

ESG - Environmental Social Governance : Leading a Sustainable School

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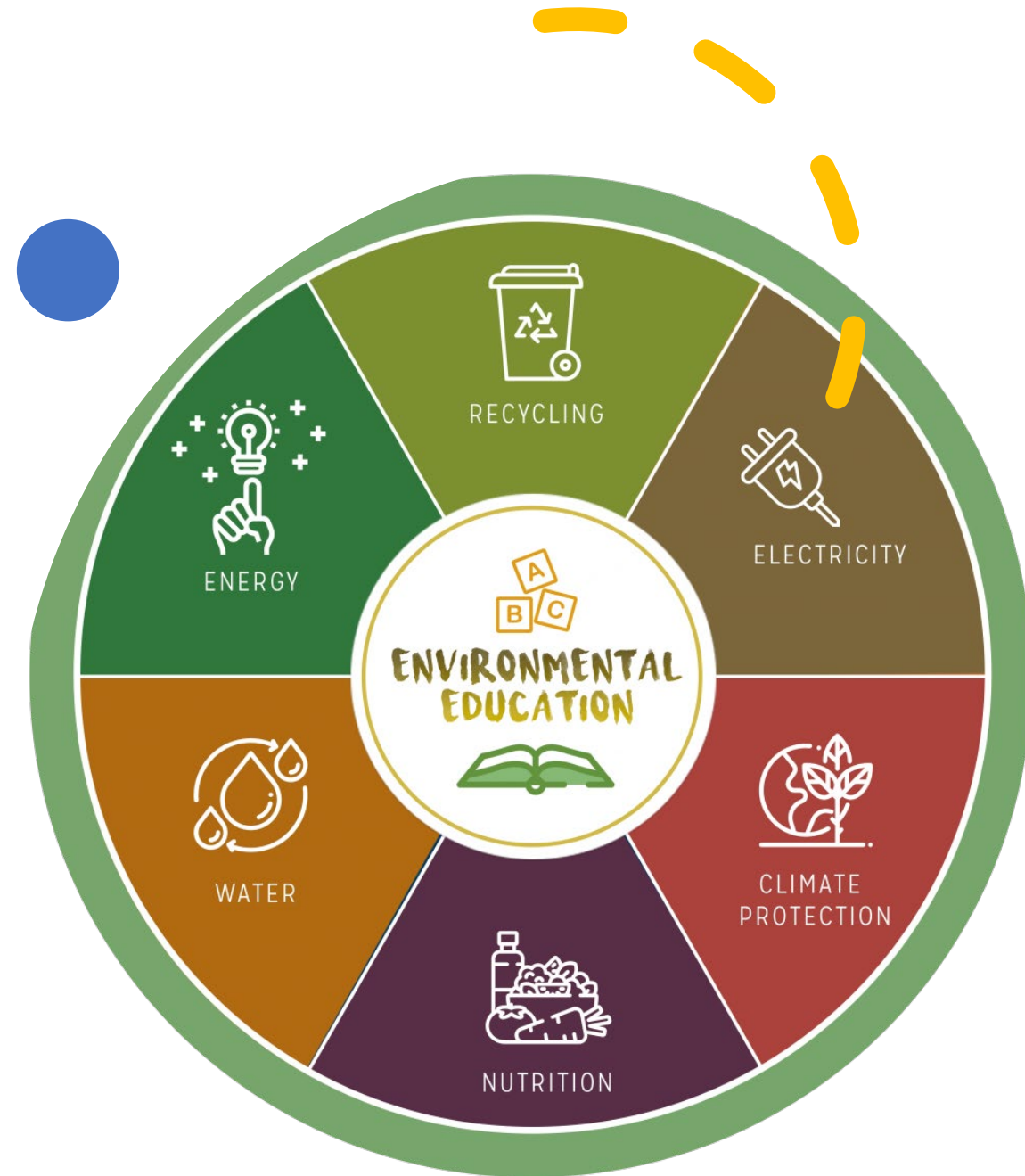


