



BIP for University Staff

Education for Sustainable Development

25th - 29th May 2026

Cork, Ireland

Join an international, collaborative learning experience designed to help university staff embed sustainability into teaching, campus practice, and community engagement.

This **Blended Intensive Programme** brings together **staff from INGENIUM partner universities** to build practical capacity for **Education for Sustainable Development (ESD)** in higher education. Through peer exchange, real-world experiences, and applied tools, participants will develop concrete approaches they can implement in their own institutional contexts.

This programme will support participants to:

- Build a shared understanding of sustainability and ESD in higher education
- Connect personal values with institutional action
- Explore practical tools for integrating sustainability into teaching and campus life
- Learn through peer exchange, real-world visits, and cross-institutional collaboration
- Develop a clear, actionable professional plan to implement change in their own context

> Programme Format

The BIP follows a blended format combining **online preparation**, an **in-person campus week**, and a **final reflective online session**.

The programme includes:

- An **online preparation session** introducing key sustainability concepts and forming international working groups
- A **five-day in-person campus week in MTU Cork** featuring sustainability tours, applied workshops, community engagement visits, campus exploration, and reflective learning
- A **final online session** supporting participants to develop a tangible personal action plan for implementing Education for Sustainable Development

> By taking part in this BIP, participants will gain:

- **Practical methods and tools** for Education for Sustainable Development
- **Inspiration** from real-world sustainability initiatives
- An **international professional network** across INGENIUM universities
- A **personalised action plan** to embed sustainability in their professional practice

> Overall Aim

This BIP focuses on Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) for university staff, with the goal of strengthening individual and institutional capacity to embed sustainability across teaching, campus practice, and community engagement.

The programme aims to:

- Strengthen participants' understanding of sustainability and ESD
- Link personal values with institutional processes
- Provide practical tools applicable in teaching, campus initiatives, and community contexts
- Encourage peer-to-peer and cross-institutional learning
- Support participants in developing a tangible, actionable personal professional plan

> Partnership & Participation

The programme brings together staff from INGENIUM partner institutions to foster cross-institutional collaboration and knowledge exchange.

Participation framework:

- Minimum of 3 partner universities
- Minimum of 2 participants per university
- Participants are mixed across institutions for all group work (no single-institution groups)
- Participants are organised into 3–4 groups to ensure redundancy if someone cannot attend

> Programme Structure

Phase 1: Online Preparation (Pre-Campus)

First week of May | 2-hour Online session

This preparatory session creates a shared foundation and prepares participants for the campus week.

Focus:

- The “big picture” of sustainability
- What ESD means in higher education
- Shared language and framing around sustainability

Outcomes:

- Participants gain a **common understanding** of sustainability and ESD
- Participants are assigned into **cross-institutional working groups**
- Each group prepares a **task/activity** to bring to the campus week

Phase 2: In-Person Campus Week (MTU Cork) | 25–29 May

► Monday, 25 May “MTU: Personal Values, Action & Context”

- Welcome and orientation
- **MTU campus sustainability tour**, including:
 - Anaerobic digester
 - Food-related sustainability initiatives
 - River walk
- Focus on **personal values** and **action**, not only systems and processes
- **Group presentations** of the task/activity prepared during the online session

► Tuesday, 26 May “Tools for ESD Practice”

- Two **interactive sessions** (morning and afternoon)
- Focus on **practical tools**, for example:
 - Measuring or calculating sustainability impact
 - Communication and engagement planning
 - Other applied ESD methodologies
- Participants work in different teams on different topics
- **Strong emphasis on:**
 - Sharing experiences
 - Peer-to-peer learning
 - Collective reflection

► Wednesday, 27 May “Community & Authentic Learning”

- **Morning:** External site visit
- **Afternoon:** Reflection and discussion based on the visit:
 - Bringing real-world experience into the classroom
 - Community engagement
 - Using tours, fieldwork, and lived experience for authentic assessment
- Focus on translating experience into **teaching practice or everyday work practices**
- University is a **Living Lab - Sustainability strategy of the university** and applied examples

► Thursday, 28 May “Campus Exploration & Sustainability Observation”

- Visits to different MTU Cork Campuses (each participant visits one campus):
 - NMCI
 - Cork School of Music
 - Blackrock Observatory
- Participants complete a **sustainability-focused scavenger/treasure hunt**, including:
 - Observations of sustainability practices
 - Cultural or campus differences
 - Key takeaways
 - Ideas or practices transferable to participants’ home institutions
 - Questions to campus sustainability initiatives
- Emphasis on **observation, reflection, and transferability**

► Friday, 29 May “Reflection, Sharing & Meaning-Making”

- **Report-back / show-and-tell** from Thursday’s campus visits:
 - Photos, observations, and reflections
 - A light, informal sharing moment
- LEGO® Serious Play session:
 - Participants express key learnings and takeaways from the week
- Collective reflection and programme wrap-up

Phase 3 – Post-Campus Online Session

Tuesday, 9 June | Online

This final session supports participants in translating learning into professional action.

Focus:

- Critical reflection
- Development of a personal professional action plan

Participants will:

- Join the session with a draft Personal Development Plan
- Receive guidance on what makes a strong, actionable plan

- Work in peer groups to discuss and refine their plans
- Submit the final version of their plan by 19th June

> Certification

Upon successful completion of the programme, participants will receive:

- 3 ECTS credits and a digital badge (to be confirmed)

> Key Principles Running Throughout the BIP

- Cross-institutional collaboration
- Peer-to-peer learning
- Personal values alongside institutional change
- Real-world, applied sustainability
- Tangible outcomes rather than abstract reflection

> Interested in participating?

To register, please complete the online application form via the link provided.

[Education for Sustainable Development for University Staff BIP](#)
[Fill in form](#)

We look forward to welcoming you to Munster Technological University in Cork! For travel information and practical details, please refer to our Travel Guide.

