

**Best practices**

**Ecological-economic Perspectives of sustainability in the Vocational training**

EcoGreen aims to support teachers at vocational schools in implementing the topic of sustainable economic education. Our strategy strengthens the professional profile of teachers and supports their students in acquiring ecological skills.

Our consortium:



**Leibniz Universität Hannover**

**Universität Wien**

**SamiEDU**

**PKZ Voca Train**

**Zespół Szkół Leśnych Lesnych**

**Studienseminar Braunschweig LbS**

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# **Sustainable development as an element of teaching in Polish schools – good examples in education.**

**Education about sustainable development** is a permanent part of teaching in both preschools and primary and secondary schools in Poland. Climate-related topics have been integrated into lessons for over 10 years. Within the framework of education about sustainable development, students develop pro-environmental behaviors, and subjects such as climate protection, air quality, and civic attitudes are part of the curriculum. Sustainable development values encompass ecological, economic, social, and cultural dimensions, and education aims to shape appropriate attitudes in society.

The main projects undertaken by schools in Poland are:

1. **Integration into Curriculum**: The current core curriculum for primary and secondary schools includes sustainable development concepts.
2. **Eco-Committees**: Schools form eco-committees comprising students and teachers. [These committees focus on environmental awareness, eco-responsible actions, and project implementation](https://school-education.ec.europa.eu/en/insights/practices/learning-sustainability-towards-green-future" \t "_blank)
3. **Environmental Reviews**: Conducting environmental reviews helps identify areas for improvement and informs action plans.
4. **[Sustainable Learning Environments](https://czasopisma.uksw.edu.pl/index.php/seb/article/view/6514)**[: Schools create eco-friendly classrooms and spaces by implementing practical measures](https://czasopisma.uksw.edu.pl/index.php/seb/article/view/6514)
5. **[Teacher Training](https://czasopisma.uksw.edu.pl/index.php/seb/article/view/6514)**[: Educators are still trained to effectively teach ESD, use effective methods, and utilize appropriate tools](https://czasopisma.uksw.edu.pl/index.php/seb/article/view/6514)
6. **Inform and Involve**: Schools actively involve students, parents, and the local community in sustainable initiatives.
7. **[Eco-Codes](https://czasopisma.uksw.edu.pl/index.php/seb/article/view/6514)**[: Encourage students to create eco-codes—simple guidelines for sustainable behavior within the school community](https://czasopisma.uksw.edu.pl/index.php/seb/article/view/6514).

[By integrating ESD into policies, curricula, and teacher training, Polish schools can better promote sustainable development](https://czasopisma.uksw.edu.pl/index.php/seb/article/view/6514).

Many excellent tools have been created that are extremely useful for teachers in the aspect of teaching about sustainable development. Teachers receive support in conveying these topics through educational projects and cooperation with the institutions.Here are the most valuable of them:

1. **Integrated Educational Platform of the Ministry of National Education (Zintegrowana Platforma Edukacyjna Ministerstwa Edukacji Narodowej)**

It is an educational platform that offers free and accessible educational materials for everyone. [It includes e-textbooks and programming courses](https://zpe.gov.pl/). Essentially, it is a comprehensive tool recommended by the Polish Ministry of Education for both in-person and remote learning.

1. **The Centre for Sustainable Development (Centrum Zrównoważonego Rozwoj**u) is a unit whose main task is to support, coordinate and undertake activities to disseminate the goals of the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development among various environment. The Centre implements 8 programs including

* Research and Projects
* International cooperation
* Education for sustainable development
* Green university
* Internship program
* University talks on sustainable development

1. **Centre for Education Development** (**Ośrodek Rozwoju Edukacji)**

The purpose of the Centre is to undertake and implement activities to improve the quality of education in accordance with the state education policy in the field of general education and upbringing, and in accordance with the changes introduced in the education system within programs such as “Global Education. Leaders of Sustainable Development

1. **Centre for Citizenship Education (Centrum Edukacji Obywatelskiej)** is a Polish non-profit organization that has been supporting schools for over 30 years. Their mission is to inspire school communities by introducing innovative teaching methods and addressing significant social issues. Each year, they engage with 40,000 teachers and school principals from 10,000 schools across Poland. Through their programs, students become more motivated to learn and better equipped to navigate the modern world. [The CCE focuses on holistic school experiences, student curiosity, and deep learning rather than mere memorization and reproduction](https://ceo.org.pl/english" \t "_blank).

The “6R” principles are an important element of the approach to sustainable development. In Zespół Szkół Leśnych in Ruciane-Nida we have been discussing this topic for many years. One of the result of such activities is a set of films promoting the 6R idea.