Boost post-pandemic business practices for sustainable development for 2030

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LEADING 2030

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LEADING 2030

Upskilling programme - 3 step consulting process for accelerating business action on the SDGs

Key-areas – additional competences

SUSTAINABILITY

BUSINESS PRACTICES

LEADERSHIP

3-step consulting process for accelerating business action on the SDGs – additional competences

PRIORITISING OPPORTUNITIES

ALIGNING GOALS

TAKING ACTION

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Unit synopsis

SUSTAINABILITY

Sustainability requires distinctive and multifunctional competences to understand and effectively work on real-world sustainability challenges and opportunities.

This unit combines a set of competences to stimulate commitment towards, align with and integrate the 17 SDGs as core corporate values

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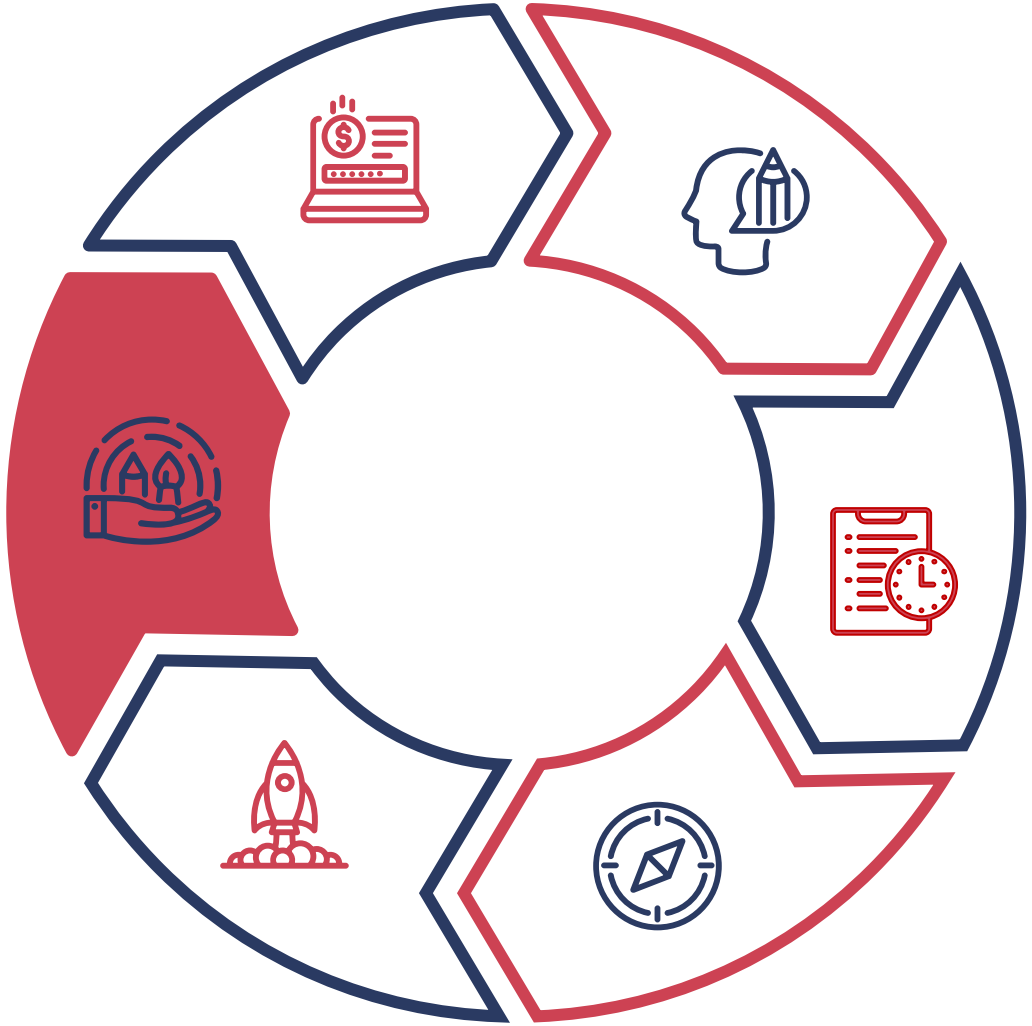
Knowing more about sustainability



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SUSTAINABILITY

PRACTICE PRINCIPLES

- ❑ Commit to mainstream the Agenda 2030 aspirations and its 17 Global Goals
- ❑ Put global values, vision, corporate responsibility, and sustainability at the core
- ❑ Contribute to the world by aligning with the SDGs, both locally and globally

After completing this section, you are expected to be able to:

- Recall the concept and principles of sustainability, including its environmental, social and economic dimensions
- Reflect on global sustainability frameworks such as the 2030 agenda
- List the 17 SDGs and indicators and business benefits coming from their implementation

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Knowing more about sustainability

Sustainability is the capacity to meet actual needs without compromising the possibilities of future generations to meet their own needs. This assumes a rational and balanced use of resources, as well as collective social responsibility, focusing not only on our own but on other generations' well-being as well.

