

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.

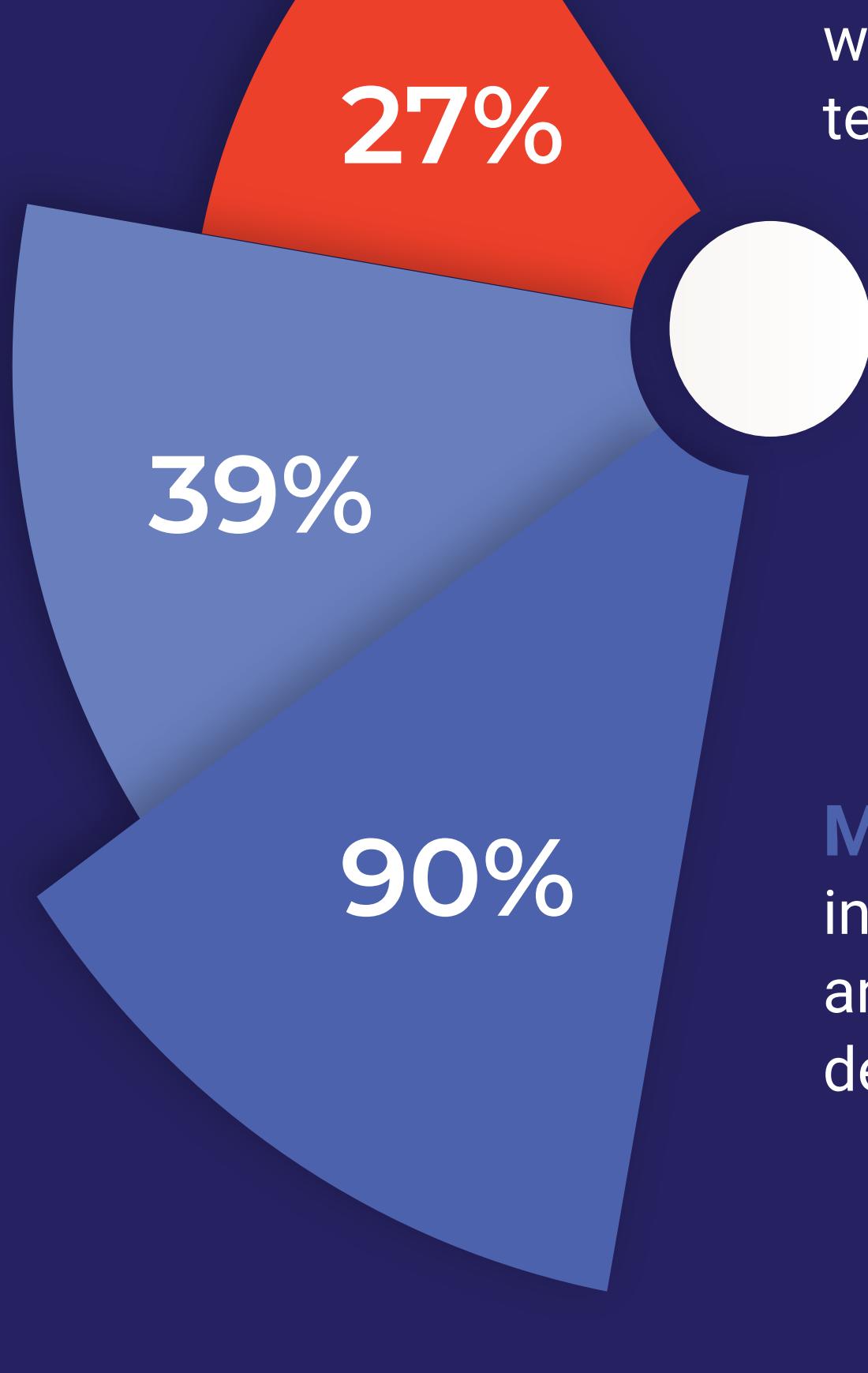
Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) equips people with the knowledge, skills, values, and attitudes needed to build a more sustainable and just future. It empowers learners to make informed decisions and take responsible actions for environmental, social, and economic well-being, for present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



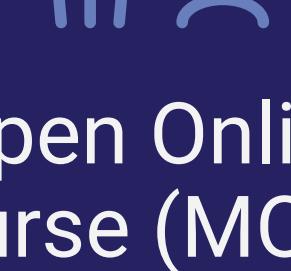
Serbia

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

KEY RESULTS OF AELIA PROJECT



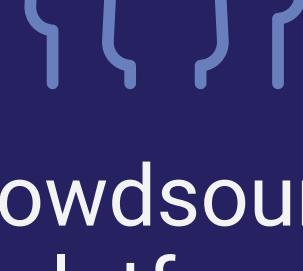
Training workshops and webinars



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

[Visit AELIA's website](#)



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