

# Personas

## Gerda, Austria



### What she does

She teaches students who will be working in the full range of home economics, guest-oriented areas. It's a high-level teacher-training course. Sustainable development is already highly integrated into the course but entrepreneurship only appears briefly. She is part of a young and highly-qualified staff.

### Pedagogical approach

She uses traditional lectures and demonstrations but also a great deal of teacher-led project-based work, practical sessions, simulations and competency-based learning.

### What she thinks

She thinks that competency-based learning is the best approach to adult training closely followed by lectures and demonstrations and then practical sessions. Gerda thinks high quality professional development is very valuable and she's more than ready to implement sustainability in her teaching as long as you give her a few pointers.

### What she feels

She wishes she had more influence over the curriculum and worries about keeping her job. She'd love to have the chance to experiment with some new ideas rather than be told what to do.

## Adelheid, Germany



### What she does

She teaches basic level students who will be working across the full range of home economics, guest-oriented areas. Sustainable development may get a quick mention in the course although entrepreneurship is a small but compulsory part of the course. Her colleagues are mainly in the second half of their working life and have qualified on the job.

### Pedagogical approach

She uses traditional lectures and demonstrations but also a great deal of teacher-led project-based work and competency-based learning. Work experience is an important part of the training.

### What she thinks

Adelheid believes that lectures and demonstrations combined with work experience is the best way of ensuring her students have the skills they need. For Adelheid it is important that any professional development she is recommended to do is fully resourced. She may need a good deal of grounding in the importance of sustainability to her students' future work lives as it is not something she pays much attention to right now.

### What she feels

Adelheid is frustrated by the lack of motivation of her students and can also get overwhelmed by the amount and variety of tasks she must do.

## Elsa, Finland



### **What she does**

Elsa's courses include catering, hospitality and entrepreneurship to pre-university level. Her colleagues are mainly, like her, in the second half of their working lives. Both sustainability and entrepreneurship are well integrated into the courses.

### **Pedagogical approach**

She uses a variety of approaches including teacher-led project-based learning, simulations, competency and mastery learning and work experience. The key to success is engaging students so that they transfer sustainability principles over into their own personal and professional lives.

### **What she thinks**

Elsa believes that project-based learning and simulations (learning by doing) are the most effective tools she uses. Elsa and her colleagues are always learning and she is a firm advocate of having a wide and effective personal learning network. She thinks that she integrates sustainability in her teacher quite well and could provide examples of good practice.

### **What she feels**

She is frustrated by lack of time to do the job well.

## Dzidra, Latvia



### **What she does**

She teaches on courses for cleaning, catering and hospitality at a lower vocational level in which sustainability and entrepreneurship are only mentioned briefly. However, a significant proportion of her students are interested in running their own business. Dzidra has been teaching for over 20 years as have many of her colleagues.

### **Pedagogical approach**

Dzidra was trained on the job. She uses a variety of approaches including lectures and demonstrations, hands-on sessions, competency-based learning and project-based learning both teacher-led and student-determined. She's keen to implement sustainability in her teaching after you give her a few pointers.

### **What she thinks**

She believes that work experience is the best way to learn the skills. Dzidra has an active personal learning network and learns from action-research projects.

### **What she feels**

She is frustrated by the low pay.

*Images: Courtesy Pixabay*