United Nations Brundtland Commission "Our Common Future" Report (1987)

This report is one of the most relevant contributions to the definition and harmonisation of the sustainability concept and other related matters, like the foreseen challenges to sustainable development posed by demographic growth, the need for food security, species and ecosystems conservations, renewable energy sources, industrial production and urban environment challenges.

www.un-documents.net/our-common-future.pdf
www.source.com
https://easy-peasy.ai/ai-images

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Knowing more about sustainability

Sustainable development builds over the sustainability concept, translating a development model where growth is sustainable, balanced and not merely economic. It integrates the environmental, socio-political and economic dimensions, where development results and promotes improvements in those three dimensions.

Guide to Good Practices for Sustainability in Management and Efficient Water use in Loulé

Water is a fundamental element for economic, social and human development. However, the context of increasing scarcity in the Algarve (Portugal), because of climate change, means that the available water must be carefully managed, and its sparing use is already a requirement today due to its reduced availability. The Loulé municipality developed a guide to help promote efficient water use to supply our needs and to reduce pressure over near-future consumption needs, promoting sustainability.

www.cm-loule.pt/util/imgLoader.ashx?w=1280&img=/upload_files/client_id_1/website_id_1/images/GAP/Simp%C3%B3sio%20%C3%81gua2.JPG

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Knowing more about sustainability

Sustainable development goals (SDG) the UN's 2030 Agenda (2015) defined 17 SDGs that cover different and relevant areas, bringing focus to all strategic action areas for sustainable development. The SDGs relate to themes that were not directly and immediately connected to sustainable development in its earlier conceptions, providing a new lens through which to translate global needs and ambitions into more holistic and interconnected solutions.

SDGs and the Global Sustainable Development Reports

The SDGs themselves are a good example of the ambitions behind sustainable development. Besides setting out global targets to which everyone can contribute (albeit with varying intensity), monitoring reports are also produced to measure progress and identify bottlenecks. Unfortunately, the most recent results still show great need for improvement.

https://sdgs.un.org/
https://sdgs.un.org/sites/default/files/2023-09/FINAL%20GSDR%202023-Digital%20-110923_1.pdf

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Practical activities

SUSTAINABILITY

After deepening in your knowledge of how excellence in sustainability can contribute towards achieving the 2030 Agenda, you are now challenged with three training activity sheets providing each a specific hands-on activity in a step-by-step format to support you in improving your sustainability skills.

