



**PEF**

UNIVERZA  
V LJUBLJANI Pedagoška  
fakulteta

# Environment and Sustainable Development

Blended Intensive Programmes (BIP) in March & April 2026

*Organized by the UNESCO Chair on Teacher Education for Sustainable Development at the University of Ljubljana, in collaboration with the University of Klagenfurt, the Private University College Augustinum, and the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens.*



## Who are we?



Gregor Torkar



Christiana Glettler



Evangelia Mavrikaki



Franz Rauch



Igor Repac



**Unesco**

Chair

# on Teacher Education for Sustainable Development

- **Target groups:** teachers, educators
- **The Chair aims to promote an integrated system of research, teaching, training, community engagement, and communication.**
- **It facilitates collaboration** between high-level, internationally recognized researchers and teaching staff from the University of Ljubljana and other institutions in Slovenia, the region, and beyond.

Member of  
COVID-19 Global Education Coalition  
Launched by UNESCO



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# Slovenia strides forward to advance sustainable development in education

UNESCO Chair on Teacher Education for Sustainable Development established at University of Ljubljana on 25 September 2024.



Freepik

14 October 2024

Collective human activities have altered the earth's ecosystems to the point that our very survival is in danger, because of critical choices that are more difficult to reverse each day. Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) is UNESCO's education sector response to the urgent and dramatic challenges the planet faces. ESD aims to promote a holistic understanding of sustainability, which includes economic, social, and environmental dimensions.

The University of Ljubljana, through its Faculty of Education, has taken a major step towards advancing global sustainable education with the launch of the [UNESCO Chair on Teacher Education for Sustainable Development](#), a pivotal initiative aimed at strengthening teacher education frameworks to meet the challenges of today's rapidly evolving educational landscape.

# Ceremony to mark the establishment of the UNESCO Chair on Teacher Education for Sustainable Development



Boštjan Podlogar/STA

A gala ceremony was held at the Assembly Hall of the Rector's Office to mark the official founding of the UNESCO Chair on Teacher Education for Sustainable Development at the University of Ljubljana, which will be headquartered at the Faculty of Education. The Chair will facilitate cooperation between international researchers and teaching staff at the university and those based in other institutions within the country and around the world.

The screenshot shows the website for the UNESCO Chair on Teacher Education for Sustainable Development at the University of Ljubljana. The page features a header with the IAU logo and the text 'Higher Education and Research for Sustainable Development'. Below the header, there is a navigation menu with options like 'About IAU HESD initiatives', 'HE for SDGs in action', 'Members & Partners', 'News & Events', and 'Contact'. A prominent blue button encourages users to 'Register and submit your HESD actions'. The main content area is titled 'Launch of UNESCO Chair on Teacher Education for Sustainable Development at University of Ljubljana' and includes a search bar, a list of associated SDGs (Quality Education and Partnerships for Goals), and a detailed announcement text. A 'More information' section provides links to press releases and additional resources. The page also displays the 'Action Category' as 'Other' and the 'Latest update' as '17:10 2024'.



UNESCO Chair on Teacher Education  
for Sustainable Development,  
University of Ljubljana, Slovenia

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# The specific objectives of the UNESCO Chair

- I. **To promote a systemic, whole-institution approach to Education for Sustainable Development** by strengthening networks with various stakeholders—universities, faculties, research institutions, educational authorities, UNESCO Associated Schools, UNESCO World Heritage Sites, outdoor education centres, museums, and more.
- II. **To develop educational strategies for teachers, educators,** and students to facilitate the transition to a sustainable future for all;
- III. **To generate research activities** focused on educating and raising awareness of sustainability issues with all relevant stakeholder groups in education;
- IV. **To promote sustainability initiatives and projects,** through international conferences, workshops, new study programmes and courses, as well as generate high-quality publications, etc.; and
- V. **To cooperate** closely with UNESCO, other UNESCO Chairs and UNITWIN Networks on relevant programmes and activities.

# Contact

Chairholder: prof. dr. Gregor Torkar

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# Programme details: Environment and Sustainable Development

## Number of ECTS: 5 ECTS

This course explores the cultural, economic, political, social, and ecological dimensions of environmental issues and sustainable development. It provides a comprehensive, interdisciplinary approach to understanding key challenges and solutions in the field, with major focus on the role of sustainability education and outreach.

