

Heliopolis University Center for Education for Sustainable Development

Introduction

Heliopolis University for Sustainable Development (HU) <https://www.hu.edu.eg/> was established and inaugurated in 2012 as a pioneering academic institution embracing Egypt's vision of 2030 for sustainable development. It provides the students and academics with a platform for acquiring scientific knowledge, understanding the concepts and Egypt's sustainable development priorities, championing innovative research in these areas, with a solid vision for *"individuals' consciousness, economic solidarity, social justice, and environmental balance."* It further offers a unique experience for students and staff alike, unprecedented in Egypt, with its humanistic core program with the aim of developing 'curious and creative minds' eager to develop peaceful solutions for global developmental issues, thus securing a hopeful future for current and future generations.

Center for Education for Sustainable Development (CESD)

In February 2018, in an effort to implement its vision and mission, HU embarked on an ambitious program to provide academic staff with innovative and non-conventional methods for teaching and learning, being a contributor and implementer of the global initiative of Education for Sustainable Development (ESD). According to Sascha Dannenberg and Theresa Grapentin of Freie Universität (FU) in Berlin, Germany, Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) is creating new approaches as it marks a new culture in education and a new direction in teaching and learning of content and methods. It means incorporating central issues of sustainable development into education, learning, and supporting the acquisition of competencies that enable people to live and act in a sustainable way. On an international level, it is increasingly acknowledged that ESD represents a main element of high quality education." (Education for Sustainable Development – Learning for Transformation. The Example of Germany. Article 7 2016). ESD must be understood in the scope of holistic and transformational education that focuses on the learner, and eventually makes the shift from teaching to learning.

As a result of a successful two years ESD program, the University Council approved the establishment of the Center for Education for Sustainable Development (CESD) in 2020. In a collaborative and participatory effort and in line with HU's vision, ESD team -Board of Directors, the Advisory/Visionary Group and staff members- designed the following vision and mission statements:

Vision Statement

The center for Education for Sustainable Development (CESD) is a worldwide-connected lighthouse for unfolding potentials and inspiring transformative models for human development.

Mission Statement

The Center for Educational Sustainable Development (CESD) provides for lifelong learning for all age groups based on a holistic worldview, which includes art, scientific research, and practical experience. The center creates a hub of knowledge and a pool of skills & competencies, networking opportunities, and serves communities on the perspective of sustainable development.

Overall Goal:

To build a community of practice in the field of Education for Sustainable Development co-creating knowledge, sharing thoughts and common work, innovations, skills, sharing a commitment to advance the field, making resources and knowledge available to others, and sharing discoveries with a wider reach both locally and internationally.

Specific Goals:

1. To enhance transformative and competence based quality education and learning through developing key competencies for ESD educators
2. To facilitate an ongoing dialogue between education and sustainable development engaging in a lifelong learning in identifying opportunities
3. To develop and enhance, through its capacity development program, the knowledge, skills, attitudes (KSA's) and values that reinforce citizen engagement to make informed decisions enabling them to respond to local and global development challenges and opportunities
4. To build a cadre of competent trainers by developing training of trainers (ToT) programs on innovative and participatory teaching methods that are appropriate for education for sustainable development
5. To scale up the current program to include more ESD themes in the future that explore and champion new ideas and approaches in the field
6. To help bridge the gap between knowledge and action by using a competence based approach (p.41), through an action-oriented transformative approach
7. To implement and monitor an integrated education program for sustainable development at Heliopolis University and other higher education institutions
8. To identify and contribute to holistic action-oriented research that focuses on the arts, thus building awareness and leading to heightened levels of consciousness development for the individual and society

Current Programs:

1. ESD Teaching and Training (academics)
2. Core Program for staff & employees (non-academics)
3. Education Research Projects
4. ESD Training programs for schools teachers

1. Teaching and training for Academics

The main goal of the program is to foster participatory teaching and learning approaches and further enhance competencies in the field of Education for Sustainable Development. This includes the planning and implementing capacity development programs (education for sustainable development) for faculty members and the support staff at Heliopolis University & other higher education institutions in Egypt.

