



## SUMMARY COUNTRY REPORT - SPAIN

Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) plays an increasingly important role in the school system in Spain. Both in the new Climate Change and Energy Transition Law and in the Education Law (LOMLOE), recently approved, there are various sections dedicated to climate change and sustainable development in education. The Laws establish that the Government will review the coverage of climate change and sustainability in the basic curriculum of the educational system in a transversal way, including the elements necessary to make education for sustainable development a reality. Likewise, the Government proposes actions to guarantee adequate teacher training in this matter.

On the other hand, it should be noted that a large number of materials for climate change education are available in Spain, and there are a large number of projects and individual schools that already provide education on climate change and its consequences in a broad sense. However, the application of ESD in schools is by no means the norm.

### **General overview in Spain**

Spanish society is changing its perception of how climate change will affect our economy in the near future. Ecological awareness has increased in recent years on issues that affect everyday life, such as transportation, water scarcity and seawater pollution, global warming and climate phenomena, etc. More than two thirds of Spaniards believe that the extreme droughts or floods that our country has suffered in recent years have to do with climate change. Among the main obstacles to achieving the sustainable development goals, the lack of political will (40.5%), political and institutional corruption (23.2%) and the lack of social awareness in people, companies and institutions (11.4%). The majority of Spaniards (40.8%) associate sustainable development with development that is respectful with the environment; 31.1% with a development that takes into account future generations and 24.9% with a development that takes into account climate change (data from 2018 CIS

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Survey).

Awareness of environmental issues and climate change is continually growing among the younger generations. Students are very concerned about the consequences of climate change and are already participating in demonstrations.

### **Climate Change education and sustainable development**

There are two ministries that deal with ESD, namely the Ministry for Education and the Ministry for Ecological Transition. This shows that the current Government has taken this issue as a priority in its policies. The Climate Change and Energy Transition Law, of 2021, includes a complete section dedicated to climate change, education and research. It establishes that "The Government will review the treatment of climate change and sustainability in the basic curriculum of the teachings that are part of the Educational System in a transversal way, including the elements necessary to make education for sustainable development a reality. Likewise, the Government, within the scope of its competences, it will promote actions to guarantee adequate teacher training in this matter". The Ministry of Education, for its part, included in the new Education Law (LOMLOE, 2020) the need to "recognize the importance of addressing sustainable development in accordance with the 2030 Agenda. Thus, education for sustainable development and Global citizenship must be integrated into the educational plans and programs of all compulsory education, by incorporating the knowledge, skills, values and attitudes necessary so that all people can lead a successful life, make informed decisions and take an active role -both local and global level- in the treatment and solution of problems common to all citizens of the world.

### **Best practices in teacher education**

The new Education Law in Spain establishes that by 2025 all teachers must have been trained in EDS. Meanwhile, there are different initiatives in teacher training, for example the course designed by the University of Salamanca Climate Change: Evidence, Socio-economic Causes and Solutions. It is a MOOC course on the MIRIADAX platform. The course has been developed with the support of the Ministry for Ecological Transition, through the Biodiversity Foundation. The course revolves around the physics and chemistry of climate change and its impact on society, as well as the integration of the topic of climate change in the school curriculum. Another example is the course "Awareness and training on climate change for teachers", given by the Spanish Ministry of Education - INTEF. Its objectives are a) to offer a scientific approach to climate phenomena; b) publicize the mechanisms of climate change and its effects, and c) raise awareness about the role of human activity in causing climate change. Another valuable initiative is from the REPSOL Foundation, which offers ongoing online teacher training in the eWORLD project. The program consists of 5 modules that include content, webinars, demos, and other interactive activities. Another remarkable action is the Terral Project, "Environmental education in the face of climate change". It is an educational project of the regional government (Junta de Andalucía) aimed at promoting the development of initiatives and processes of environmental education and awareness about climate change to encourage personal and collective involvement in a process of reducing greenhouse gas emissions. The Terral project aims to guide teachers' practice and offer suggestions, resources and complements for carrying out or designing awareness-raising activities about the seriousness of climate change.

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### **Best practices in schools**

Because the educational system in Spain is highly decentralized, the implementation of many of the programs is regional or local. Others are offered by NGOs and foundations linked to large energy companies. For example, the eWORLD program (mentioned above) is offered by the Spanish oil company REPSOL.

“Naturaliza. Aprendizaje ambiental activo” is an educational program for environmental education in schools offered by Ecoembes, a non-profit environmental organization that promotes sustainability and caring for the environment through recycling. “Education for climate change” is a MOOC course dedicated to learning how to work on climate change with primary and secondary school students in a constructive and fun way. The content is as follows: Module 1: Our climate is changing; Module 2: Energy and climate change; Module 3: Water and climate change; Module 4: Soil and climate change; Module 5: Landscape and climate change; Module 6: Sustainable environments; Module 7: Healthy Environments.

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Co-funded by the  
Erasmus+ Programme  
of the European Union



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