

*University Continuing
Education as part of an
Ecosystem*

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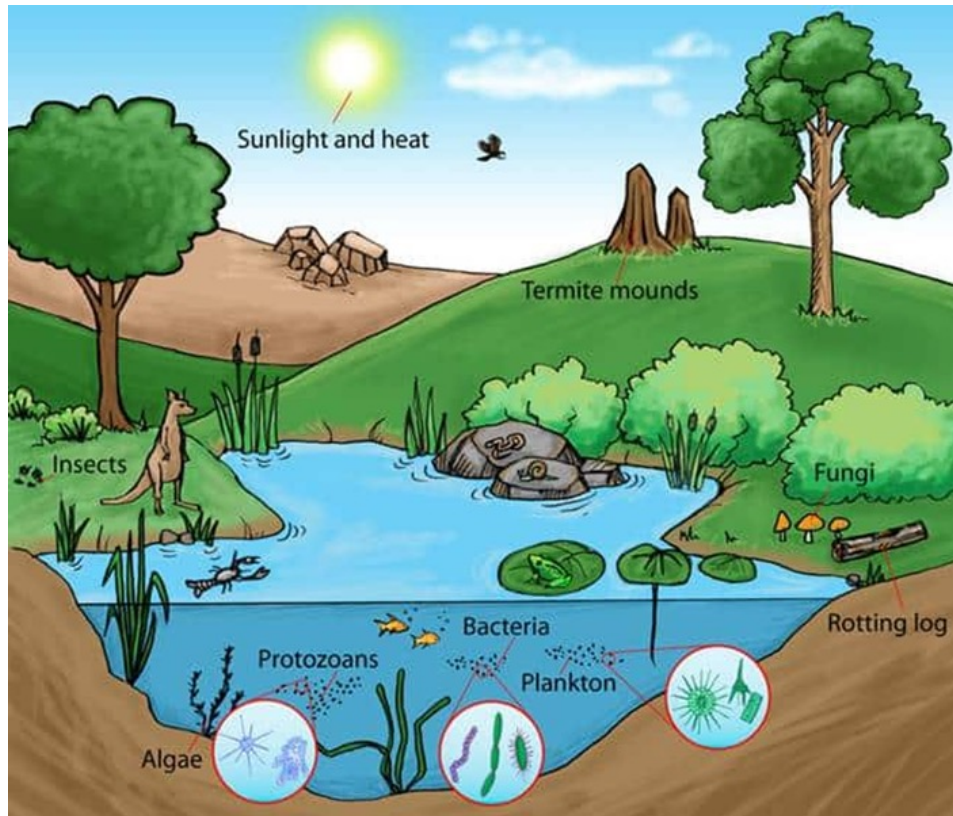
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european university
continuing education network

Ecosystem

A situation in which all living organisms in a given area influence and interact with each other in such a way that they form a powerful living community that sustains itself.



An ideal world UCE contributes to

A) Early detection of labor market bottlenecks, systematically linked to learning & development needs;

B) Flexible LLL available for different groups, levels and forms to respond to the changing needs for training and education in the labor market;

C) Availability of knowledge, skills and adaptive capacity to be used in public and private organizations (in particular for the purpose of solving societal issues);

D) Accessibility of LLL-activities for employees and employers based on their own interests, needs and opportunities.



Building Blocks for a Lifelong Learning Ecosystem



A situation in which knowledge centres, educational institutions, public and private companies and organizations, governments, interest groups as well as individual workers and job seekers

are in such a way interconnected and interacting from their own roles

that they reinforce each other and contribute to achieving common goals.

Recommendations for University Continuing Education as part of an Ecosystem



1. Break down the silo's between:
 - Higher education and vocational education and training
 - Formal, non-formal and informal learning
 - Knowledge transfer, skills training and knowledge application

2. Invest in developing a future oriented and an integrated perspective on the need for Lifelong Learning activities

Recommendations for University Continuing Education as part of an Ecosystem



3. Invest in co-creating Lifelong learning solutions with public and private stakeholders of (regiona)l economies.

4. Invest in a Lifelong Learning infrastructure in cooperation with governments, public and private organisations, trade unions, professional organizations and more..

References

Edwards, M. (2020), *Civil Society*, Polity, 4th edition

Stam, E. (2015), 'Entrepreneurial Ecosystems and Regional Policy: A Sympathetic Critique, *European Planning Studies*', 23:9, 1759-1769, DOI: 10.1080/09654313.2015.1061484

Illustrations:

Ecosystem - <https://www.zmescience.com/feature-post/natural-sciences/biology-reference/ecology-articles/ecosystems-what-they-are-and-why-they-are-important/>

Ideal World - <https://www.thecollector.com/what-is-the-ideal-world-according-to-famous-philosophers/>

Adult learning ecosystem - <https://digitalpromise.org/initiative/adult-learning/>

Lamps - <https://www.timeshighereducation.com/student/news/top-100-most-innovative-universities-europe-2018>