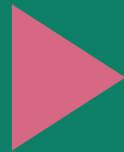




Impact-driven Education: A Partnership Between University and Society

Start here

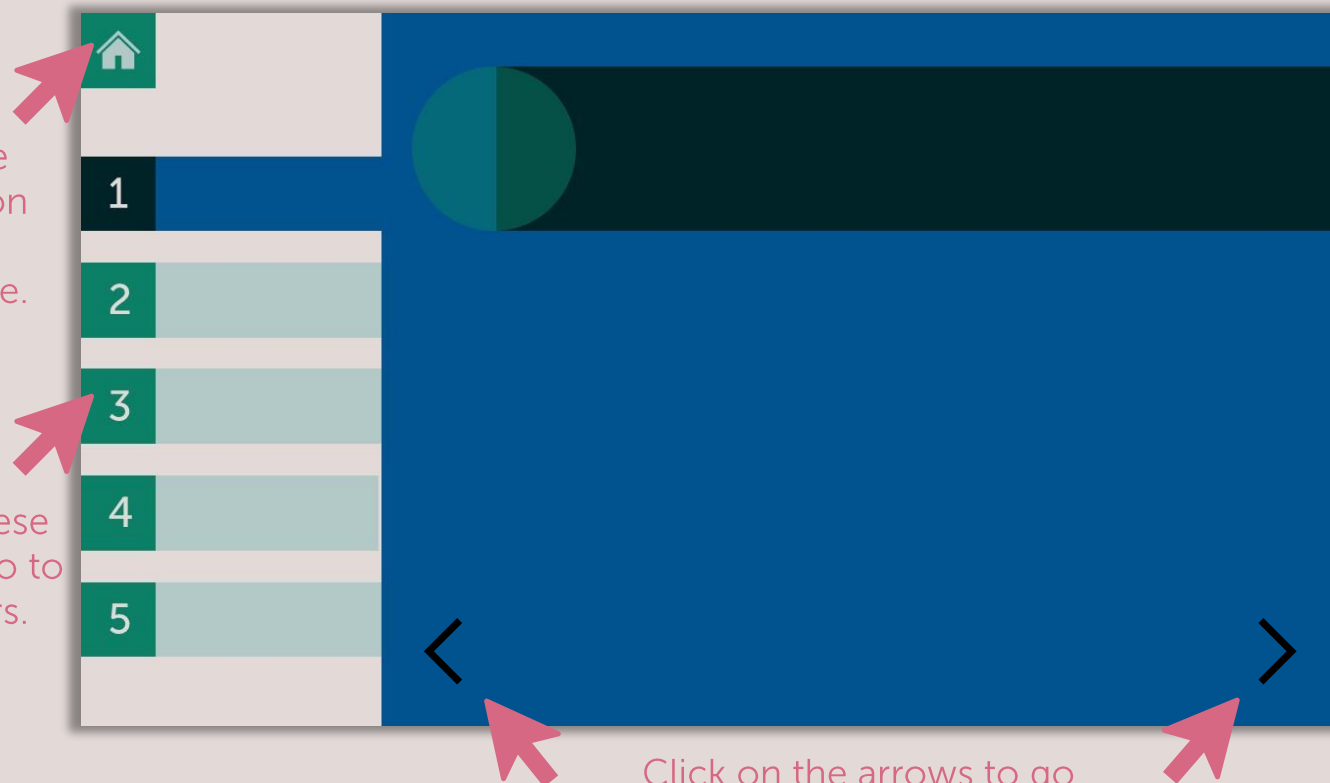




How it works



This module is presented as an interactive PDF, providing you with a seamless navigation experience. You can easily move to different topics by simply clicking on them. In addition to the visible navigation buttons on the side of each page, you will also find clickable sections within the module. These clickable sections are identified within the text.



Click on the home button to return to the first slide.

Click on these blocks to go to the chapters.

Click on the arrows to go to the previous or next page in a chapter



You also have the option to view this PDF in a continuous scrolling mode if you prefer.





