

# Social Sustainability & Wellbeing in Communities

NPAD-2026/10128  
Collaboration project – Development project  
10/2026 - 10/2028

## Introduction

Project theme: **Green growth, climate change and sustainable development**

Sectors for adult learning that the project aims at: **Non-formal adult learning**

Orientations within adult education: **General adult education and learning**

### **A short summary of the project**

The project examines the current state of the participating educational organisations in terms of training and the basics of sustainable development. Based on the analysis of the current state, a new joint training package for the future will be planned. The building of the training package is based on transformative learning. The project explores different methods for building and ensuring a common attractive education package for all participating countries.

The aim is to create a 6-week educational package, for which the themes, structure, teaching methods and other teaching tools necessary for sustainable development will be developed and selected together during the project process. The planning tools used are the Workshop of the Future method, workshops (face-to-face meetings) and work camp methods. The key result of the project is a common digital handbook (idea book) that describes the process of creating the training package and the training modules. The digital handbook evaluates the tools needed to reach different target groups.

The target groups are school leaders, teachers, administrative staff and groups of students of different ages: young people, young adults, adults, seniors.

The project also integrates cultural sustainability by exploring the participating countries' cultural heritage, local identities, indigenous knowledge and traditional ecological practices. Sharing cultural perspectives enriches the joint training package and strengthens intercultural dialogue in the Nordic–Baltic region.

The project highlights social sustainability through strengthening community well-being, inclusion, equality and participation.

The training package will include methods for building supportive learning communities, promoting mental well-being, reducing loneliness and enhancing civic engagement.

Project is the possible to plan together expected long term impacts include improved sustainability competences among educators, strengthened eco social awareness among communities, increased capacity for climate-resilient education and enhanced Nordic–Baltic cooperation in the field of adult education. The project supports the long-term green transition of the region.

### **Background and Rationale**

Three institutions had a preparation visit in Iceland, where were discussing about project. All organizations are very committed to developing this project. This commitment was strengthened during the preparatory meeting.

Educational organizations are experienced providers of education, but now new enthusiasm is needed. Enthusiasm is sought by combining previous experiences and observations and from partners in different situations. Everyone has a strong belief that through international cooperation we will achieve something new that none of the organizations could create alone. It has been observed as a need and a challenge that students avoid education if it directly

mentions sustainable development. Therefore, it is important to have a different perspective and make the new education package attractive to different groups of students. Every educational organization has a strong belief that in the future we must increasingly and more widely provide knowledge and skills related to, for example, socio-economic education to local residents.

**Nordic/Baltic added value:**

The project seeks to strengthen understanding of sustainable development, promote biodiversity-friendly actions and highlight the importance of nature appreciation and environmental wellbeing. Educational organisations play a key role in shaping a responsible future. Together, the partners will co-create a new training package for sustainability education.

The project covers ecological, social, economic and cultural dimensions of sustainability. Cultural sustainability is enhanced by sharing cultural heritage, local identities and traditional ecological knowledge from the partner countries.

## Partnership

Nordplus cooperation brings added value by combining diverse Nordic–Baltic sustainability expertise. Each partner contributes unique strengths:

- Finland – eco-social education and community wellbeing
- Iceland – climate resilience and nature-based learning
- Lithuania – digital learning materials and green competences

Shared knowledge creates a stronger, more comprehensive training programme than any single organisation could achieve alone.

**Coordinating institution: Kianta-Opisto /Suomussalmen kunta (FI-Kianta-Opisto)**

- Center For Adult Learning
- Contact person: Tarja Peitsaho
  - E-mail: tarja.peitsaho@suomussalmi.fi
  - Phone number: +358447753148

**Institution: IS-Husavik Academic Center (IS)**

- Center For Adult Learning
- Contact person: Arnþrúður Dagsdóttir
  - E-mail: ditto@hac.is
  - Phone number: 00354 4645100

**Institution: LT-Kaisiadorys education and sport center (LT-KSSC)**

- Center for General Secondary Education for Adults
- Contact person: Deimantė Kuconyte-Budeliene,
  - E-mail: projektai@kaisiadorysssc.lt
  - Phone number: +37064821624

## Project Objectives and Outcomes

### **Project aim**

The purpose of the project is to prepare educational organisations for their future role in sustainability education. The aim is to build an attractive and effective training package that increases public awareness of ecological, social, cultural and economic sustainability. The project is grounded in eco-social education and transformative learning. The project aims to increase awareness of sustainable development and, to promote biodiversity. Together, educational organisations are preparing to meet the training needs of diverse learner groups while strengthening conservation efforts and appreciation of nature. Educational organisations have a responsibility to develop engaging and forward-looking training programmes in the field of sustainable development.

