIPS IN LOCAL AND WIDER COMMUNITIES

Cross-sector collaboration and partnerships such as community projects provide expertise, resources and a real-world context for learning and foster social inclusion

...EMPOWERS YOUTH

Many young people worry about climate change and their future. They engage actively for sustainability and expect education and training institutions to better prepare them for the challenges the planet faces.

The European sustainability competence framework supports learners and educators in developing skills and competences needed for the green transition.

...BUILDS SUSTAINABILITY COMPETENCES AND SKILLS

Building knowledge, skills and attitudes to change patterns of consumption and production, live healthier and more sustainably will contribute to the green transition.

...IS FOUNDED ON STRONG POLICIES

Well-defined policies with a clear vision are key. They need to address the 'what', the 'why' and the 'how' of learning so that the environment and sustainability are not just additional topics on the curricula but fully embedded in all parts of education and training.

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The Erasmus+ programme places a strong focus on the green transition in education and training. Cohesion policy funds (including ESF+ and ERDF) and the Recovery and Resilience Facility, offer support for integrating environmental sustainability in education and training.

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