**Course organisation:** The course is delivered through a blended format, combining online (10 hours) and offline (40 hours) activities, including lectures, workshops, collaborative projects, and field trips (e.g., to museum, nature reserve, outdoor education centre, forest pedagogy). An in-person session will be held at the Faculty of Education, University of Ljubljana, Slovenia (April 20 till April 24, 2026).

**Contact:** Gregor Torkar ([gregor.torkar@pef.uni-lj.si](mailto:gregor.torkar@pef.uni-lj.si)) & Igor Repac ([igor.repac@pef.uni-lj.si](mailto:igor.repac@pef.uni-lj.si))

## Programme details: Environment and Sustainable Development

### Core Topics Include:

- **Key Concepts and Definitions**  
An in-depth understanding of concepts such as sustainable development, education for sustainable development, ecological literacy, environment, nature, heritage, ecology, biodiversity, natural resources, ecosystem services, climate change, equality, intrinsic values, and cultural landscapes.
- **Environmental Concepts and Challenges**  
Analysis of environmental issues at local, regional, and global levels.
- **Human Needs and Environmental Impact**  
Exploration of basic human needs and their influence on sustainability.
- **Historical Perspectives**  
Examination of the historical development of civilizations in relation to sustainability.
- **Ethics and Sustainable Development**  
Discussion of ethical questions in the context of environmental responsibility and sustainable futures.
- **Sustainability in Education**  
Application of sustainability principles in educational practices and the promotion of ecological literacy. Learning about various teaching strategies and approaches through practice.

**Permanent Zoom link for online lectures:** <https://uni-lj-si.zoom.us/j/8621383623?omn=97708210975>

## Programme details: Environment and Sustainable Development

### Online lectures:

Lecture title	Date & Time	Lecturers
Introduction to Environment and Sustainable Development: Human Drivers of Environmental Change and Global Challenges  Seminar Instructions	18 March 2026, at 5:00 pm (3 h)	Gregor Torkar, UNIVERSITY OF LJUBLJANA, SLOVENIA & Coordinators
Biogeochemical Cycles and Anthropogenic Influences	26 March 2026, at 4.30 pm (2 h)	Iztok Devetak, UNIVERSITY OF LJUBLJANA, SLOVENIA
Teaching Nature: Exploring the Relationships Between Outdoor Learning and Sustainability Education  Seminar Progress Update	11 April 2026 at 5 pm (3 h)	Christiana Glettler, PRIVATE PÄDAGOGISCHE HOCHSCHULE AUGUSTINUM, AUSTRIA  Gregor Torkar, UNIVERSITY OF LJUBLJANA, SLOVENIA & Coordinators
Teaching the 17 Sustainable Development Goals Through Social and Emotional Learning	18 April 2026 at 5 pm (2 h)	Evangelia Mavrikaki & Myrto Koutra, NATIONAL AND KAPODISTRIAN UNIVERSITY OF ATHENS, GREECE

**Attendance: min. 85%**

## **Seminar:**

- 5/5/5 presentation format: maximum 5 minutes / 5 slides / 5 lines per slide.
- The content should efficiently communicate an environmental or sustainability challenge, a solution, or both.
- The topic should be presented holistically, systemically, and in an interdisciplinary way (i.e., no wicked problem has a simple solution).
- You are advised to focus on data from the European Environment Agency ([EEA](#)) and other reliable sources covering global, European, and/or national perspectives.
- Presentation date: April 24, Ljubljana.
- [Recommendations for the presentation.](#)

Questions Responses Settings

## BIP Environment and Sustainable Development

Please complete this form to help us better understand your background and motivations.

What is your **name and surname**?

Short answer text

Which **country** are you from?

Short answer text

What **university programme** are you currently enrolled in?

Long answer text

What are your **motivations for joining this course on environment and sustainable development**?

Long answer text

### Fill out the form:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfeadJASw7WNtXpoMeglmo2FBBI6ZWOX0kXI2AYuJLafCmYNA/viewform?usp=publish-editor>