Applying Design Thinking to Advancing SDGs in South Asia

A KNOWLEDGE 2 ACTION ONLINE ACADEMY

8 JAN – 28 JAN 2023

SDGs

K2A
KNOWLEDGE TO ACTION

Register: *bit.ly/k2a2023*

8 Jan - 28 Jan 2023

ABOUT K2A

The Knowledge 2 Action network is a Swiss-South Asian network that aims to advance the UN SDGs by converting knowledge to action on the ground. We have been active since 2020 and are looking to develop into a long-term active network.

The objective of the online academy is to build skills enabling the participants to contribute to, and take leadership in the achievement of the SDGs with special focus on climate action, waste management and biodiversity.

4 HOURS,
3 DAYS A WEEK
3 WEEKS.

We invite applications for the 3rd K2A online academy, aiming to contribute to a better understanding of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and for the better translation of this knowledge into action.

1. INTRODUCTION

Using key concepts from design thinking in combination with peer to peer learning (across contexts and disciplines) we will enable converting cutting edge-knowledge pertaining to SDGs into action. The program will involve essential voices from South Asia, of academicians, decision makers, civil society, and importantly, from the grassroot level as well as excellent communicators coming in as skill trainers.

The UN Agenda 2030 – SDGs represent a globally negotiated agenda to address global challenges, including those related to poverty, inequality, climate change, environmental degradation, peace and justice. This academy will help to understand what sustainable development means & how to contribute to its advancement in the landscape across South Asia, especially in the post pandemic context.

2. WHY IS THIS RELEVANT?

South Asia's economic dynamism has triggered fast and deep social and ecological transformations alongside uneven development across the region. This has often occurred at the cost of environmental degradation, significantly affecting those at the margins of society.

OFFERED BY

The program is offered by the Knowledge 2 action (K2A) network, which is a Cluster of Cooperation (CLOC) and is sponsored by Swiss Universities Development and Cooperation Network (SUDAC).

CERTIFICATION

Participants on completion of the online academy will receive a Certificate of Completion from The University of Applied Sciences and Arts of Western Switzerland (HE'S-SO.ch) on successful completion of the K2A program. Completion refers to 80% of attendance of all modules and completion of all assignments.

FEE

The program has no tuition fees and is scholarship based for selected participants.

3. ACADEMY DETAILS

The academy spreads over three weeks and is organized in 4 hour online contact modules on three days per week, starting from 8th January and ending on 28th January 2023. Contact modules are designed in an interactive manner with space for interaction, creative thinking and feedback by the faculty and other knowledge holders. Selected participants will be based in their home location and will be expected to participate over the online platform Zoom. Collaboration in mixed groups beyond the 4 hours of contact classes is expected.

4. PROGRAM OUTCOME

The program aims to develop the capacities of early career researchers and professionals in learning and applying design thinking principles and skills that enable converting knowledge into action. Participants can expect to work with cross-regional & disciplinary teams and learn to appreciate the voices from the field as well as the potential and benefits of working with multiple stakeholders.
Key skills to be learned are:

- Design thinking skills to find innovative solutions.
- Develop particular skills to promote SDG practically based on cutting-edge research outputs.
- Understand, analyse and identify interconnected challenges overlapping in local and global dynamics in South Asia through multiple disciplinary perspectives.
- Appreciate voices from the field regarding a local issue.
- Build a foundation from which to design inter-disciplinary actions to promote SDGs
- Network with and learn from diverse faculty, learners from several South Asian countries and Switzerland.
- Enhancement of storytelling, theatre, writing and other skills.

5. MEANS AND CRITERIA OF ASSESSMENT

Participants will be assessed based on attendance and timely submissions, engagement with the resource persons and final outputs. A certificate for completion will be provided for submission of assignments and active participation in the academy with at least 80% attendance. Outstanding assignments will be chosen for further collaboration or curation on platforms of CLOC partner institutions.

6. ELIGIBILITY

We encourage Bachelor & Master students, early career researchers (PhD & Post-docs) and junior professionals to apply. This course is open to individuals from all subject areas.

Participants from Switzerland and other South Asian countries like Bhutan, India, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Maldives, and Myanmar are eligible to apply.

The academy will be held in English. Proficiency in oral and written English is mandatory. Basic computer and internet skills, familiarity and comfort working with online platforms such as Zoom and other collaborative online tools will be an advantage.

TIMELINE

- Registration and Application Deadline: 30th Nov 2022

- Intimation of Shortlisted Candidates: 15th Dec 2022

- Last date to accept the program offer by Candidates: 23rd Dec 2022

- Preparation material online: 2nd Jan 2023

- Program Start Date: 8th Jan 2023

- Program End Date: 29th Jan 2023

7. APPLICATION DETAILS

Applications must include

1. A complete application form
2. A Curriculum Vitae
3. A letter of motivation
4. A reference letter from the direct supervisor/professor /whom the applicant reports at university/work recommending the candidate

Women, minorities and those working in conflict/fragile contexts are especially encouraged to apply. Applicants will be selected based on merit, motivation level, equitable representation of regions and preferably, a diverse disciplinary background. Please note that selected candidates will be notified by email. Incomplete applications will not be accepted.

APPLY

Selected candidates will then be required to register by submitting the following:
No objection certificate from your current employer/supervisor (if applicable) or a statement on a letterhead granting time to participate in the online academy.

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