

# Moving universities towards education for sustainable development

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# **Moving universities towards Education for Sustainable Development**

by

Alejandro Álvarez-Vanegas

## **Summary**

This doctoral dissertation delves into the pivotal role of universities in advancing Education for Sustainable Development in alignment with the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly goal number four, related to education. It explores how universities can increase their contribution to Sustainability through community action-oriented pedagogies such as Service-Learning and capacity-building for university educators, aiming to cultivate sustainability competences among students and faculty. The research examines the theoretical benefits and challenges of Service-Learning implementation, evaluates its impact in the students' action competence for sustainability, assesses educator preparedness, and explores the effectiveness of Massive Open Online Courses in promoting ESD among faculty. Findings underscore the importance of integrating active, community-oriented pedagogies and enhancing capacity-building for educators and to accelerate the transition of universities towards Education for Sustainable Development.

## **Samenvatting**

Deze doctoraatsverhandeling onderzoekt de cruciale rol van universiteiten bij het bevorderen van Onderwijs voor Duurzame Ontwikkeling in overeenstemming met de Duurzame Ontwikkelingsdoelen, met name doel nummer vier, gerelateerd aan onderwijs. Het onderzoekt hoe universiteiten hun bijdrage aan Duurzame Ontwikkeling kunnen vergroten door gemeenschapsgerichte pedagogieën zoals Service-Learning en capaciteitsopbouw voor universitaire docenten, met als doel duurzaamheidscompetenties te bevorderen bij studenten en docenten. Het onderzoek onderzoekt de theoretische voordelen en uitdagingen van de implementatie van Service-Learning, evalueert de impact ervan op de actiecompetentie van studenten voor duurzaamheid, beoordeelt de voorbereiding van docenten en onderzoekt de effectiviteit van Massive Open Online Courses bij het bevorderen van EDO onder docenten. De bevindingen benadrukken het belang van het integreren van actieve, op de gemeenschap gerichte pedagogieën en het verbeteren van de capaciteitsopbouw voor docenten om de overgang van universiteiten naar Onderwijs voor Duurzame Ontwikkeling te versnellen.