1 Introduction

2 What is impact-driven education?

3 How does impact-driven education work?

4 Who are you in impact-driven education?

5 Final steps

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

After completing this module, you can:

- 1 Understand how impact-driven education contributes to addressing **complex societal challenges**.
- 2 Familiarize yourself with the five fundamental **principles of impact-driven education**.
- 3 Identify the **different roles** that students, teachers, and societal partners play in impact-driven education.
- 4 Explain the benefits of participating in impact-driven education, especially when it comes to developing your **impact capacity**.
- 5 Reflect on your **own intention and learning goals** for the impact driven learning experience ahead.



1. INTRODUCTION





1 Introduction

2 What is impact-driven education?

3 How does impact-driven education work?

4 Who are you in impact-driven education?

5 Final steps

INTRODUCTION

We live in a **world that is constantly changing, bringing forth a wide range of complex challenges**. These challenges may include shifts in demographics, transformations in politics, fluctuations in the economy, social transitions, environmental issues, ethical dilemmas, and much more.





1 Introduction

2 What is impact-driven education?

3 How does impact-driven education work?

4 Who are you in impact-driven education?

5 Final steps

INTRODUCTION

Because of the complexity of these challenges, we need to equip ourselves with the necessary tools, skills and mindset to make a meaningful contribution towards a more equitable and sustainable world. **Impact-driven education provides you with the opportunity to build your capacity to approach these challenges while discovering your own role as a positive impact agent.**

Einstein:



You cannot solve a problem from the same level of consciousness that created it, you must learn to see the world anew.



1 Introduction

2 What is impact-driven education?

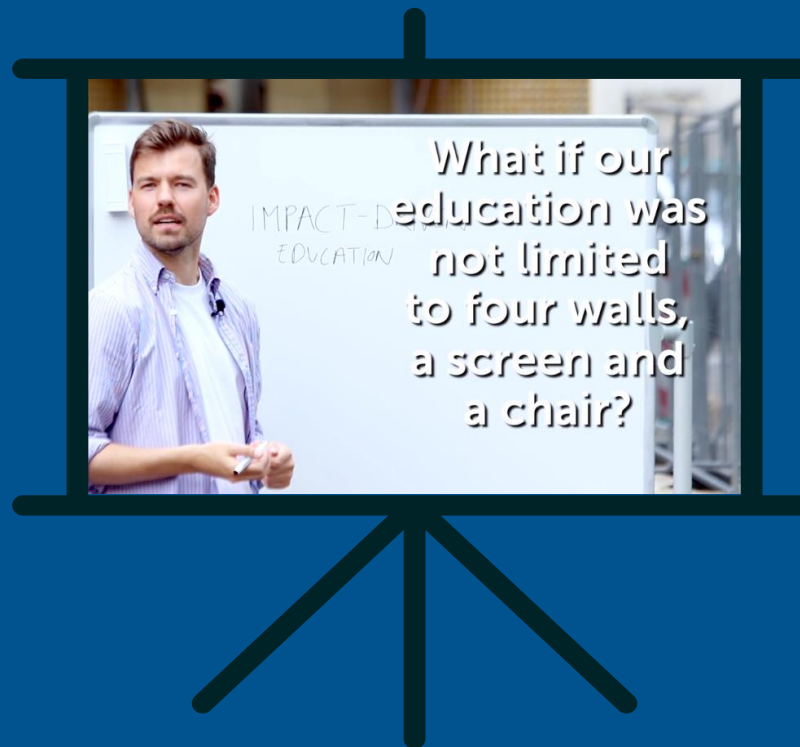
3 How does impact-driven education work?

4 Who are you in impact-driven education?

5 Final steps

INTRODUCTION

Click on the video to play it in your browser and discover **what would happen if we imagine different education.**





2. WHAT IS IMPACT-DRIVEN EDUCATION?





1

Introduction

2

What is impact-driven education?

3

How does impact-driven education work?

4

Who are you in impact-driven education?

5

Final steps

WHAT IS IMPACT-DRIVEN EDUCATION?

Impact-driven education is a new way of learning that helps you develop the **knowledge, skills, attitudes, and values** to identify and address societal challenges. Unlike traditional education, this approach encourages you to take an **active role in approaching real-world challenges**.





1

Introduction

2

What is impact-driven education?

3

How does impact-driven education work?

4

Who are you in impact-driven education?

5

Final steps

WHAT IS IMPACT-DRIVEN EDUCATION?

