

Bridging Science, Heritage and Sustainability: A Student-Centred Approach to Eco-Cultural Heritage Curriculum Development

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In Romania, the incorporation of scientific perspectives into eco-cultural heritage education is becoming increasingly visible, although the field remains insufficiently structured and lacks an overarching national strategy. Current developments are scattered across specialised initiatives and limited institutional settings, yet they indicate the emergence of an interdisciplinary educational direction. In higher education, several universities have introduced master's programmes that connect heritage studies with technological innovation and environmental concerns, even when these programmes are not explicitly framed as eco-cultural heritage. Complementary digital projects have also contributed to the modernisation of heritage documentation, interpretation and management. At pre-university level, links between environmental responsibility and cultural heritage are being addressed within sustainability education, particularly through "School in a Different Way" and "Green Week", often in cooperation with museums, NGOs and heritage-site managers.

This paper examines the perceived relevance of the proposed master's programme "Sciences in Eco-Cultural Heritage" for undergraduate students, postgraduate students and alumni of the Faculty of Sciences and Arts, Valahia University of Târgoviște. Drawing on survey data, the study analyses three dimensions: career orientations, expectations regarding competences and learning outcomes, and preferences for teaching, learning and assessment formats. The findings supported the design of an applied curriculum that connects student perspectives with international standards and quality assurance requirements. Anchored in GreenComp, the 2018 European Key Competences for Lifelong Learning, ICOMOS frameworks and UNESCO indicators, the programme addresses green and digital transitions, community-based heritage practice, sustainable employability, cultural resilience and measurable socio-cultural impact in response to contemporary climate-related challenges and related environmental pressures.

