DISC Work Package 4

Open Learning and Development Hub Frequently Asked Questions

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Introduction

The DISC Helpdesk was created during the project implementation phase as a virtual support service to assist users of the DISC Open Learning and Development Hub (https://disc-eu.org/index.php/dischub/) . It served as a contact point for individuals and organisations seeking guidance on using the DISC Hub's features, participating in courses, accessing resources, or contributing to the network.

Through online interactions, and feedback from events, the DISC team gathered frequently asked questions to better understand the needs of users. While the Helpdesk service concluded at the end of the project, this document compiles key questions and answers into a permanent FAQ to guide future users.

This Helpdesk and FAQ aims to support educators, students, trainers, and institutional staff who wish to engage with the DISC methodology, implement Education for Sustainable Development (ESD), and contribute to building a culture of sustainability and innovation in higher education.

1.   What is the DISC Hub and who is it for?

The DISC Open Learning and Development Hub (https://disc-eu.org/index.php/dischub/) is an online platform developed as part of the Erasmus+ project "DISC – Developing Innopreneurship, Sustainability and Culture." The Hub brings together a wide range of resources and tools to support the implementation of Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) in higher education and adult learning.

It is intended for a diverse group of users, including:

- University lecturers, trainers, and academic staff
- Higher education administrators and programme coordinators
- Adult education providers and facilitators
- Students and lifelong learners
- Project managers and professionals engaged in sustainability education

The Hub offers access to online courses, open educational resources (OER), project showcases, expert networks, mobility learning offers, and funding opportunities—all designed to support the integration of sustainability, creativity, and innovation into teaching and learning.

2.   What learning opportunities does the DISC Hub offer?

The DISC Hub provides access to the DISC Learning Suite, a structured set of learning opportunities designed to support the acquisition and application of sustainability competences in education. The Learning Suite includes:

- **Two self-paced online courses** hosted on Moodle:
    - *"Facilitating Education for Sustainable Development (ESD)"* – for educators, trainers, and facilitators.
    - *"Innopreneurship for Sustainable Solutions"* – for students and emerging changemakers.
- **The DISC OER Repository for ESD**, a curated and expandable collection of open educational resources on sustainability-related topics, accessible for educators, trainers and facilitators.
- **DISC Videocasts: Sustainability in Action**, a set of short video features showcasing real-world sustainability projects developed by students and supported through creative facilitation.

These learning components are designed for flexible use and are most impactful when combined with in-person or team-based learning activities.

3.   How can I access and use the DISC online courses?

The DISC online courses are available through the DISC Moodle platform: https://moodle.disc-eu.org. To access the courses:

1. Visit the Moodle platform and register for a free account.

2. After logging in, browse the available course catalogue.

3. Enrol in one or both courses:
   - *"Facilitating Education for Sustainable Development (ESD)"* – designed for higher education professionals and facilitators.
   - *"Innopreneurship for Sustainable Solutions"* – targeted at students, learners, and early-career professionals.

In addition to course content, you will gain access to the DISC OER Repository and the DISC Videocast Library. These resources are intended for blended learning use and support hands-on, project-oriented learning strategies aligned with the DISC approach.

4. Can I contribute to the DISC OER Repository?

Yes, all registered participants of the DISC CPD course (*Facilitating Education for Sustainable Development*) are encouraged to contribute to the DISC OER Repository for ESD.

The repository, hosted on the DISC Moodle platform (https://moodle.disc-eu.org), contains over 100 open educational resources (OER) related to sustainability, innovation, and facilitation. These include learning activities, tools, worksheets, guides, and multimedia resources.

To contribute:

- Log in to the DISC Moodle platform and access the OER Repository.

- Use the provided submission form to upload your resource, ensuring it is openly licensed and relevant to Education for Sustainable Development (ESD).

- Once submitted, your entry will be reviewed before being published to ensure quality and relevance.

By contributing, you help expand the pool of high-quality, practice-oriented resources available to educators and learners across Europe.

5. What is Design-Based Collaborative Learning (DBCL) and what is Design-Based Collaborative Research (DBCR)?

Design-Based Collaborative Learning (DBCL) is a learning methodology that combines elements of project-based learning, design thinking, and teamwork. It is structured around a design cycle in which learners collaboratively identify challenges, generate solutions, prototype ideas, and reflect on outcomes—always with real-world relevance and user needs in mind.