ESG for schools

Module 4

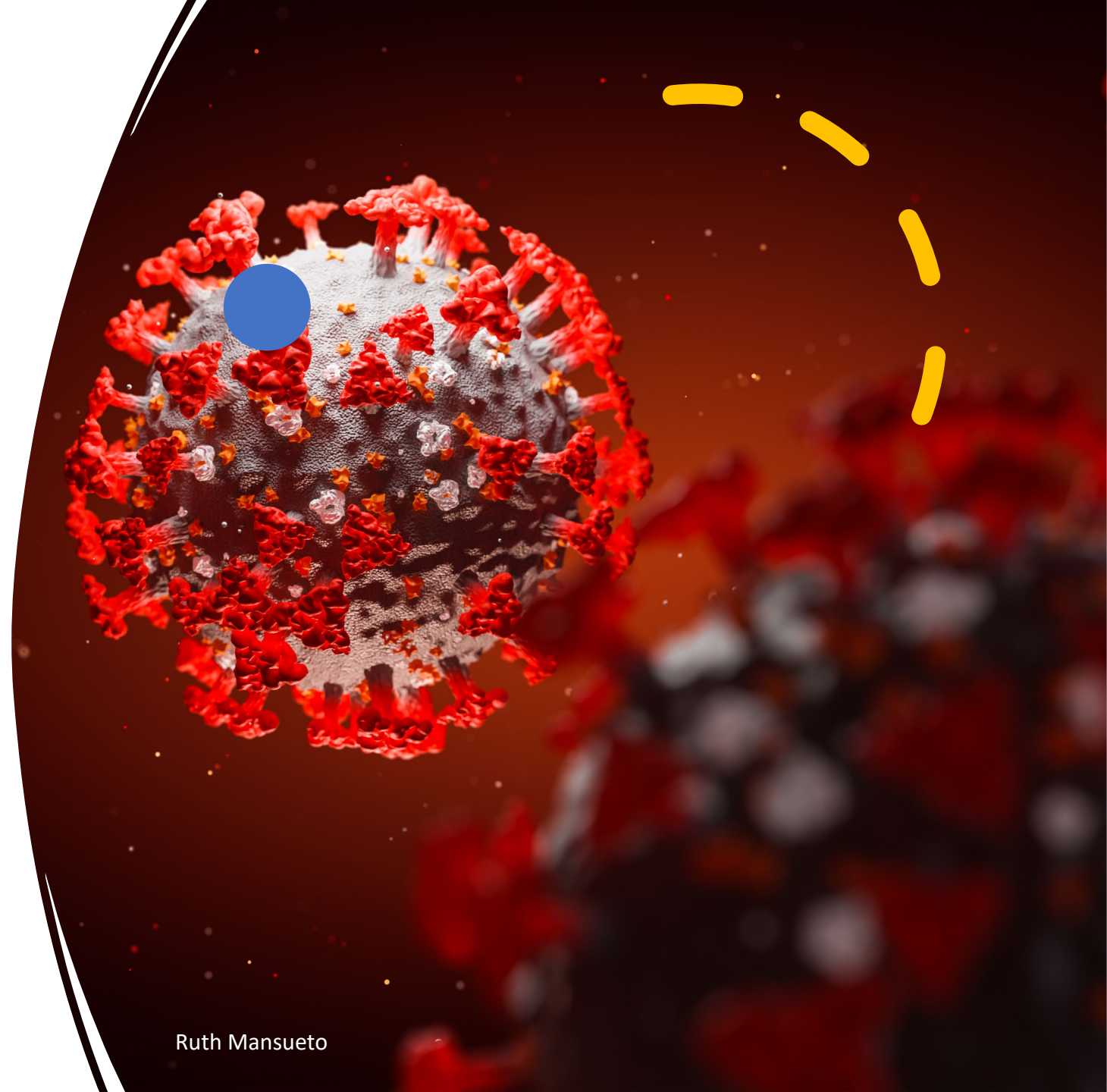
Environmental Education

- Environmental education in schools has long been established in many schools over the past decade. Students and teachers are amongst the most socially aware. For this reason, School Governance can be taken to another level as ESG gathers momentum.
- According to Lisa Walsh in ITM International Teaching Magazine – that school boards should take the example of other businesses and adopt ESG codes for school boards. Adopting ESG codes for schools might help the schools reflect how in actual fact they are socially and environmentally driven they are.