In impact-driven education, you will **collaborate with societal partners from outside the university**, such as NGOs, municipalities, or local communities. This collaboration offers a great chance to work on authentic and real-life societal challenges, allowing you to gain **hands-on experience** relevant to your future career.





1

Introduction

2

What is impact-driven education?

3

How does impact-driven education work?

4

Who are you in impact-driven education?

5

Final steps

WHAT IS IMPACT-DRIVEN EDUCATION?

To connect academia with real-world challenges, simply comprehending (academic) knowledge and methods is insufficient. It also important to **translate this knowledge and methods into practical insights, interventions and ideas.**





1

Introduction

2

What is impact-driven education?

3

How does impact-driven education work?

4

Who are you in impact-driven education?

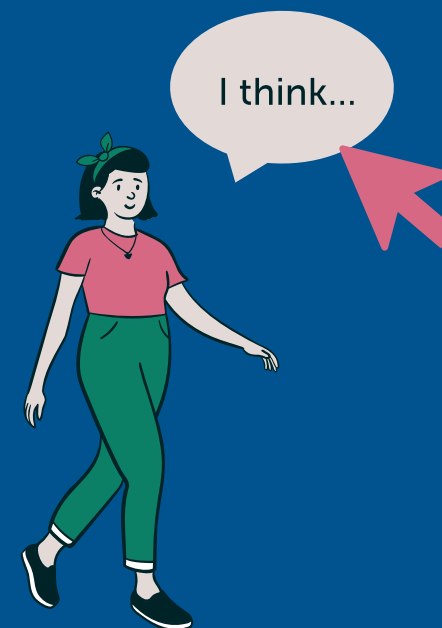
5

Final steps

WHAT IS IMPACT-DRIVEN EDUCATION?

By collaborating with societal partners in a reciprocal relationship, you will also gain an understanding of the ethical implications of your actions. We need to shift from providing knowledge and solutions to **co-creating and connecting with society**. This is precisely what impact-driven education allows you to practice!

Click to read a testimonial from a student who took an impact-driven course





1

Introduction

2

What is impact-driven education?

3

How does impact-driven education work?

4

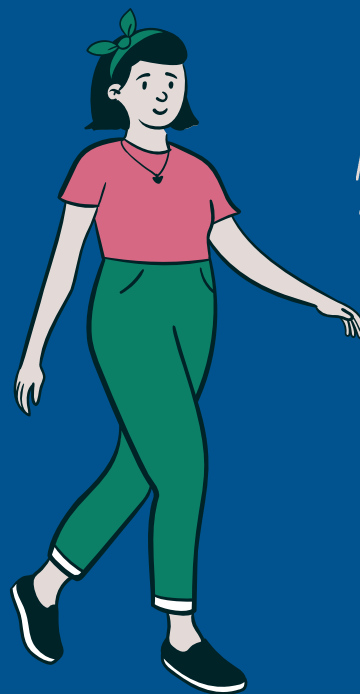
Who are you in impact-driven education?

5

Final steps

WHAT IS IMPACT-DRIVEN EDUCATION?

Testimonial of a student who took an impact-driven course:



*"I think an advantage of working with societal partners is that you really apply what you learn to a **real-life scenario** which makes it all a lot more interesting. It also makes me **more motivated** to deliver **high quality work** because I know **someone will actually use it**".*





1

Introduction

2

What is impact-driven education?

3

How does impact-driven education work?

4

Who are you in impact-driven education?

5

Final steps

WHAT IS IMPACT-DRIVEN EDUCATION?

Click on the video to play it in your browser and discover what is unique about impact-driven education.





3. HOW DOES IMPACT-DRIVEN EDUCATION WORK?





1

Introduction

2

What is impact-driven education?

3

How does impact-driven education work?

4

Who are you in impact-driven education?

5

Final steps

HOW DOES IMPACT-DRIVEN EDUCATION WORK?

The 5 principles of impact-driven education

How can we ensure that your education helps you develop the **attitudes, knowledge and skills to make a positive contribution to real-life societal challenges?**

This is achieved by creating education based on five fundamental principles.

See the next page for more information on these principles.





1

Introduction

2

What is impact-driven education?