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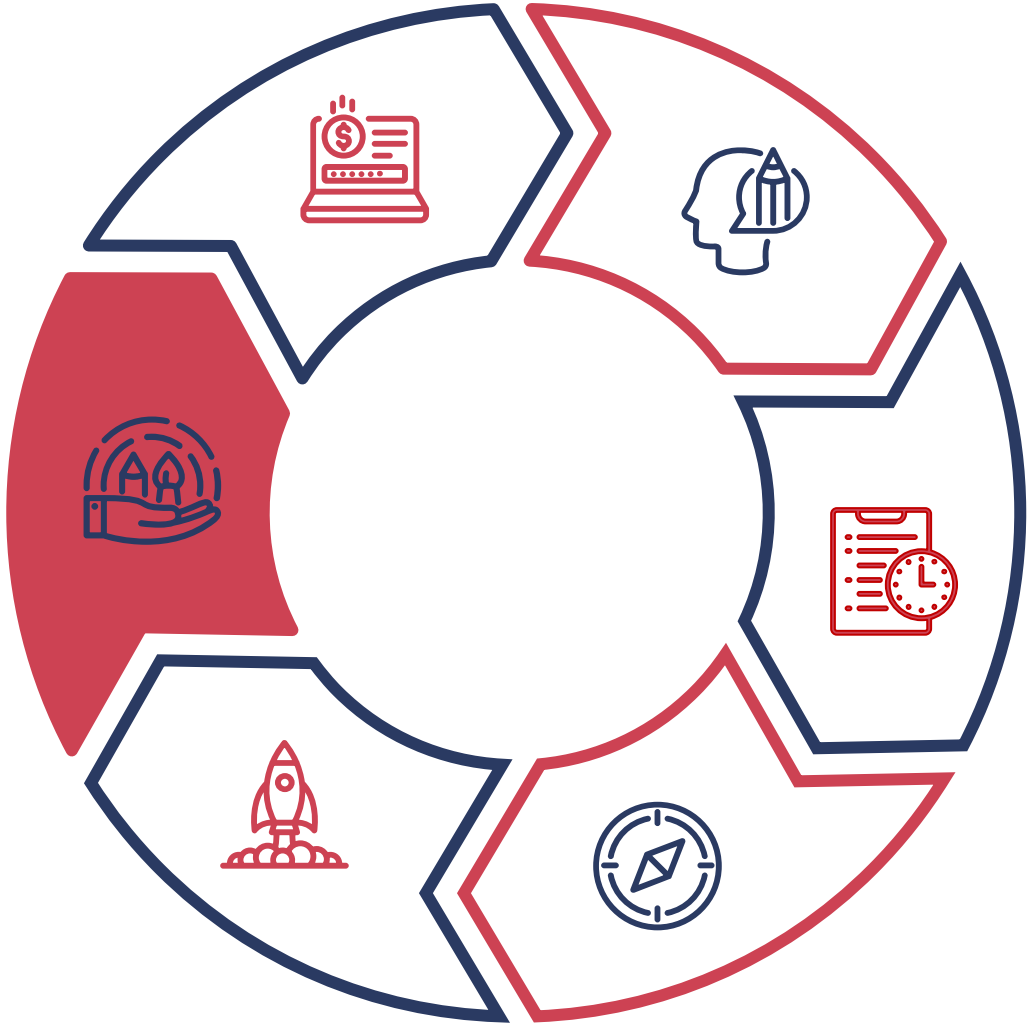
Improving my sustainability skills



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SUSTAINABILITY

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After completing this section, you are expected to be able to:

- Debate on crucial steps for businesses to maximise their contribution to the SDGs
- Select priority SDGs aligned with corporate goals and values to target at business level
- Compare challenges and opportunities for sustainability-business oriented corporate goals and values

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Familiarize with the Sustainable Development Goals

Step1: Think and select a relevant socio economic challenge on which you/your company can have a role

Step 2: Visit the UN website dedicated to the SDGs (link) and select 1 to 2 SDGs that fit that challenge

Step 3: Write down how the SDGs relate to the said challenge and how you/your company can have a positive impact on it

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Identify a good practice within the sustainability theme

Step 1: Based on the identified challenges and SDGs, search for a good practice relating to sustainability/sustainable development

Step 2: Justify why you believe the identified practice is relevant

Step 3: Identify the key-way in which this practice can contribute to sustainability

Good-practice designation:
Why is it a good-practice?
Key take aways of this practice

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Bring key learnings into daily activities or your business

Step 1: Building on the key takeaways from the good practice identified, define a daily action which may benefit from them and help face the starting challenge

Step 2: Identify the way in which these changes will improve your daily activity/business

Step 3: Identify the positive impacts those actions have on the selected SDGs

Daily activity (personal or business related):
Ways to improve it based on the good-practice
SDGs to which these improvements contribute

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Implementation instructions

SUSTAINABILITY

After going through the knowledge and practical sections of this training, here you can find a checklist of points supporting you to accelerate corporate sustainability and responsible business practices, leading you towards 2030.

