

Summary Presentation Won Jung Byun

On March 18th, ISDL had its monthly “In conversation with...” event. This time, Senior Project Officer in the Section of Education for Sustainable Development at UNESCO Headquarters, Won Jung Byun, talked about how we can rise better, resilient and inclusive from COVID-19, including the ‘ESD for 2030’ framework and its role in building forward better.

The 5-year Global Action Programme on Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) brought along many important achievements towards changing the education system in the long term. Starting in 2020, UNESCO launched the ‘ESD for 2030’ framework, which aims to build a more just and sustainable world through strengthening ESD and contributing to the achievements of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The goal of the framework is to integrate ESD and the SDGs into policies, learning environments, training educators, empowerment of young people and local level action.

The 3 key features of the framework are: The ‘emphasis on the role of education’ in order to reach the 17 goals and to promote a critical understanding of them. The ‘focus on big transformation’ through transformative action such as knowledge, critical thinking, empathy and creating a relevance to one’s own life in all kinds of educational settings. Additionally, ESD should encourage learners to question systemic issues, to re-think the values of consumer societies and to engage in the political process. Especially technological advancements need to be considered. Lastly, ‘emphasis on Member States’ leadership’ means to engage stakeholders, to mobilize resources and to address the 5 priority action areas. Those are: Advancing policy, transforming learning environments, building capacities of educators, empowering and mobilizing youth and accelerating local level actions. UNESCO also calls countries to implement initiatives and activities on ESD for 2030 and has next steps planned ahead.