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### **Activities**

The first step a project is an analysis of the current state of the participating organisations on the state of sustainable development training and values, as well as a glimpse into the operating culture. The results of the analyses serve as a background and basis for the idea book, from which the planning of a new joint training package will be made. Indicators for a sustainable future and new teaching methods are sought for the joint education planning from interesting target groups. The project will carry out a small-scale survey in the participating organisations to find out the views of those working with teaching, operating culture and leadership on sustainable development. The work is carried out together and separately with close and remote.

During the project, the planning and responsible persons will have a total of five working meetings and a final seminar, some of which will be carried out as face-to-face meetings and some as online-meetings. During the project we will have six (6) official meetings.

Online meetings can be convened by any of the partners if necessary.

The training organisations assemble country-specific teams, the composition of which can vary depending on the topic.

Once the project has received funding, an online kick-off meeting will be held, where the project's action and schedule plan will be approved, and an institution-specific analysis of the current state will be launched. The project coordinators are responsible for the analysis of the current state. The current state analysis includes a description of the educational organisations' previously completed training and their content descriptions for students.

The training descriptions create the basis for the handbook and the plan training package. The reports and course descriptions in the handbook can serve as an idea bank for other schools 'organisations who are looking for ideas to sustainable development training. Lithuania is responsible for compiling the handbook in electronic format.

In autumn 2026, a face-to-face meeting will be held in Lithuania to familiarise themselves with the information collected. At the same meeting, a joint survey will be conducted among the operators of educational institutions and a digital survey will be launched. Iceland is responsible for the implementation of the survey and the analysis of the results, which are also explained as a separate chapter in the idea book. The work on the survey will be completed during the spring and summer of 2027.

In the spring/summer of 2027, a working meeting (face-to-face) in Iceland will be held to familiarise ourselves with each organisation's plan together and create a common vision, which will also be described in the handbook.

In autumn 2027, work on a joint education plan for the future will begin at the Future Peer Meeting to be held in Finland. Kianta-Opisto organizes the meeting and working methods. After the meeting, work continues in each organization, but contact is maintained via a digital platform and monthly online meetings.

An online seminar will be held in the winter or summer of 2028, where the handbook will be published. Keynote experts on sustainable development and experts in teaching methods that reform society are invited to the seminar.

## Summary and educational organization-specific responsibilities

### **Kianta-Opisto - Adult Education Centre:**

1. Lead workshop facilitation methods
2. Plan and organizing training course activities in Finland
3. Host the Future Peer Meeting (Autumn 2027)
4. Participate in ongoing development work
5. Contribute content to handbook

### **Husavik Academic Center (IS) employees will be responsible:**

1. Plan and organizing training course activities in Iceland
2. Lead the joint survey: implementation + analysis
3. Host spring/summer 2027 working meeting
4. Write the survey analysis chapter for the handbook
5. Support vision-building and planning

### **Kaišiadorys education and sport center employees will be responsible:**

1. Publicity in social media (facebook, page "Kaišiadorių ŠSC-Neformalusis švietimas") and website (link: <https://kaišiadorysssc.lt>) (responsible person - Giedrė Genevičienė);

2. Plan and organizing training course activities in Lithuania (responsible person - Deimantė Kuconytė- Būdelienė);
3. Host the Autumn 2026 face-to-face meeting
4. Compile the electronic handbook
5. Support survey preparation
6. Provide national materials for current state analysis

### **International Project Coordination (all partners / coordinators)**

- Kick-off meeting and approval of project plan
- Conduct and report the current state analysis
- Maintain digital communication platform + monthly online meetings
- Organise the final online seminar (Main Finland and shared responsibility other countries)
- Invite sustainable development & pedagogical innovation experts
- The country coordinators will be responsible for writing the final project report as well as
- finalising the idea book. They share responsibility for the success of the project.