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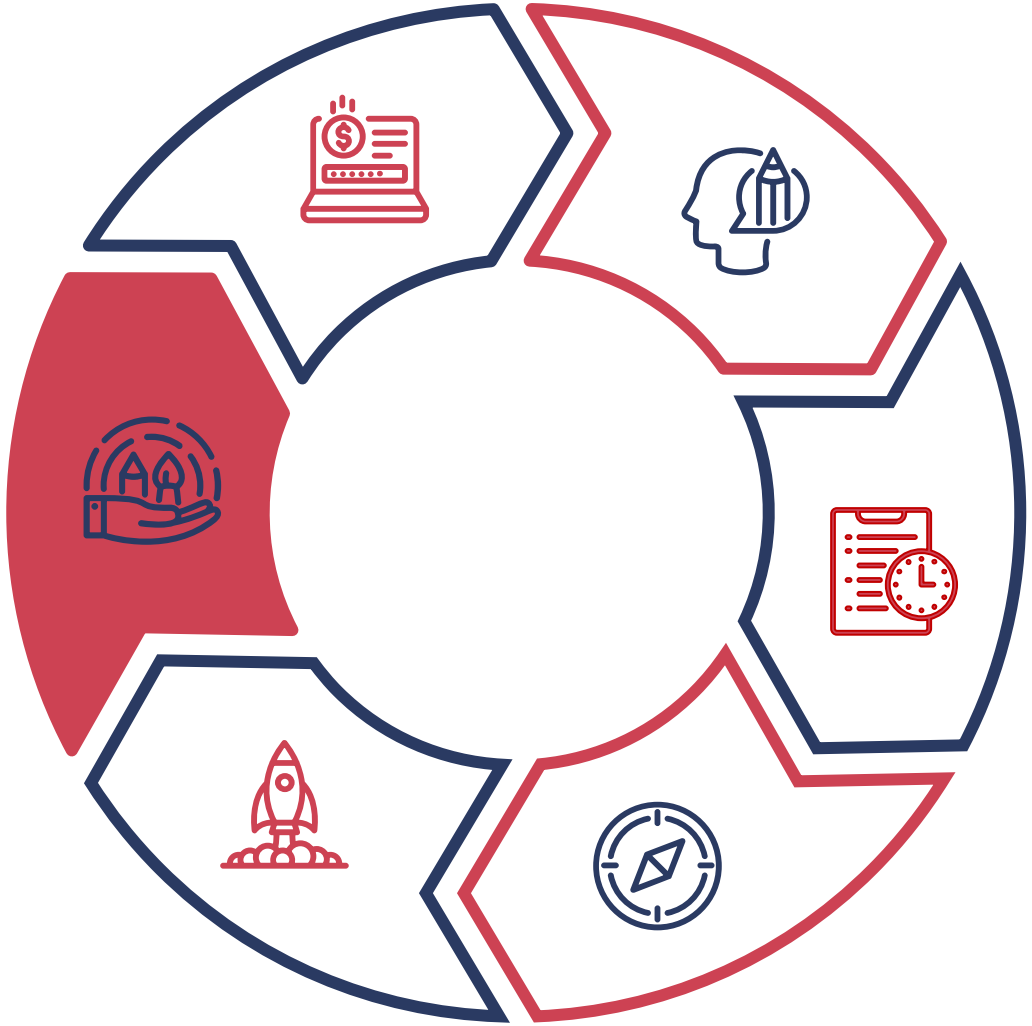
Leading transformative change



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SUSTAINABILITY

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After completing this section, you are expected to be able to:

- Commit to the integration of sustainability principles aligned with the 2030 universal values into business core strategies
- Guide businesses in the definition of corporate goals and values that prompt sustainable development
- Make recommendations on best strategies and tools to support businesses prioritise SDGs

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Keep updated The baseline situation of the SDGs is permanently changing, and our understanding of the sustainable development-related challenges also differs according to our community, region and country. To better understand how the global situation is developing, check the Sustainable Development Goals Reports, published periodically and available here https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/report/2023/

Each country has its own challenges The context in which you live and work greatly influences your perception of sustainable development. Make sure to understand where your society is improving and lacking by checking the SDG Country Profile, which will help you identify recent developments and understand the SDGs in which action is more needed https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/dataportal/countryprofiles/

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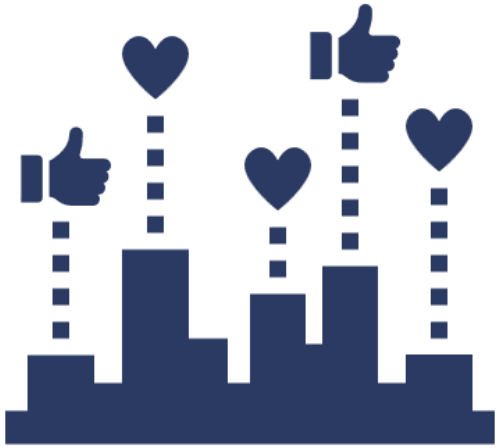
Get visible If you are actively trying to promote sustainability and awareness of the SDGs challenges, don't be afraid to let the world know about it. Social media provides channels that can be used to disseminate your business activities, increasing awareness and inspiring others to join you, ultimately leading to greater engagement, efficiency and transferability. You can also get inspiration from examples on the UN online database https://sdgs.un.org/sdg-good-practices