3

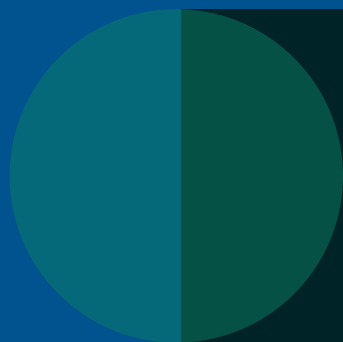
How does impact-driven education work?

4

Who are you in impact-driven education?

5

Final steps



The five principles of impact-driven education



Authenticity



Stakeholder involvement



Interdisciplinary cooperation



Navigating complexity



Multiple perspectives

Click on one of the principles to learn more about it



Click for the next chapter





1

Introduction

2

What is impact-driven education?

3

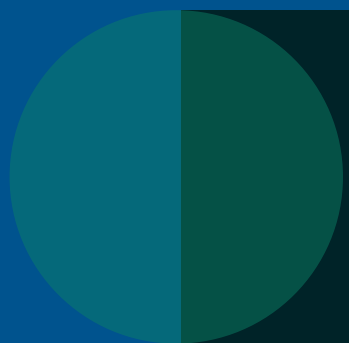
How does impact-driven education work?

4

Who are you in impact-driven education?

5

Final steps



The five principles of impact-driven education



Authenticity

In impact-driven education, we always begin with an **authentic societal challenge or urgency**. Instead of focusing on theoretical scenarios, impact-driven provides the opportunity to work with **real-life scenarios and engage with the people involved**. Examples of societal urgencies are the housing crisis, youth health, inclusivity in the workplace, among others. Not only do we invite you to work on an authentic challenge, but also to **engage as an authentic person**: with emotions, fears, care and intention – not just with your mind.



Back to overview





1

Introduction

2

What is impact-driven education?

3

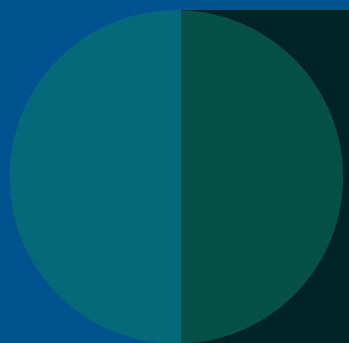
How does impact-driven education work?

4

Who are you in impact-driven education?

5

Final steps



The five principles of impact-driven education



Stakeholder involvement

Who is involved?

In impact-driven education, you will collaborate with societal partners to better understand the complexity of the challenge at hand and work toward an appropriate solution. Together with the societal partner, you will either **co-create a solution, co-design an intervention, conduct participatory research, or provide advice.**



Back to overview





1

Introduction

2

What is impact-driven education?

3

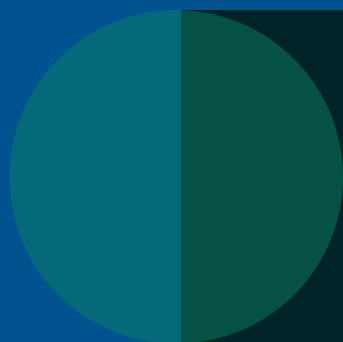
How does impact-driven education work?

4

Who are you in impact-driven education?

5

Final steps



The five principles of impact-driven education



Interdisciplinary cooperation

With impact-driven education, our goal is to promote collaboration across and beyond disciplinary backgrounds. Ideally, **you will work with students from diverse faculties and programs to incorporate your unique set of skills and knowledge, develop interdisciplinary collaboration skills to achieve a more comprehensive approach to the challenge you are tackling.**

If you don't get to work with students with other faculties, the perspectives of other disciplines can also be included in readings, lectures, workshops, and others.



Back to overview





1

Introduction

2

What is impact-driven education?

3

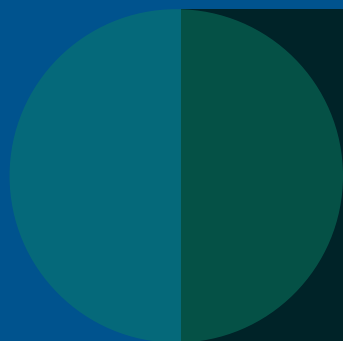
How does impact-driven education work?

4

Who are you in impact-driven education?

5

Final steps



The five principles of impact-driven education



Navigating complexity

How can we deal with complex challenges?

