

CALL FOR PROPOSALS

Workshop: Teaching and Education for Sustainable Development



Organized by Prof. Dr. Daniela Niesta Kayser and JunProf. Dr. Luisa Girnus (Freie Universität Berlin)

Deadline for submission: May 31, 2026

In a time of multi-crises and emerging “vibe shifts,” higher education holds significant potential to foster new forms of engagement, resilience, and sustainability through teaching and learning.

The objective of this workshop is to explore how higher education can actively contribute to sustainability transformations. The workshop integrates perspectives from social psychology, special education, and transformative learning, with a particular focus on participation, inclusion, and behavioral change.

Contributors are invited to submit proposals for the following sessions.

Session 1: Why People Engage — Social-Psychological Foundations

This session will examine the drivers of engagement in sustainability. Contributions may address topics such as self-efficacy, collective action, motivation, Theory of Change approaches, and the role of teaching in fostering behavioral change and participation.

Session 2: Inclusive and Transformative Teaching — The Role of Special Education

This session focuses on inclusive and resource-oriented approaches and explores how Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) can be embedded in teaching practice. Contributions may address transformative teaching, equity and participation, or inclusive pedagogies in sustainability contexts.

Session 3: Universities as Change Agents — Participation and Global Responsibility

This session highlights the role of universities as drivers of societal transformation. Contributions may focus on student engagement, the co-design of learning environments, interdisciplinary collaboration, or the global and cross-cultural dimensions of sustainability education.

The workshop is grounded in an integrative approach that combines social-psychological insights (e.g., self-efficacy, belonging), inclusive perspectives from special education, and participatory teaching practices. Contributions that demonstrate a nexus between research, teaching, and real-world impact are particularly welcomed.

Ways to participate:

We invite contributions to the three-part workshop, "Teaching and Education for Sustainable Development," which explores how higher education can contribute to sustainability transformations. The workshop addresses the challenge of actively contributing to these transformations through inclusive and transformative teaching practices. Proposals may take the form of short presentations, case studies, or interactive formats.

Submitted abstracts must be in English and contain 200-300 words. Please submit your ideas as a PDF file, to the conference organizers via the [conference registration platform](#) by **May 31, 2026**.

You will be notified of acceptance by **June 15, 2026**.

Selected proposals will be published in our conference program and on our conference website.

Selected contributions from the conference will be published in an editorial volume. You can find information about the editorial volume here: www.fu-berlin.de/en/sites/higher-ed-sustainability-conf/editorial/index.html.

The workshop is part of the Sustainability in Higher Education Conference, "Between Transformation and Vibe Shifts." For more information on the conference, please visit: www.fu-berlin.de/en/sites/higher-ed-sustainability-conf/index.html.

Contact:

Moritz Zoellner (events@nachhaltigkeit.fu-berlin.de) is the central point of contact for the conference and registration process.

Questions about this workshop and the call can be directed to Prof. Dr. Daniela Niesta Kayser (daniela.niesta-kayser@fu-berlin.de).