## **Results**

During the project, a digital idea book will be developed. The idea book describes the development process of the training package. The idea book describes the status of the participating organizations, which includes the already implemented sustainable development course. Organizations can utilize the course descriptions in their own training planning. The digital idea book also describes the 6-week training modules resulting from the joint planning of the training organizations. The training modules can be of different levels, because they are aimed at different target groups. The new training package strengthens the possibility of the participating organizations to offer sustainable development training in an attractive way. The new training package covers diverse target groups and offers teachers new teaching methods based on transformative learning.

### **Long term impacts**

Expected long term impacts include improved sustainability competences among educators, strengthened eco social awareness among communities, increased capacity for climate resilient education and enhanced Nordic–Baltic cooperation in the field of adult education. The project supports the long-term green transition of the region.

### **Dissemination**

Dissemination will be carried carry several channels like personal contact, virtual contact, presenting results to school council and umbrella organisations.

The project coordinator in each country is responsible for information. The progress of the project is communicated to teachers and administrative staff in the educational institution's own meetings. The educational organizations publish a review of the work meeting visits on social media, which can be followed by the personnel of each organization. The visits are

informed to the local media (buff stories) and photo publications of the work are made on social media.

The digital idea book will be distributed through each country's own electronic channels and on platforms provided by the EU, such as EPALE. The digital idea book can be easily distributed to educational institutions and stakeholders, such as political decision-makers, teachers and various training organizations. Outside the partnership, social media will be used for dissemination: Facebook, Instagram and schools' websites.

## **Anchoring**

Every school organisations embedding the training package:

- Integrated into permanent curricula
- Adapted for different learner groups
- Idea book used as a long-term development tool

Benefits for stakeholders:

- Adult learners: improved sustainability competences
- Teachers: new pedagogical tools
- Management: strategic support for sustainability work
- Organisations: strengthened capacity and visibility

## **Kaišiadorys education and sport center**

One person will be responsible for anchor the results and experiences of the project in Kaišiadorys education and sport center after it has ended.

1. We will organize seminars for our employees, teaching how to use “tools”-results of projects in daily work;
2. We will share the information with other institutions in Lithuania (adult education centers, in other Lithuanian cities).
3. We will include project results in our learning courses as a part that it will be useful for adult learners.
4. We will organize seminars to schools community (directors of schools, teachers, etc.), seniors in Kaišiadorys (100 participants).

## **Húsavík Academic Center**

The results of the project will be integrated into the regular work and adult education programmes of Húsavík Academic Center. New methods, tools, and learning materials developed through the project will be used in future courses and adapted to local adult learners needs. Relevant materials will be shared internally so they can be reused by staff after the project ends.

Project experiences will be shared with colleagues and management through staff meetings and internal workshops. Staff members involved in the project will support others in applying new approaches in their daily work, helping to ensure long-term impact across the organisation.

## The target groups

The target groups are school leaders, teachers, administrative staff and groups of students of different ages: young people, young adults, adults, seniors.

The project also integrates cultural sustainability by exploring the participating countries' cultural heritage, local identities, indigenous knowledge and traditional ecological practices. Sharing cultural perspectives enriches the joint training package and strengthens intercultural dialogue in the Nordic–Baltic region. The project highlights social sustainability through strengthening community well-being, inclusion, equality and participation.

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## Work Plan and Activities

Project period 10/2026 - 10/2028

### WP1 – Project Management

**Maintain digital communication platform:** The partners will establish and regularly update a shared digital platform (e.g., Google Drive) to ensure efficient communication, document sharing, and collaboration among project partners.

**Monthly online meetings:** The partners will organize short monthly online meetings (e.g., via Zoom) to review progress, coordinate activities, and maintain consistent communication.

Online meetings can be convened by any of the partners if necessary.