With impact-driven education, we provide you with the opportunity to face life's actual complexities and embrace uncertainty with the realization that there is no single optimal solution, nor a clear path to get there. **Our goal is for you to focus on your learning journey, rather than only on the results.** This will not always be easy, but by creating your own path under the guidance of your teacher, you will develop your ability to take charge, build resilience and feel confident.



Back to overview





1

Introduction

2

What is impact-driven education?

3

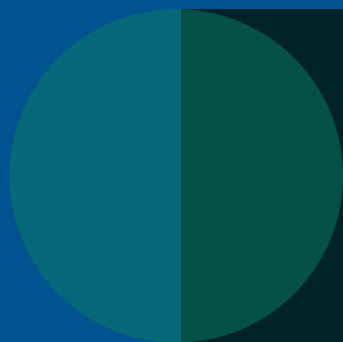
How does impact-driven education work?

4

Who are you in impact-driven education?

5

Final steps



The five principles of impact-driven education



Multiple perspectives

How do we integrate diverse perspectives?

In an impact-driven education, we value the ability to recognize and shift between multiple perspectives. You will empathize with diverse interests, worldviews, and needs from different stakeholders **to get a full picture of the issue you are dealing with.** You will also reflect on your own assumptions and values.



Back to overview





1

Introduction

2

What is impact-driven education?

3

How does impact-driven education work?

4

Who are you in impact-driven education?

5

Final steps

HOW DOES IMPACT-DRIVEN EDUCATION WORK?

New roles in impact-driven education

A different form of education, also means different roles for the student, the teacher, and the societal partner. You may be accustomed to a focus on the teacher-student interaction. However, impact-driven education requires a more **open learning environment** where interaction between students, teachers, and societal partners is encouraged.



Click on the student, teacher, or societal partner to learn more about their role.



Click for the next chapter





1

Introduction

2

What is impact-driven education?

3

How does impact-driven education work?

4

Who are you in impact-driven education?

5

Final steps

New roles in impact-driven education



Student

Your role as a student is evolving. Impact-driven education requires that you:

- Take ownership of your own learning goals.
- Are open to navigating a more challenging but engaging learning experience.
- Care about the societal challenge you are addressing and commit to making a positive contribution within your scope of influence.
- Engage with real-life societal partners in a professional manner.

You will work on building your **own personal and professional identity**, which includes learning to be reflective, knowing your strengths and weaknesses, and building your resilience in order to deal with uncertainty and ambiguity.



return



1

Introduction

2

What is impact-driven education?

3

How does impact-driven education work?

4

Who are you in impact-driven education?

5

Final steps

New roles in impact-driven education



Teacher

In impact-driven education –similar to traditional education– teachers will provide you with relevant knowledge and insights. At the same time, they will take on a more **mentoring or coaching role**, guiding your learning journey and assisting in the development of your ability to reflect.

Thus, teachers will not only transfer knowledge, but also create appropriate learning experiences and challenges that encourage you to explore, create, and reflect. Your teacher will give space for agency and meaningful participation in experiences and interactions with the outside world.





1

Introduction

2

What is impact-driven education?

3

How does impact-driven education work?

4

Who are you in impact-driven education?

5

Final steps

New roles in impact-driven education



Societal partners

Given the unique knowledge and perspectives of societal partners on the issues at hand, their **engagement** is crucial to arrive to a **shared understanding of the issue** and generate meaningful insights. This can lead to the development of new ideas and potential solutions.

Through this collaboration everyone goes on a learning journey together. Societal partners can be inspired by your fresh perspective and academic insights. At the same, they can provide real-world feedback on your skills and the process of handling the issue at hand.





1

Introduction

2

What is impact-driven education?

3

How does impact-driven education work?

4

Who are you in impact-driven education?

5

Final steps



HOW DOES IMPACT-DRIVEN EDUCATION WORK?

Click on the video to play it in your browser and discover **a great example of impact-driven education at EUR.**





4. WHO ARE YOU IN IMPACT-DRIVEN EDUCATION?





1

Introduction

2

What is impact-driven education?

3

How does impact-driven education work?

4

Who are you in impact-driven education?

5

Final steps

WHO ARE YOU IN IMPACT-DRIVEN EDUCATION?