2. Core program for non-academic staff and employees within higher education institutions

Heliopolis university main approach is holistic education targeting unfolding potentials of all individuals in all departments including admin and nonacademic staff. The CESD is offering variety of courses for all nonacademic and admin staff at HU and all higher education institutions

Purpose

Well-being of body, soul and mind for a new beginning, we would like to offer a program for all employees to shift the mood of fear into positive energy and hope after having gone through these challenging times with Covid-19.

Who is this for?

These courses are offered for staff from different department like administration, students' affairs, student activities, alumni affairs, research, marketing, finance, I.T, quality insurance, legal affairs, human resources, library, reception, nursery and cleaning staff.

HU offers these courses for external candidates based on long history of experience in this regard either in SEKEM for 42 years or at HU over the last 9 years.

3. ESD Program for Schools' Teachers

The center contributes significantly to the preparation and designing of the training plan for the SEKEM Private School by providing technical and logistical support, as well as contributing to the implementation of training workshops in which the members of the center participate.

- **Education Research Projects**
- Children's University

Children's University is an educational project which is increasingly wide spreading all over the world and targeting students from the ages of 9 years to 15 years. Children's University introduces school children to scientific and critical thinking, creativity, questioning and problem solving. In Egypt this project is coordinated by Academy of Scientific Research & Technology (ASRT) with participation from 34 universities. Heliopolis University is one of these universities and we host 400 students every year. The CESD is coordinating the activities, implementation and reporting of the children university at Heliopolis University.

- ECO GAMER

ECO GAMER is funded project from European union seeks to give young people from diverse backgrounds improved skills and accessible ways to map and assess their local communities with sustainability in mind, and to then design, implement and celebrate regenerative local solutions, projects and social enterprises together.

The project has two main outputs:

1) The Eco GAME – an innovative and experiential approach to teaching social entrepreneurship and community-building through game based learning and educational live roleplaying.

2) The Eco Impact Assessment - an innovative, accessible and scientifically sound tool for individuals, organizations and local communities map, assess and eventually transform their way of living or operating to become more regenerative.

The CESD team in cooperation with SEKEM Development foundation representing Egypt in this project and conduct all the activities and prepare all reports of the project.

Governance Structure:

The current governance structure includes 3 staff members, the Board of directors and the advisory/vision group with the HU vice president for environment affairs & community service and HU president as the highest authority

University President:

Prof Dr. Mohamed Yousri Hashem

Vice President for Environmental Affairs & Community Service

Prof. Dr. Hisham Ali Selim

Board of Directors (BoD)

- Ms. Mona Abouleish
- Dr. Omar Ramzy
- Ms. Regina Hanel

Advisory Board:

- Ms. Martina Dinkel
- Ms. Yvonne Floride
- Ms. Dorothea Walter
- Dr. Ahmed Ghobashy
- Mr. Mohammed Anwar

Current Staff Members:

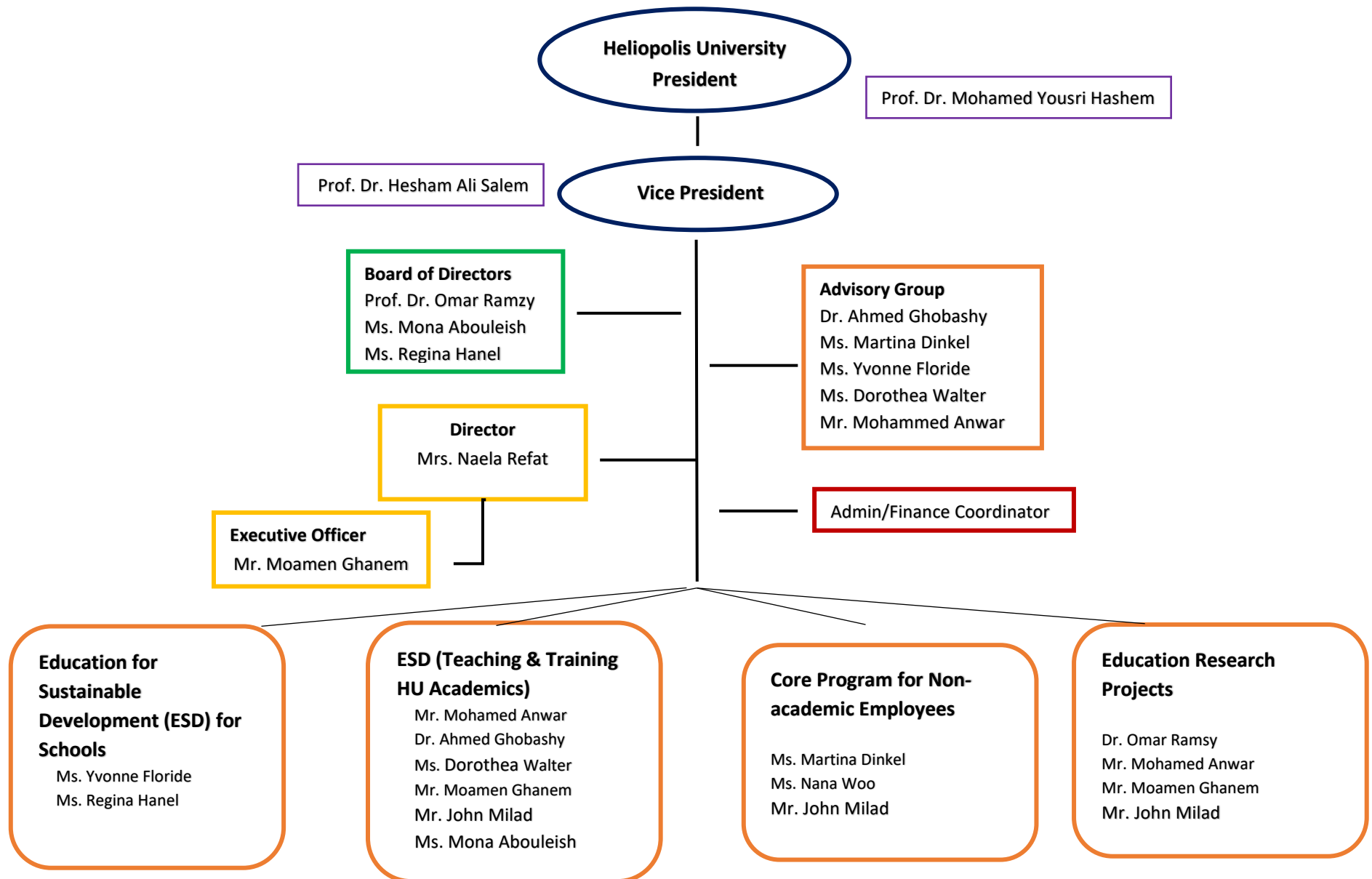
Director - Mrs. Naela Refat

Executive Officer: Mr. Moamen Ghanem

Social/Transformative Art Expert & Trainer: Mr. Jhon Milad

Admin & Financial Coordinator: (TBA)

Organizational Chart of the CESD



Description of Roles & Positions:

Board of Directors (BoD):

1. The Board of Directors consists of 3 to 5 members who are nominated by the President of the University for a period of 3 years and are re-nominated after 3 years.
2. The Board of Directors decides, with complete independence, all the educational, research and academic affairs of the center in line with the university's vision for education for sustainable development and with generally accepted academic and research standards.
3. Decisions and approvals of prospect projects/programs and staff are taken by the Board of Directors during their regular meetings chaired by the university president or his deputy
4. The meetings of the Board are called for once every two months, provided that a prior invitation notice is sent at least two weeks beforehand with an attached detailed agenda
5. The decisions of the Board of Directors are approved upon completion of the quorum of its members (50% + 1) of the members, and decisions are taken by voting
6. The primary role of the Board of Directors is organizing research or educational projects and capacity development programs that are implemented at the Centre and proposing ideas for other new projects.
7. The Board approves the annual technical and financial plan of the center

Advisory Board:

1. The advisory board consists of 4 to 7 members who are nominated by the board of directors for a period of 3 years and are re-nominated after the end of this period.
2. The functions of the advisory council revolve around providing technical and administrative advice to the board of directors
3. The council proposes ideas for educational and research projects that can be implemented in the center.
4. The Council proposes international and local bodies and institutions to cooperate with them in the field of research and projects

Director:

The Board of Directors nominates the Executive Director of the center for a period of 3 years. S/he is responsible for managing all the work of the center and implementing the decisions of the board of directors and the advisory board.