Pandemic effects

- The Pandemic of the Coronavirus 19 has made us more aware of the outside world.
- Teaching children to safeguard the planet has become that more important.
- The lockdown has made us realise what we have taken for granted prior to the pandemic.
- How vital it is for us to enjoy nature outside of the urbanised cities, confined air- conditioned homes and offices.





A perfect planet -

<https://youtu.be/xxibm10DEpl>

Leading Schools for sustainability

- If school governance opts to include social and environmental issues in the code – they might want to consider looking at their processes and check if they are respecting their communities, their environment as well as the planet.
- Teachers, parents, and students would want their school to perform morally, consciously, and ethically suggests Lisa Walsh in ITM International Teaching Magazine.



Good Governance

- The Galileo Global Education is brought as an example of good governance by Walsh, as they are focusing and working towards four key moral codes:
 - exercising good governance,
 - enhancing students' experience,
 - fostering well- being and inclusion and
 - running sustainable campuses and offices.
- Their annual 2019-2020 ESG Report invites food for thought argues Walsh and perhaps serves as a model for other schools.

Ruth Mansueto



Teaching for sustainability – whole school approach

- What is sustainability?
- According to the Brundtland Commission Report Our Common Future (1987)-
- “Sustainable development is development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. It contains within it two key concepts:
- the concept of ‘needs’, in particular the essential needs of the world’s poor, to which overriding priority should be given; and
- the idea of limitations imposed by the state of technology and social organization on the environment’s ability to meet present and future needs.”

What does sustainability have to do with schools?



- Sustainable development is basically concerned with **developing and preserving what matters**, spreads and lasts in ways that create positive connections and development among people and do no harm to others in the present or in the future. (Hargreaves and Fink, 2006:17)
- Fullan (2005) defines educational sustainability as the **capacity of a system to engage in the complexities of continuous improvement** consistent with deep values of human purpose.
- Sustaining a sound environment for the future **requires understanding and commitment and requires a change in thinking** argues Alma Harris, in Leading Sustainable Schools, Specialist Schools and Academies Trust, 2008.

Schools are the best places for sustainability

- Harris sustains that schools have a major role in shaping an alternative future, so they are the best places to raise awareness and create an understanding of the sustainability issues faced by future generations.
- ‘I have come to believe that the real hope for deep and enduring processes of evolution in schools lies with the students. They have a deep passion for making schools work. They are connected to the future in ways that no adult is. They have imagination and ways of seeing things that have not yet been shaped by the formal education process. And they are crying out wanting to be involved, to become more responsible for their environment.’ Senge. P (2003:6)

Sustainable schools' purpose

- Therefore, sustainable schools have a clear purpose: to align the need to support and protect the environment from the vestiges of modern living. Sustainable schools put learning first but locate this learning within a sustainable development framework (Hargreaves and Fink, 2006: 266).



Adopting the whole school approach – leading a sustainable school.

Key questions:

What priority is placed on sustainable development in your school?

How far is sustainable development a whole school and community focus?

Who are your community partners?

How are you currently involving them in this work?

The focus of a sustainable school

A school that puts the focus on sustainability is therefore a school that focusses on the well-being of its pupils and the school environment.

A sustainable school encourages pupils to care for themselves – health and well-being, care for each other – across cultures, distances, and generations as well as care for the environment near and far, suggests Alma Harris 2008.

School leaders' role

Harris argues that school leaders have a key role to play in the implementation of sustainable schools.

Sustainable development needs to be infused in the teaching and learning and in school improvement policies and SDPs.

Examples of Good Practice – Echo Schools

- Education for Sustainable Development ESD is recognised at an international level as being key to achieve the SDG- Sustainable Developmental Goals outlined in the “030 Agenda for Sustainable Development adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in September 2015.



Figure 1 The Sustainable Development Goals icons

Eco – Schools Programme

- Locally the Eco – Schools programme has been running in schools since 2002 and this programme not only opened up opportunities for schools to do something for the environment, but also awarded them with the Green Flag Award for their efforts. Over the years Eko – Skola has become synonymous with ESD at all levels of formal education.



