

Submission from the Foundation for Environmental Education on the Baku to Belém Roadmap to 1.3T

Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) can play a crucial role in shaping this roadmap by ensuring that financial investments lead to systemic, long-term change through capacity building, knowledge dissemination, and behavioral shifts toward sustainability.

(a) Overall Expectations for the Roadmap

1. **Strengthening ESD as a Cross-Cutting Priority** – The roadmap should emphasize that investing in education and capacity-building is fundamental to achieving the financing goals. Without educated stakeholders—from policymakers to youth—financial mechanisms will lack the human capital to drive impact.
2. **Greening Finance through Education** – Financial institutions and investors need ESD-informed frameworks to integrate sustainability into decision-making, particularly in grant allocation, concessional finance, and non-debt instruments.
3. **A Focus on Just and Equitable Transitions** – The roadmap should ensure that education and training programs are embedded in sustainable investment strategies, preventing socio-economic inequalities from deepening due to green transitions.
4. **ESD as a Tool for Accountability** – Citizens, particularly youth, must be equipped with the knowledge and skills to demand transparency in sustainable finance mechanisms.

(b) Topics and Thematic Issues to Explore

1. **Financing Education for Climate Action** – How can financial instruments directly support education initiatives that contribute to climate resilience, green skills, and just transitions?
2. **Green and Blue Economy Education** – How do we integrate knowledge of sustainable finance into curricula, including bioeconomy, circular economy, and nature-based solutions?
3. **Innovative Educational Financing Models** – Explore blended finance, social impact bonds, and climate funds that support education for sustainability.
4. **Linking ESD with Fiscal and Economic Policies** – Assess the role of education in shaping fiscal policies that promote low-carbon economies.
5. **Capacity Building for Policy and Business Leaders** – Develop a framework for upskilling decision-makers on sustainability finance, linking ESD with economic governance.

(c) Country Experiences, Best Practices, and Lessons Learned

1. **Barriers & Enabling Environments:**
 - **Barriers:** Limited integration of sustainability in mainstream education, misalignment between financial policies and educational investments, lack of long-term financing for ESD programs.
 - **Enabling Factors:** Public-private partnerships (e.g., green finance literacy programs), policy incentives for embedding sustainability in curricula, digital tools for mass education.
2. **Innovative Sources of Finance:**
 - **Green Bonds for Education** (Example: Some European countries have issued sustainability bonds to fund climate-related educational initiatives).
 - **Climate Resilience Education Grants** (Example: Adaptation Fund supporting climate education initiatives in vulnerable regions).
 - **Carbon Pricing Revenues for ESD** (Example: Some governments reinvest carbon tax revenues into sustainability education).
3. **Grants, Concessional and Non-Debt Instruments:**

- Leveraging **UNESCO's ESD for 2030 Roadmap** as a guide for financial commitments toward sustainability education.
 - **Philanthropic investments** in education-driven climate action.
 - **Results-Based Financing for ESD**: Linking funding to learning outcomes related to green skills.
4. **Creating Fiscal Space:**
- **Mainstreaming Education in Climate Adaptation Budgets.**
 - **Debt Swaps for Education** (e.g., "Debt-for-Nature" swaps could include education funding).

(d) Relevant Multilateral Initiatives

1. **UNESCO's ESD for 2030 Roadmap** – Already aligned with the global sustainability financing agenda, it provides a structured approach to integrating education into climate action.
2. **Greening Education Partnership (GEP)** – A crucial initiative in linking ESD with climate finance strategies.
3. **Global Partnership for Education (GPE)** – Works on financing educational responses to climate and sustainability challenges.
4. **OECD Centre on Green Finance and Investment** – Supports research on financing mechanisms that align with sustainability education.
5. **The Bridgetown Initiative** – Advocates for financing reforms that could support educational transitions in climate-vulnerable economies.
6. **World Bank's Climate Finance Strategy** – Includes education as a resilience-building tool and could be leveraged for more ESD-focused investments.

The **Baku to Belém Roadmap** should not view education as a passive recipient of finance but as an **active enabler** of sustainable financial systems. By embedding ESD in fiscal policy, investment strategies, and multilateral financing mechanisms, the roadmap can create long-term, inclusive, and transformative change.