Roles & Responsibilities

- Prepare a detailed annual work plan, with budget, for the ESD center to be approved by the BoD
- Manage the center's education, research, and capacity development programs

- Prepare for meetings of the Board of Directors and the Advisory Board and proposes the agenda for these meetings
- Implement and follow up the decisions of the Board of Directors and the Advisory Board
- Prepare monthly and annual reports for the center
- Communicate with external parties locally and internationally
- Represent the center in conferences and seminars, whether inside or outside the university, locally and internationally
- Report to the Board of Directors.

Executive Officer:

Roles & Responsibilities

- Support the ESD Director in implementing the ESD work plan on the ground.
- Technical coordinator for the Children University
- Technical coordinator for the eco gamer project

Social/Transformational Art Expert & Trainer

Job Description

The social artist has the aptitude to substantiate every problematic situation arising for the individual and for society, since these problems are precisely a prerequisite for further development. A problem is not eliminated or suppressed, but is rather perceived and addressed as an artistic inquiry, that encourages us to search for the root causes and that prompts diverse powers for growth and expansion. This approach makes social art a catalyst that addresses and deals with personal and structural hopelessness. It enforces the quest for meaning and for tangible content, and provides new strength and support to face the exceeding demands of our current living conditions. It juxtaposes the pragmatism of our culture with a movement that reveals the beauty of human encounters in professional life and social work. Similar to art, in day-to-day life too, beauty leads to enthusiasm and inspiration for meaning and purpose.

Art is an organic power that moves humans to self-understanding and liberates them, thus facilitating the unfolding of individual and collective potential. It transforms problems into a positive quest for self-development and discovery.

Roles & Responsibilities

- Teach in the CORE program for students, employees and community services
- Initiate and organize social art projects with students
- Contribute, as a fundamental team member, to the Reflective Processes and Practices at the Center for Education for Sustainable Development (CESD)
- Contribute to and support the Lessons Learned (LL) and Best Practices (BP) exercises at CESD as an integral team member
- Support the Quality Assurance director of CESD in designing and delivering the CESD team building trainings
- Team member of CESD for integrating social and transformative art in all needed activities in coordination with team

Admin/Finance Coordinator

Roles & Responsibilities

- Prepare payroll for permanent and temporary employees
- Handle overall personnel issues including social and medical insurance
- Monitor revenue
- Prepare cost accounts and accounts payable
- Manage the permanent and/or rented buildings of the center and coordinate their maintenance and cleaning
- Purchase the needed equipment and required materials for the center and maintain an inventory

Budget

The budget for the CESD was developed based on the following principles and assumptions:

- The CESD is independent unit financially and technical within Heliopolis University.
- The cost for permanent employees' salary in addition to the trainers and experts who are going to provide training and services for the CESD.
- The materials and equipment needed for conducting the training & other activities
- The income from the fees of the capacity building programs and funded projects
- The budget is will cover 3 semester (fall 2020, spring 2021 & summer 2021) over 1 year.

Annual Work plan: timeline by quarter

2020/2021 year plan												
	Q1 (2020)			Q2 (2021)			Q3 (2021)			Q4 (2021)		
Task	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep
I. Administration												
Personnel recruitment												
bylaws												
Activity time plan												
detailed activity action plan												
Budget plan												
Quarterly report												
II. Teaching and Training for Universities' Staff												
ESD Program for HU Staff												
Sustainable Development Course												
IV. Educational Research Projects												
Children's University												
EcoGamer Project												
V. Core Programs for Employees of SEKEM companies & Non academic staff of H.U												
Employees - SEKEM companies												
Non-academic staff - H.U												
Employees - Wahat Farm												
V. ESD program for Schools' Teachers												
Starting by SEKEM Schools												
Quality & Coaching												
Revisiting Roles & Responsibilities												
Reflective Processes Design & Implementation												
Coaching & Mentoring Unit												
Lessons Learned & Best Practices Exercise												
CESD Concept & Framework												
CESD Team Building												

