

Notes on Innovative relatively new terminology used in the draft Action Plan and the draft Ministerial Declaration

Whole Institution Approach

Whole-institution (or institution-wide) approaches require not only the reorientation of teaching content and methodology, but also campus and facility management that is in line with sustainable development as well as the cooperation of the institution with sustainable development stakeholders in the community. Particular successes in this regard can be found in the areas of higher education and secondary schools. [GAP / UNESCO]

The term initially referred to the tertiary level institutions and their campuses, but it can be applied to any kind of education providing agency, both formal and informal. It was widely promoted through the UNECE Decade on ESD and is one of the GAP priorities of UNESCO

Synonyms: Whole of Institution Approach / Whole Institute Approach / Whole School approach

Web:

UNECE: <http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/env/esd/11thMeetSC/Documents/ECE.CEP.179 - 10 years of Learning.pdf>

UNESCO: <http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0023/002305/230514e.pdf>

Green Economy

The green economy is defined as an economy that aims at reducing environmental risks and ecological scarcities, and that aims for sustainable development without degrading the environment. A feature distinguishing it from prior economic regimes is the direct valuation of natural capital and ecological services as having economic value and a full cost accounting regime in which costs externalized onto society via ecosystems are reliably traced back to, and accounted for as liabilities of, the entity that does the harm or neglects an asset. [Wikipedia]

The 2011 UNEP Green Economy Report argues "that to be green, an economy must not only be efficient, but also fair. Fairness implies recognising global and country level equity dimensions, particularly in assuring a just transition to an economy that is low-carbon, resource efficient, and socially inclusive."

Web:

UNEP, 2013: www.unep.org/greeneconomy

TEEB: <http://www.teebweb.org/>

Blue Economy

The term was conceived at the Rio+20 UN Conference on Sustainable Development, (Rio, 2012) - to expand the blue aspect of the green economy – as an alternative economic model for sustainable development that puts the marine environment at the centre.

The blue economy embraces the same desired outcomes as green economy: “[achieving] improved human well-being and social equity, while significantly reducing environmental risks and ecological scarcities” (UNEP, 2013). It also endorses the same principles of low carbon use, resource efficiency and social inclusion, but it is grounded in a developing world context and fashioned to reflect the circumstances and needs of countries whose futures depend on marine resources. At the core of the Blue Economy concept is the de-coupling of socioeconomic development from environmental degradation.

In Europe “Blue Growth” is EC’s long term strategy to support sustainable growth in the marine and maritime sectors as a whole. It is an initiative to further harness the potential of Europe's oceans, seas and coasts for i) jobs, ii) value and iii) sustainability a contribution from the maritime sector to achieving the goals of the Europe 2020 strategy.

Web:

UN SD Knowledge Platform: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/29788Econcept.pdf>

UNEP, 2013: www.unep.org/greeneconomy

EC: http://ec.europa.eu/maritimeaffairs/policy/blue_growth_en

Circular Economy

The traditional linear economy (make, use, dispose) model of production has no built-in tendency to recycle, and treats the environment as a waste reservoir. In contrast the circular economy is grounded in the study of non-linear systems, particularly living systems. A major outcome of this is the notion of optimising systems rather than components, or the notion of ‘design for fit’. [wikipedia]

In 2016 the European Commission adopted an ambitious Circular Economy Package, which includes revised legislative proposals on waste to stimulate Europe's transition towards a circular economy. The proposed actions will contribute to "closing the loop" of product lifecycles through greater recycling and re-use (towards zero-waste) and bring benefits for both the environment and the economy.

Web:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Circular_economy

EC: http://ec.europa.eu/environment/circular-economy/index_en.htm

EEA: <http://www.eea.europa.eu/publications/circular-economy-in-europe>

New Humanism

The term is introduced by UNESCO DG Mrs Irina Bokova, 2010:

Changes in the world call for the development of a new humanism that is not only theoretical but practical, that is not only focused on the search for values – which it must also be – but oriented towards the implementation of concrete programmes that have tangible results. ... Being a humanist today means adapting the strength of an age-old message to the contours of the modern world ... This new humanism also means a better grasp of our environment, by understanding and anticipating the consequences of climate change for millions of people affected by drought, desertification and rising water levels. It entails protecting biodiversity along with cultural diversity. It also means reaching out to peoples, near or far, who have been struck by disasters.

Web Source: <http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0018/001897/189775e.pdf>