**Five working meetings and a final seminar:** During the project, the planning and responsible persons will have a total of five working meetings and a final seminar (six (6) official meetings), some of which will be carried out as face-to-face meetings and some as online-meetings.

1. **Kick-off meeting (online) and approval of project plan:** Once the project has received funding, an online kick-off meeting will be held, where the **project's action and schedule plan** will be approved, and an **institution-specific analysis of the current state** will be launched. The project coordinators are responsible for the analysis of the current state. The current state analysis includes a description of the educational organisations' previously completed training and their content descriptions for students.
2. **Working meeting in Lithuania:** In autumn 2026, a face-to-face meeting will be held in Lithuania to familiarise themselves with the **information collected**. At the same meeting, **a joint survey** will be conducted among the operators of educational institutions and a digital survey will be launched. Iceland is responsible for the implementation of the survey and the analysis of the results, which are also explained as a separate chapter in the idea book. The work on the survey will be completed during the spring and summer of 2027. (Host Kišiadorys education and sport center)
3. **Working meeting in Iceland:** In the spring/summer of 2027, a working meeting (face-to-face) in Iceland will be held to familiarise ourselves with each organisation's plan together and create a common vision, which will also be described in the handbook. (Host HAC)
4. **An online seminar:** An online seminar will be held in the winter or summer of 2028, where the **handbook will be published**. Keynote experts on sustainable development and experts in teaching methods that reform society are invited to the seminar. (Main Finland and shared responsibility other countries) Invite sustainable development & pedagogical innovation experts
5. **The Future Peer Meeting:** In autumn 2027, work on a joint education plan for the future will begin at the Future Peer Meeting to be held in Finland. Kianta-Opisto organizes the meeting and working methods. After the meeting, work continues in each organization, but contact is maintained via a digital platform and monthly online meetings. (Host Kianta-Opisto)

## Reporting

Country coordinators will be responsible for preparing the final project report.

## Project Management Plan

Once the project has received funding, an online kick-off meeting will be held, where the project's action and schedule plan will be approved

## Monitoring and evaluation

The project management team will monitor progress monthly via: online meetings, shared project timeline, follow-up dashboard, documentation of tasks, delays and corrective actions. Continuous monitoring ensures that problems are identified early and adjustments can be made immediately.

At the end of the project, all partners participate in a final evaluation that covers: effectiveness of the training package, usability of the digital idea book, partnership benefits, long-term impact on sustainability education. The country coordinators will be responsible for writing the final project report as well as finalising the idea book. They share responsibility for the success of the project.

### **Dissemination**

Dissemination will be carried out through several channels like personal contact, virtual contact, presenting results to school council and umbrella organisations.

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Kaišiadorys education and sport center employees will be responsible for publicity in social media (facebook, page "Kaišiadorių ŠSC-Neformalusis švietimas") and website (link: <https://kaisiadorysssc.lt>) (responsible person - Giedrė Genevičienė);

## **WP2 - Analysis of the current state**

### **Lead partner: Husavik Academic Center (IS)**

A joint survey: implementation + analysis

The project will carry out a small-scale survey in the participating organisations to find out the views of those working with teaching, operating culture and leadership on sustainable development. The work is carried out together and separately with close and remote.

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The project coordinators are responsible for the analysis of the current state. The current state analysis includes a description of the educational organisations' previously completed training and their content descriptions for students.

All partners:

- Conduct and report the current state analysis
- Support survey preparation
- Provide national materials for current state analysis

#### **International Project Coordination (all partners / coordinators)**

6. Kick-off meeting and approval of project plan
7. Conduct and report the current state analysis
8. Maintain digital communication platform + monthly online meetings
9. Organise the final online seminar (Main Finland and shared responsibility other countries)
10. Invite sustainable development & pedagogical innovation experts
11. The country coordinators will be responsible for writing the final project report as well as
12. finalising the idea book. They share responsibility for the success of the project.

#### **Anchoring**

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Benefits for stakeholders:

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3. We will include project results in our learning courses as a part that it will be useful for adult learners.
4. We will organize seminars to schools community (directors of schools, teachers, etc.), seniors in Kaišiadorys (100 participants).

