

UNESCO Chair and PERL/UNITWIN program on Education for Sustainable Lifestyles

In a world characterized by inequity, social unrest, life-style related illnesses and environmental degradation, rethinking how we organize our daily life, socialize, share and educate is a prerequisite for growth and prosperity. In light of research on climate change and on the links between lifestyles, health and human development, it has become evident that a significant paradigm shift towards more sustainable, responsible ways of living is urgently necessary in order to deal with the imbalanced use of natural resources and the injustice of existing extremes of wealth and poverty. The transition towards more responsible, sustainable lifestyles is a complex one. The challenges to be faced are systemic and personal, long-term and immediate. Determining what is ethically acceptable and socially desirable is dependent on interrelated processes which must involve as many diverse stakeholders as possible.



The UNESCO Chair and PERL/UNITWIN program contributes to the implementation of the global “Sustainable Development Goals” (SDG). The program is a key partner network of the UN Global Action Program on Education for Sustainable Development. It is also actively involved in supporting the global 10-year Framework of Programs for Sustainable Consumption and Production’s program on Sustainable Lifestyles and Education.

“We cannot separate the human heart from the environment outside us and say that once one of these is reformed everything will be improved. Man is organic with the world. His inner life moulds the environment and is itself also deeply affected by it.”

Shoghi Effendi



UNESCO Global Action Programme on Education for Sustainable Development





Co-creating the Future

UNESCO Chair and UNITWIN program on Education for Sustainable Lifestyles

Hedmark University of Applied Sciences is committed to actively developing competence and cooperation which will

increase social responsibility and quality education and research nationally, regionally, and internationally. As a part of this process and on the basis of its longstanding engagement in education and research about responsible living, Hedmark University of Applied Sciences has established a UNESCO Chair and UNITWIN Program on Education about Sustainable Lifestyles.



The program promotes research and education which helps individuals integrate into their daily actions ecological, social, cultural and economic knowledge and insights on responsible, sustainable living.

Building on 20 years of value-based, holistic, and interdisciplinary work led by the Hedmark University of Applied Sciences, this program further develops the work of PERL (*Partnership for Education and Research about Responsible Living*) by assisting in bridging the knowledge/action gap, stimulating informed choice and social learning, mapping changes in attitudes and behaviour, reporting on innovative initiatives, facilitating curriculum development, building capacity in teacher training, contributing to the discourse on responsible living, and cultivating multi-stakeholder alliances.





PERL/UNITWIN Partners

- 1. University of Agder, Norway**
- 2. Lund University, Sweden**
- 3. Uppsala University, Sweden**
- 4. Aarhus University, Denmark**
- 5. University of Helsinki, Finland**
- 6. Technical University of Berlin Germany**
- 7. Lithuanian University of Educational Sciences, Lithuania**
- 8. Carlow Institute of Technology, Ireland**
- 9. VIVES University College, Belgium**
- 10. University of Malta, Malta**
- 11. Setubal College of Education, Portugal**
- 12. Society for Life-skill Teachers in Upper Secondary Schools, Iceland**
- 13. Consumer Protection Board of Estonia, Estonia**
- 14. Milano Politechnical, Milan, Italy**
- 15. Rhodes University, South Africa**
- 16. Rural Federal university of Rio de Janeiro (UFRRJ), Brazil**
- 17. Beijing Normal University, Environmental Education Center, China**
- 18. (CDETB) Curriculum Development Unit, Ireland**
- 19. University of Ljubljana, Slovenia**
- 20. University of Leuphana, Germany**
- 21. Consumers International Latin America and the Caribbean, Chile**
- 22. Consumers International, London, UK**
- 23. International Foundation for Interdisciplinary Health Promotion, South Africa**
- 24. IGES Institution for Global Environmental Strategies, Japan**
- 25. French Institute for Consumer Affairs, France**
- 26. Strategic Design Scenarios, Belgium**
- 27. Free Consumers Association, the Netherlands**
- 28. International Environment Forum, Switzerland**
- 29. University of Namibia, Namibia**
- 30. Rollsløkken School, Norway**

Focus Areas for Activities of the PERL/UNITWIN program

PERL/UNITWIN Action Matrix	Pathways to Sustainable Living Transformative Learning Methodologies and Social Learning Approaches
Research and Concept Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Contribute articles on transformative learning and social learning methodologies to academic journals -Participate in relevant research projects (Provide “living labs”/respondents for research surveys)
Policy evolution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Provide overviews of global sustainable development processes to relevant education authorities (local and national) -Inform national focal points for 10YFP/GAP about what resources are available
Pedagogy and teaching	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Provide more detailed guidelines for teachers and teacher trainers about PERL learning methodologies -Adapt existing PERL learning materials to local conditions (for ex: in Africa, Asia, Lt. America) -Develop new learning materials within the existing framework of the transformative learning and social learning methodologies
Capacity building	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Carry out teacher training workshops, seminars, courses -Provide themes for masters/phd thesis
Advocacy and information dissemination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Market and distribute existing PERL resource materials -Prepare and share “best case” descriptions of relevant learning approaches -Participate in relevant conferences, meetings to share information about PERL/UNITWIN resources
Partnership and Cooperation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Work together in small groups as subsets of the PERL UNITWIN network -Hold workshops, seminars for partners in connection with relevant conferences and meetings