Impact driven education will bring different challenges for everyone participating. After all, how we respond to uncertainty and how we connect with each other depends on our **personal development and background**. This is why it is important to have a **reflective attitude** and investigate how you meet yourself throughout the process.

In this chapter we invite you to explore the ways in which impact-driven education can influence your personal and professional growth, setting your own **intention for the journey ahead**. What challenges do you expect personally? What do you want to focus upon?





1

Introduction

2

What is impact-driven education?

3

How does impact-driven education work?

4

Who are you in impact-driven education?

5

Final steps

WHO ARE YOU IN IMPACT-DRIVEN EDUCATION?

Have an **open mind and be curious:**

- Pay attention to what's challenging for you and how you respond in these situations!
- Notice what inspires you, gives you energy and in what aspects do you excel at.



Your impact capacity, in the end, is reflected in how well you know yourself





1

Introduction

2

What is impact-driven education?

3

How does impact-driven education work?

4

Who are you in impact-driven education?

5

Final steps

WHO ARE YOU IN IMPACT-DRIVEN EDUCATION?

Impact capacity

We understand that courses have a limited duration and that the impact you can have on the organization you are working with, while meaningful, is limited. We do not expect you to “solve” complex challenges such as climate change or poverty. Rather, the main goal of impact education is for you to develop what we call your “**Impact capacity**”.





1

Introduction

2

What is impact-driven education?

3

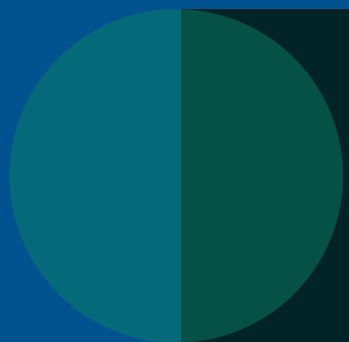
How does impact-driven education work?

4

Who are you in impact-driven education?

5

Final steps



Your impact capacity

Impact capacity is the set of attitudes, values, knowledge, and skills that will enable you to be a positive impact agent throughout your studies and in your future career.





1

Introduction

2

What is impact-driven education?

3

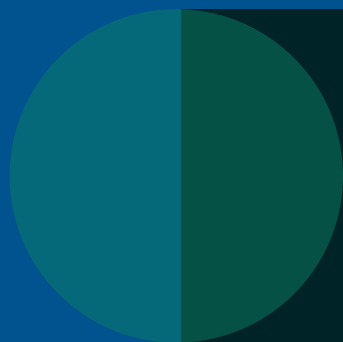
How does impact-driven education work?

4

Who are you in impact-driven education?

5

Final steps



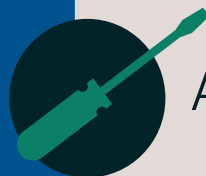
Impact capacity

There are 4 main components of your impact capacity:

Click on one of the principles to learn more about it



Social responsibility



Academic attitude



Entrepreneurial mindset



Reflection



Click for the next chapter





1

Introduction

2

What is impact-driven education?

3

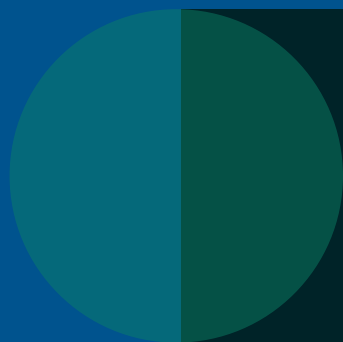
How does impact-driven education work?

4

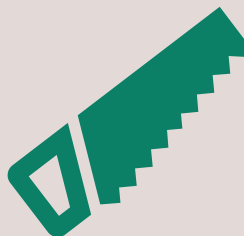
Who are you in impact-driven education?

5

Final steps



Impact capacity



Social responsibility

You are committed to actively contribute to society's urgencies and take ownership of your role in this endeavor, developing a sense of responsibility and purpose.





1

Introduction

2

What is impact-driven education?

3

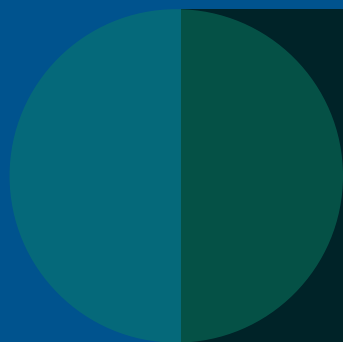
How does impact-driven education work?