The EkoSkola Programme

The 7 Steps

Green Flag Award

- “Participating schools that have engaged in the integration of ESD in the curriculum through a whole school approach are awarded the Green Flag – an international certification based on international quality criteria for ESD.
- Local research results have corroborated international findings that the programme is bringing about a personal and an institutional change of behaviour towards sustainability.” Vince Attard Eko- Skola Website



A national Strategy for education for sustainable development

“Two major milestones in the development of national ESD were (i) the setting up of the Centre for Environmental Education and Research (CEER) that stepped-up research and resource development in ESD,

(ii) the inclusion of ESD as a cross-curricular theme in the National Curriculum Framework (NCF).

More recently, an independent Board of Governors was appointed with the specific remit of planning and initiating the development of the first National Strategy for Educational Sustainable Development (NSESD).”

Environmental Curriculum across subjects

- To assist schools in implementing ESD across the Curriculum locally, the Eko- Skola Website has built substantial resources for lesson plans and activities over the years and are also available on the website.
- However, for ESD to be effective and successful and to really make changes in habits, it needs to be infused in all subjects across the curriculum in a whole school approach.



WATER



ENERGY



TRANSPORT



WASTE
MANAGEMENT



HEALTHY
LIVING



SCHOOL
GROUNDS



CLIMATE
CHANGE



BIODIVERSITY



SUBJECTS



ANIMAL
AWARENESS



FUN
& GAMES



SDG
COMPENDIUM



MISC.

Sharing of good practice

- A number of schools have been working on ESD with the help of Eko- Skola programme for about 16 years – so they were awarded the Green Flag status for the 8th time.

The screenshot shows a news article on the EkoSkola website. The navigation bar at the top includes links for Home, News, Guide to EkoSkola, Participants, Resources, Videos, and Awards. The article title is "Green Flag Awards hosted by the President of Malta" dated March 2, 2021. The sub-headline is "Hybrid Green Flag Award Ceremony 2021". The main headline reads "44 schools receive the internationally acclaimed Green Flag Award" with the sub-headline "Resilience in times of pandemic". The text describes a ceremony presided over by the President of Malta, H.E. Dr George Vella, where 48 schools received recognition for positive changes in their communities. It lists several schools, including Gozo College Secondary School, Gozo College Xewkija Primary School, Maria Regina College Naxxar Primary School, QSI International School of Malta, and St Nicholas College Bahrja Primary School. It also mentions that St Joseph Mater Boni Consilii School Paola and St Joseph School Blata l-Bajda received their 8th consecutive Green Flag award. The ceremony was held at San Anton Palace in a hybrid format. There are three photographs: the President speaking at a podium, a man in a suit speaking at a podium, and two men in suits exchanging a certificate. A "Download Application Forms" button is visible in the top right. A "Past Newsletters" section lists local and international newsletters from 2021. A "View All" link is at the bottom right.

Home News Guide to EkoSkola Participants Resources Videos Awards

Green Flag Awards hosted by the President of Malta




March 2, 2021

Hybrid Green Flag Award Ceremony 2021

44 schools receive the internationally acclaimed Green Flag Award

Resilience in times of pandemic

In a ceremony presided over by the President of Malta, H.E. Dr George Vella a total of 48 schools received recognition for bringing a marked positive change in their school communities. Gozo College Secondary School, Gozo College Xewkija Primary School, Maria Regina College Naxxar Primary School, QSI International School of Malta, and St Nicholas College Bahrja Primary School were awarded the prestigious international Green Flag Award for the first time. St Joseph Mater Boni Consilii School Paola and St Joseph School Blata l-Bajda received the 8th consecutive Green Flag marking their 16 years of commitment towards sustainability. The ceremony was held at San Anton Palace in a hybrid set-up under strict Covid-19 measures.



The programme which is locally managed by Nature Trust – FEE Malta empowers students to adopt an active role in environmental decision-making and action in their school and community. These awarded schools can now boast that they have received international recognition that they are implementing Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) as outlined in the National Curriculum Framework.

However, as expected like any other institution, schools were hard hit by the pandemic during the past months. Like their foreign counterparts, EkoSkola students adopted a different strategy to keep the programme running by re-adjusting to the new realities. The new Covid-19 measures ushered practices that are in conflict with the various sustainability practices and progress students had made in various areas particularly in single-usage

[Download Application Forms](#)

Past Newsletters

[Local Newsletters](#)

- Newsletter 65
- Newsletter 64
- Newsletter 63

[International Newsletters](#)

- Eco-Schools October 2021
- Eco-Schools August 2021
- Eco-Schools June 2021

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