



APPLYING A MULTI-STAKEHOLDER & WHOLE-INSTITUTIONAL APPROACH TO **EDUCATION** FOR **SUSTAINABILITY**

WHAT IS **EDUCATION** FOR **SUSTAINABLE** **DEVELOPMENT (ESD)**

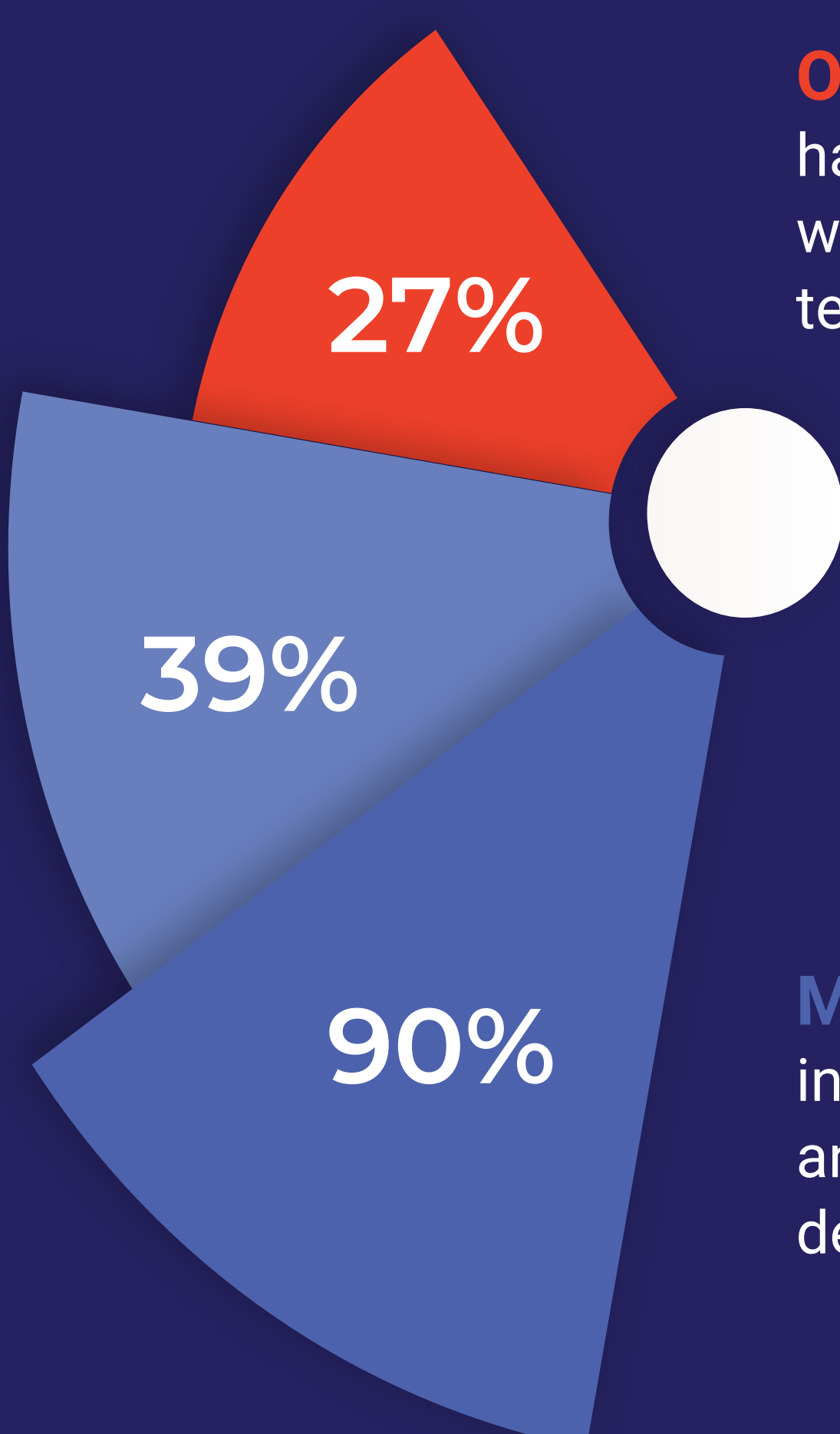
Different organizations offer various definitions of ESD
- AELIA uses the UN's definition as it is widely accepted and practical.

Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) equips people with the knowledge, skills, values, and attitudes needed to build a more sustainable and just future. It empowers learners to make informed decisions and take responsible actions for environmental, social, and economic well-being, for present and future generations

(UNESCO, 2020, p.8).

ESD TODAY: EUROPE & BEYOND KEY STATISTICS

AELIA stock study, 2024,
www.aelia-project.eu/results-outputs/



Only 27% of countries

have climate and sustainability education with publicly available monitoring and teacher training standards

39% of countries globally

have included climate change education in their national laws, yet ESD remains inconsistently implemented in schools

More than 90% of teachers

in Austria, Cyprus, Greece, Romania, and Serbia seek higher professional development on ESD



Austria

Over 1,000 schools are part of the national “ÖKOLOG” network, which focuses on **whole-school sustainability activities**.



Greece

About 40% of schools participate in **sustainability awareness campaigns**, but only 25-35% are part of ESD networks.



Cyprus

Since 2011, **all primary schools** are obliged by law to develop a **school sustainability policy (SEEP)**.



Romania

Strong reliance on **Eco-Schools** – in Romania over **600 schools** have been recognized as Eco-Schools.



Serbia

...while Serbia also displays a strong commitment to **Eco-Schools**, with **over 200 institutions** enrolled.

KEY RESULTS OF AELIA PROJECT



Training workshops
and webinars



Open Online
Course (MOOC)



Educational frameworks
and Guides



A crowdsourcing
platform



A White Paper on
Policy Recommendations

WHY IT MATTERS

THE IMPACT OF ESD

Innovative Curriculum Integration:

Shares resources that embed sustainability in school curricula.

Educator Capacity Building:

Offers training to improve teachers’ skills and confidence in delivering ESD.

Policy and Global Impact:

Positions ESD as a key pillar in national sustainability strategies and global efforts, empowering learners to tackle climate and resource challenges.

Green schools in practice:

supports eco-friendly learning environments through student-led projects, energy-saving actions, and sustainable school culture.

Multistakeholder Collaboration:

Builds networks among schools, educators, policymakers, and communities to support ESD.

Whole-School Sustainability Approach:

Promotes sustainability in school operations, teaching, and community engagement.

Empowered Citizens for Sustainability:

Fosters active, responsible citizens committed to building a fairer, more sustainable world.

ESD & THE SDGs

— HOW THEY'RE CONNECTED

SDG 4.7

ESD is a core target of Quality Education

SDG 5

Promotes gender equity and social inclusion

SDG 12

Encourages sustainable consumption & production

SDG 13

Empowers climate action & environmental responsibility

SDG 16

Fosters peace, global citizenship & justice

SDG 17

Strengthens partnerships through education networks

We must make sure that people learn about sustainable development at every level of their education... That is why the United Nations ... declared a ‘**decade of education for sustainable development**’.

Kofi Annan, Former UN Secretary General

Education for Sustainable Development (ESD)... is about shaping a better tomorrow for all — **and it must start today.**

Irina Bokova, UNESCO Directorate-General

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