4

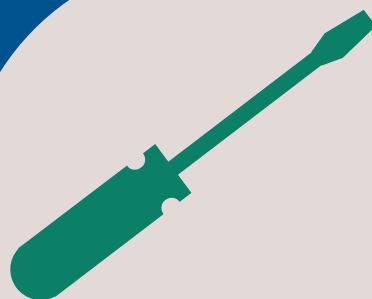
Who are you in impact-driven education?

5

Final steps



Impact capacity



Academic attitude

When confronted with a complex societal issue, you are able to develop feasible approaches in a systematic and reproducible way, integrating theory and practice.





1

Introduction

2

What is impact-driven education?

3

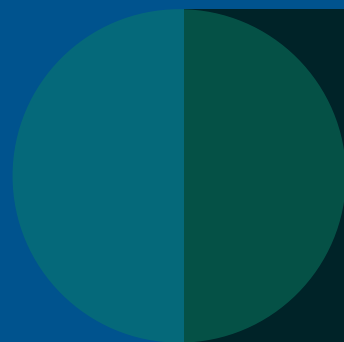
How does impact-driven education work?

4

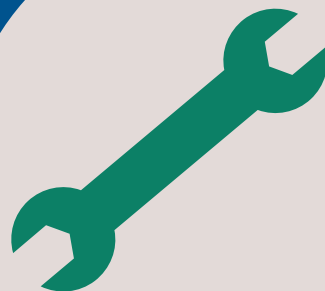
Who are you in impact-driven education?

5

Final steps



Impact capacity



Entrepreneurial mindset

It's not enough to care about a societal issue and to know how to address it. You are able to *take action* and work towards a solution in a proactive way, while collaborating with others.





1

Introduction

2

What is impact-driven education?

3

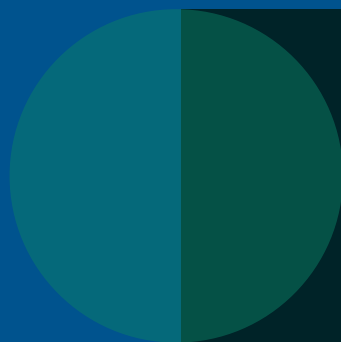
How does impact-driven education work?

4

Who are you in impact-driven education?

5

Final steps



Impact capacity



Reflection

You are able to reflect upon your actions, identify lessons learned and find new ways forward.





1

Introduction

2

What is impact-driven education?

3

How does impact-driven education work?

4

Who are you in impact-driven education?

5

Final steps

WHO ARE YOU IN IMPACT-DRIVEN EDUCATION?

Multi-dimensional growth

As you enhance your **impact capacity** you will experience growth and changes in several aspects of yourself, such as your personal, academic, professional and social life.



See the next page to learn more about the positive influence impact-driven education can have in your development.





1

Introduction

2

What is impact-driven education?

3

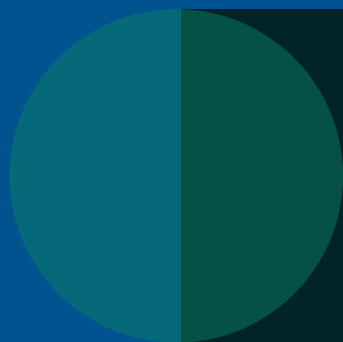
How does impact-driven education work?

4

Who are you in impact-driven education?

5

Final steps



Multi-dimensional growth



Click on one of dimensions to learn more about it



Based on Randles & Harmon, 2018



Click for the next chapter





1

Introduction

2

What is impact-driven education?

3

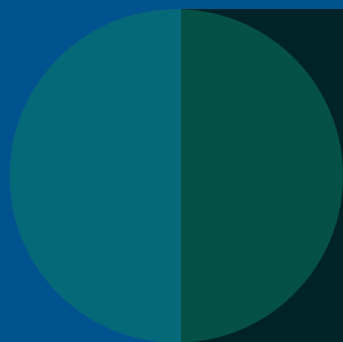
How does impact-driven education work?

4

Who are you in impact-driven education?

