

## Joining efforts for the establishment of a thematic EAPRIL platform (a Cloud) 'Education for Sustainability'

Dear colleague,

As a member of the European Association for Practitioner Research on Improving Learning (EAPRIL) community, I want to commit myself to the establishment of a thematic platform within EAPRIL, dedicated to 'Education for Sustainability'.

For me, being member of EAPRIL is very inspiring, and attending the EAPRIL conferences contribute to thinking through practitioner research and presenting and discussing own activities and research. However, there is no thematic EAPRIL platform (a Cloud – Special Interest Group) for networking and discussion among practitioners and practitioner researchers who are interested and specialized in education for sustainability, which is my field of interest (I am a researcher/ professor of applied sciences in the field of Social Entrepreneurship Education). I am exploring if we can start such a Cloud.

According to the World Education Forum (2015) quality education also develops the skills, values and attitudes that enable citizens to respond to local and global challenges. For educators, one of the questions is how we equip student to respond to challenges in the field of sustainable development. More and more initiatives in the field of education for sustainable development - such as Social Entrepreneurship Education or Education for Sustainable Development - are undertaken, and the amount of research in this area is increasing rapidly.

**I think it would be great if we can launch a Cloud 'Education for Sustainability' at the next EAPRIL conference (Nijmegen, the Netherlands from November 23-25, 2022).**

In the cloud guidelines the following is said about establishing a new Cloud:

"EAPRIL is happy to support the establishment of new Clouds that deal with a very specific educational theme or topic in the field of practitioner research, which is both important and emerging. The general rule is that the Executive Board of EAPRIL will only accept suggestions for new Clouds if this new Cloud comprises at least 10 interested persons at the launch. Furthermore, preferably at least two different nationalities should be represented in the Cloud. Along with the application to form a new Cloud, at least two Cloud Coordinators should be suggested to the Executive Board, who will evaluate their candidacy and appoint them if applicable. If you feel that a certain theme or topic is not yet represented in the current list of Clouds, we encourage you to apply for the establishment of a new Cloud. When applying for a new Cloud, the following documents should be sent to the EAPRIL Office (info@eapril.org):

- A mission statement with a clear profile description of the new Cloud. This mission statement gives a description of the identity, aims and scope of the Cloud and should not exceed over 500 words.
- Short curriculum vitae of the suggested Cloud Coordinators who are starting up the new Cloud.
- A plan of activities to be organised within your Cloud in the future.
- A list of at least 10 members who intend to join the Cloud."

**The first step is to see if we can form a group of practitioners and practitioner researchers who are interested and specialized in education for sustainability and want to submit an application for establishing a Cloud 'Education for Sustainability'.**

- **Therefor the next question: are you interested in establishing and joining an EAPRIL Cloud 'Education for Sustainability'?**
- **Additional question: will you please consider for whom such a Cloud could (also) be of interest, and forward the email or send me contact details so I can send a message myself?**

I include a first draft of a mission statement which, of course, will have to be sharpened with those who are interested in establishing the Cloud.

Mission statement, first draft:

This cloud aims to be a platform for project leaders and practitioner-researchers who are interested in

education and learning in the field of sustainable development. This networks addresses, among other things, projects and practice-based research related to Social Entrepreneurship Education, Education for Sustainable Development and the integration of SDGs in curricula.

I am looking forward to hearing from you!

Best regards,  
Stella van der Wal-Maris

More information about EAPRIL: [www.EAPRIL.org](http://www.EAPRIL.org)  
More information about Clouds: [www.EAPRIL.org/clouds](http://www.EAPRIL.org/clouds).)

**Dr. Stella van der Wal-Maris**

Professor of Applied Sciences in the field of Future Oriented Education  
s.vdwal@hsmarnix.nl

**marnix academie**

Vogelsanglaan 1 | Postbus 85002 3508 AA Utrecht | 030 275 34 00  
s.vdwal@hsmarnix.nl | [www.marnixacademie.nl](http://www.marnixacademie.nl)