Approach the SDGs and sustainable development collectively
The complexity of the challenge ahead demands enlarged cooperation and significant partnerships relying on steady compromise. Discuss the SDGs challenges with colleagues and local groups that focus on sustainability advocating and action, increasing notoriety and collective awareness for the need to improve our behaviours

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Be selective and set short but achievable steps The size and complexity of the shift towards sustainable development will take time and steady steps. Set an achievable path to steer your actions in the medium term. Identify the SDGs which you believe are more relevant to contribute to and provide collective feedback about the achievements made in that direction on an environmental, social and governance (ESG) report.

Ensure bottom-up involvement within your business Most steps and shifts towards sustainability will require a conscious change from all stakeholders involved within your organisation. Other than the social and moral positive impact, sustainability can lead to corporate gains through more efficient resource use. Ensure that everyone understands their expected contributions to achieve the targets and potential associated gains.

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Self-quizzing

SUSTAINABILITY

1. What is the main purpose of the Agenda 2030?

a) To ensure world peace and fair trade

b) To reduce greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to climate change

c) To ensure that future generations can meet their needs

2. Why there is a need for wide involvement to ensure the implementation of SDGs?

a) Because citizens from developing countries have fewer chances to demand a social change

b) Because research shows that everyone fully understands the need for sustainable development models

c) Because the socioeconomic changes needed cannot be merely decreed from above and require a bottom-up approach

3. According to the most recent reports, how has the overall situation regarding the SDG targets evolved?

a) Positively

b) Negatively

c) It’s too soon to make an assessment

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Self-quizzing

SUSTAINABILITY

4. Who is responsible for promoting sustainable development?

a) Large global companies

b) Citizens

c) All society members

5. Which of the following sectors has growing demand for sustainability?

a) Energy, agriculture and transport

b) Tourism, industry and commerce

c) All the above

6. Which of the following does not promote sustainability?

a) Switch to more efficient illumination and energetic systems

b) Disseminate sustainability-related matters within the local community

c) Sharing economic and revenue reports

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Self-quizzing

SUSTAINABILITY

7. Which of these statements is false?

a) The Agenda 2030 is a voluntary agreement that requires worldwide cooperation

b) The SDGs are legally binding and not achieving them will result in sanctions

c) Every company or business, regardless of its nature, can contribute to sustainable development

8. What are the most relevant SDGs to our communities and businesses?

a) All SDGs

b) SDGs 8, 9 and 10

c) SDGs 8, 9, 11 and 17

9. Which of the following does not show a commitment of companies and businesses with sustainable development

a) Focusing mainly on increasing economic results and revenues

b) Adopting a conscious approach to the use of resources

c) Setting specific targets regarding employee's well-being

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Online reading and resources

SUSTAINABILITY

European Commission KnowSDGS Platform
https://knowsdgs.jrc.ec.europa.eu/

OECD and SDGs: delivering universal goals and targets
www.oecd.org/dac/sustainable-development-goals.htm

UNESCO resources about Sustainable Development Goals
https://en.unesco.org/themes/education/sdgs/material/03

Harvard Business School view on “sustainability” meaning in business
https://online.hbs.edu/blog/post/what-is-sustainability-in-business

Network for Business Sustainability
https://nbs.net/from-timas-desk-what-is-business-sustainability/

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Developer

SUSTAINABILITY

CEDRU

www.cedru.com

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Go ahead and select a new unit!

SUSTAINABILITY

Commitment towards, alignment with and integration of the 17 SDGs as core corporate values

PRIORITISING OPPORTUNITIES

Assess, analyse, and map business opportunities to ensure a strategic approach to address the SDGs

BUSINESS PRACTICES

Sustainable business approaches, multi stakeholders' relations and support to sustainable policy

ALIGNING GOALS

Clear and measurable goals aligned with the SDGs, framework for action and progress roadmap

LEADERSHIP

Ethics, effective employer engagement, intergenerational learning, and operational footprint

TAKING ACTION

Implementation planning, monitoring and improvement of sustainable actions

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Self-quizzing answers: 1- c), 2 – c), 3 – b), 4- c), 5 – c), 6 – c), 7- b), 8 – a), 9 – a).