WP2 - The handbook and the plan training package

**Lead partner: Kaišiadorys education and sport center**

The training descriptions create the basis for the handbook and the plan training package. The reports and course descriptions in the handbook can serve as an idea bank for other schools 'organisations who are looking for ideas to sustainable development training. Lithuania is responsible for compiling the handbook in electronic format.

During the project, a digital idea book will be developed. The idea book describes the development process of the training package. The idea book describes the status of the participating organizations, which includes the already implemented sustainable development course. Organizations can utilize the course descriptions in their own training planning.

The digital idea book also describes the 6-week training modules resulting from the joint planning of the training organizations. The training modules can be of different levels, because they are aimed at different target groups. The new training package strengthens the possibility of the participating organizations to offer sustainable development training in an attractive way. The new training package covers diverse target groups and offers teachers new teaching methods based on transformative learning.

The training organisations assemble country-specific teams, the composition of which can vary depending on the topic.

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HAC: Write the survey analysis chapter for the handbook

#### **All partners**

- Participate in ongoing development work
- Contribute content to handbook

#### **International Project Coordination (all partners / coordinators)**

13. finalising the idea book. They share responsibility for the success of the project.

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#### **Kianta-Opisto - Adult Education Centre:**

1. Lead workshop facilitation methods
2. Plan and organizing training course activities in Finland

## **The training package**

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HAC:

- Plan and organizing training course activities in Iceland
- Support vision-building and planning

#### **Kaišiadorys education and sport center**

Plan and organizing training course activities in Lithuania (responsible person - Deimantė Kuconytė-Būdelienė);

### **5.1 Work Packages**

- Description of each work package (WP)

- Objectives and outputs per WP

## 5.2 Activity Timeline

Project period 10/2026 - 10/2028

- Detailed timeline (Gantt-style overview)
- Milestones and deadlines

## 5.3 Deliverables

- List of outputs (reports, courses, mobility exchanges, etc.)
- Responsible partners

## 6. Project Management Approach

Coordination methods (meetings, reporting routines)

- Communication tools (Teams, email, platforms)
- Internal monitoring processes
- Decision-making procedures
- Evaluation

## 7. Budget and Financial Management

- Budget overview (by partner and category)
- Cost allocation (mobility, administration, dissemination)
- Financial control procedures
- Reporting and auditing arrangements

EUR - Euro Applied

Nordplus grant

Project support

Project management, implementation and dissemination 8 000

Development work 16 250

Transnational meetings 10 200

Domestic travel and subsistence\* 10 200

SUM - Project support 44 650

Extra project support

Inclusion support 0

SUM - Extra project support 0

SUM - Total 44 650

Comments to the budget

In the spirit of sustainable development, the project will only meet physically three times in working meetings over the course of two years. But the project will start working online and we will monitor the progress of our work in joint meetings every month. The final seminar and the idea book launch will be online, which gives each educational institution the opportunity to market the event to as many people as possible. The budget management includes a keynote speaker fee. The keynote speaker will be a researcher who is relevant to the current state of sustainable development and whose expertise will attract many teachers to participate.

## 8. Risk Management

- Identification of risks (e.g., mobility disruptions, partner delays)
- Risk analysis (likelihood and impact)
- Mitigation strategies
- Contingency planning

## 9. Quality Assurance and Evaluation

- Monitoring progress against objectives
- Evaluation methods (qualitative & quantitative)
- Feedback mechanisms (participants, partners)
- Continuous improvement processes

## 10. Communication and Dissemination Plan

- Internal communication strategy
- External communication (website, social media, events)
- Target audiences
- Dissemination channels and tools
- Sustainability of results

## 11. Sustainability and Impact

- Long-term use of project results
- Institutional integration (curricula, partnerships)
- Potential for scaling or continuation
- Added value for the Nordic-Baltic region

## 12. Ethical Considerations and Data Management

- GDPR compliance
- Data handling and storage
- Ethical considerations (if working with students/participants)

## 13. Annexes

- Timeline (Gantt chart)
- Budget tables
- Partner contact list
- Templates (reporting, evaluation forms)