5

Final steps



Multi-dimensional growth



Personal growth

- Ability to deal with complex issues and successfully go through an uncertain process
- Increased sense of autonomy, personal achievement, and self-efficacy
- Feel connected to society, making a positive contribution





1

Introduction

2

What is impact-driven education?

3

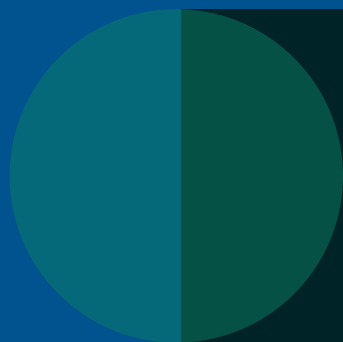
How does impact-driven education work?

4

Who are you in impact-driven education?

5

Final steps



Multi-dimensional growth



Professional growth

- Better understanding of how real-life organizations function
- Enhanced connections with professionals for learning and career opportunities
- Transferable skills for future positions and insight on professional areas of interest





1

Introduction

2

What is impact-driven education?

3

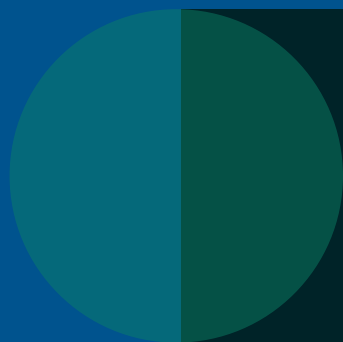
How does impact-driven education work?

4

Who are you in impact-driven education?

5

Final steps



Multi-dimensional growth



Academic growth

- Hands-on opportunity to test knowledge, skills, and attitudes
- Positive and more meaningful relationship with academic learning
- Develop skills such as creativity, analytical thinking, and communication





1

Introduction

2

What is impact-driven education?

3

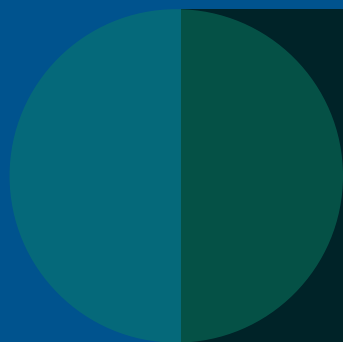
How does impact-driven education work?

4

Who are you in impact-driven education?

5

Final steps



Multi-dimensional growth



Social growth

- Stronger relationships with peers, teachers and tutors
- Reduced stereotypes and greater intercultural understanding
- Citizenship skills, community involvement and social responsibility





1

Introduction

2

What is impact-driven education?

3

How does impact-driven education work?

4

Who are you in impact-driven education?

5

Final steps

WHO ARE YOU IN IMPACT-DRIVEN EDUCATION?

Personal reflection

After learning about the multiple ways in which impact-driven education can contribute to your personal and professional growth, take your time to reflect and respond to the following questions:

1

What are my goals for participating in impact-driven education, and how do I envision it contributing to my overall growth?

2

Considering the multiple benefits involved, which aspects resonate with me the most, and how can I leverage these to create a well-rounded and meaningful experience?

3

In what ways does my involvement in impact-driven education align with my long-term aspirations and personal values?





5. FINAL STEPS





Literature

References

Randles, E. & Harmon, L. (2018). *A Student Guide to Community Engagement*. <https://www.campusengage.ie/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/Student-Guide-to-Community-Engagement.pdf>

Reading tips

To learn more about this topic, you can read:

[Impact-driven education at Erasmus University Rotterdam](#)





About this e-module

AUTHORS

The content of this module was developed by [Dr. Crystal Smit](#), Assistant Professor at ESSB (project lead), [Denise Levy](#), Learning Innovator at Impact at the Core and [Sascha Bol](#), Educational Consultant, Trainer and Training-Actor at Risbo, all from Erasmus University Rotterdam.

CONTEXT

This e-module is intended to be used in impact-driven courses where students collaborate with external stakeholders such as non-profit organizations, municipalities, health institutions, youth initiatives, schools, and others.

DESIGN

The instructional design of this e-module was developed by Akke van der Laan, Learning & Development Expert at L&D talents. The graphic design is done by [Risbo](#).

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**Impact
at the
Core**