Design-Based Collaborative Research (DBCR) is a related but research-oriented approach. It focuses on using the design-based learning process as a means of conducting collaborative inquiry. DBCR invites participants to not only engage in creative projects, but also to systematically observe, document, and analyse their process in order to improve educational practice or generate new knowledge.

Both DBCL and DBCR emphasise creativity, reflection, and learner empowerment, and they are central to the pedagogical framework of DISC.

6.   How are DBCL and DBCR used in the DISC approach?

In DISC, Design-Based Collaborative Learning (DBCL) and Design-Based Collaborative Research (DBCR) are core methods applied across multiple levels of learning and facilitation. These approaches are used to foster sustainability competences, support innovation, and connect learning with real-world development. Their application is reflected in three main areas:

- In the **DISC CPD course**, educators and trainers learn how to structure learning environments based on DBCL principles. This includes guiding participants through team-based problem solving, supporting iterative project work, and applying facilitation techniques rooted in design thinking.

- In the **DISC pilots**, Students engage in DBCL by working in teams to develop sustainability solutions for their local or institutional contexts. The course guides them through the full design cycle—from problem identification and stakeholder analysis to prototyping and testing ideas. The collaborative learning process is supported by facilitation and documented through student outputs featured in the DISC Student Project Showcase.

- DBCR was tested during the **DISC joint international course**, where interdisciplinary teams of students and facilitators worked together across institutions and countries. Beyond developing solutions, participants reflected critically on their own learning and facilitation processes, shared insights, and contributed to joint research outputs. This research-oriented component enabled learners to co-create knowledge about how ESD and sustainability competences can be effectively embedded into higher education.

7.   How can I share my project on the DISC Student Project Showcase or the Sustainability Project Collection?

To share your project on either of the two project collections within the DISC Hub, follow these steps:

- For **student-led sustainability projects**, these projects typically emerge from participation in the DISC learner course or institutional pilots. Please contact your DISC course coordinator for more next steps.

- For broader **educational or community sustainability initiatives**, visit the Sustainability Projects Collection and use the contact form provided to express your interest in contributing.

In both cases, you will be asked to submit:

- A short description of your project (objectives, activities, outcomes).

- Visual materials (e.g. images, presentation slides, videos).

- Any related tools, resources, or methods used.

Submitted projects are reviewed and, if approved, published on the DISC Hub to serve as inspiration for other learners, educators, and communities.

8. What is the DISC Expert Community and how can I connect with experts?

The DISC Expert Community (https://disc-eu.org/index.php/disc-community/) brings together over 30 professionals from across Europe with expertise in Education for Sustainable Development (ESD), design thinking, facilitation, competence-based learning, and related disciplines.

These experts represent the five dimensions of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (People, Planet, Prosperity, Peace, and Partnership) and contribute to advancing sustainability in higher and adult education.

You can:

- Browse the expert profiles on the DISC Community page.
- Contact individual experts for advice, collaboration, or guest input.
- Invite experts to contribute to workshops, course development, or institutional planning related to ESD.

This network is intended to support long-term knowledge exchange and peer learning beyond the formal end of the DISC project.

9. What are DISC KA1 learning offers and how do I participate?

DISC KA1 learning offers (https://provide-eu.org/product-tag/disc/) are training opportunities developed by DISC partners. These courses are designed to be compatible with Erasmus+ Key Action 1 (KA1) mobility funding, which supports professional development through learning abroad.

The offers include:

- Short-term courses and workshops focused on ESD, design-based collaborative learning, and sustainability facilitation.
- Concepts for future courses that institutions can adopt or adapt in the context of KA1 applications.

All DISC KA1 learning offers are listed on the PROVIDE platform (https://www.provide-eu.org/), a European portal for competence-based learning. While DISC does not administer KA1 funding, the platform helps you identify relevant courses and provides guidance on how to apply for Erasmus+ support through your institution.

10. Is funding available for DISC-related projects, and how can I apply?

During the DISC project period, a small-scale seed funding scheme was available to support local sustainability and ESD initiatives inspired by the DISC approach. Although this fund is no

longer active following the project's conclusion, the structure and guidance developed through it remain useful for future users.

If you are interested in launching a DISC-inspired project, you can:

- Use the DISC Funding Platform page to learn more about the type of projects that were supported.

- Adapt the application structure and use it to seek local, institutional, or Erasmus+ funding.

- Reach out to DISC experts or partners for advice on aligning your idea with the DISC methodology and identifying suitable funding streams.