## Summary and educational organization-specific responsibilities:

### **Kianta-Opisto - Adult Education Centre:**

1. Lead workshop facilitation methods
2. Plan and organizing training course activities in Finland

### **Husavik Academic Center (IS) employees will be responsible:**

1. Lead the joint survey: implementation + analysis
2. Plan and organizing training course activities in Iceland

### **Kaišiadorys education and sport center employees will be responsible:**

1. publicity in social media (facebook, page "Kaišiadorių ŠSC-Neformalusis švietimas") and website

(link: <https://kaišiadorysssc.lt>) (responsible person - Giedrė Genevičienė);

2. Plan and organizing training course activities in Lithuania (responsible person - Deimantė Kuconytė-Būdelienė);

## Partners Organisations

### **Kianta-Opisto -Adult Education Centre (KAEC)**

Kianta-Opisto -Adult Education Centre (KAEC) provides opportunities for flexible life-long learning. KAEC founded 1965 as non-profit organization and is running by the municipality of Suomussalmi. The Kianta-Opisto -Adult Education Centre's goal is to develop, produce and organize a wide variety of education offerings for adults but also for children and youth. KAEC holds many courses each year, where students are trained in sustainable development activities in everyday life. KAEC organize numerous courses each year, where students are trained in sustainable development activities in everyday life. Kianta College has organised courses on sustainable development, which provide theoretical knowledge, practical instructions and teach how to act in a nature-friendly manner. KAEC is also familiar with the sustainable use of nature's bounty: berries, mushrooms, herbs, hunting and fishing. We have had courses related to supporting the natural ecosystem, such as the removal of invasive alien species – to prevent the spread and the circular economy, such as composting methods, composting of biowaste. KAEC had courses related to energy economy, food preparation, preservation and the reuse of materials. KAEC has organized a total of 23 different sustainable development courses, with almost the same number of teachers.

In the KAEC, the project is coordinated by principal Tarja Peitsaho, who has worked full-time in the field of adult education since 2000. Over the past two years, Tarja Peitsaho has participated in sustainable development trainings and projects. For example, the Ecosocial Concept of Civilization in Public Schools project and Planetary in the Teaching and Everyday Life of Liberal Education. The Kianta-Opisto-Adult Education now needs reinforcement and new enthusiasm on how we can expand the student content and how we can reach new target groups. We need support and new enthusiasm for teachers, how to build future training modules for different target groups.

### **Kaišiadorys Education and Sport Center (LT-KSSC)**

Kaišiadorys Education and Sport Center (LT-KSSC) is budgetary institution, the main purpose: to create conditions for a person to learn throughout life, meet cognitive needs, improve the acquired qualifications, acquire additional competences.

LT-KSSC combines education, training, and community development through a wide range of formal and non-formal learning activities. The center provides educational programs for adults, youth, and educators. Types of learners: teachers, directors of schools, deputy school principals, social educators, seniors, other adults, who is interested in development professionals competences.

With strong experience in coordinating local and international projects (mobility projects), LT-KSSC actively promotes community learning and cross-sector collaboration, making it a valuable partner in developing and implementing the project's training package and 6 week course.

LT-KSSC hasn't experience in international collaboration project, so this project will help to get more international team-building experience, to develop employees professional skills, to share the best practices in adult educational field. The main purpose – to get international experience.

### **Húsavík Academic Center (HAC)**

Húsavík Academic Center (HAC), based in northern Iceland, is dedicated to promoting lifelong learning and interdisciplinary research. It offers a wide range of academic, vocational, and recreational courses, collaborating with universities, municipalities, labor organizations, and the business community. As a hub for lifelong learning, HAC has identified a growing demand for educational programs that address the psychological impacts of climate change. Young adults in particular, who are increasingly concerned about environmental issues, are seeking ways to cope with eco-anxiety while contributing meaningfully to sustainability efforts. HAC views this project as an opportunity to expand its educational offerings, providing students and

community members with tools to manage eco-anxiety and develop a proactive, solution-oriented mindset toward environmental challenges.