



# LIFEWIDE EDUCATION ANNUAL REVIEW 2022

## Context

In late 2020 we undertook a strategic review of Lifewide Education's first 10 years. We identified a number of ways in which we wanted to develop including: 1) expanding our core team of supporters and advisers and developing a network of international partners 2) providing more opportunity for the members of our community to participate in our work 3) engaging with lifelong learning policy and policy makers.

In 2021 we can demonstrate progression and achievement in each of these areas. In January 2021 we published our 2030 Vision Statement <https://www.lifewideeducation.uk/2030-vision.html> stating our ambition to continue to develop our understanding of lifewide learning and to work towards an enhanced concept of lifelong learning that explicitly recognised the lifewide dimension of learning. Through our work we aim to advance understanding and enhance the global ecosystem for lifelong-lifewide learning and education.

Our White Paper in January 2021 "Enriching and Vivifying the Concept of Lifelong Learning through Lifewide Learning and Ecologies for Learning & Practice" shows how the concept of lifelong learning could be enriched by explicitly embracing the ideas and practices of lifewide learning and learning ecologies. Our strategy also recognises the enormous challenge and existential threat facing humanity as it comes to terms and tries to mediate the damage we have inflicted on the planet and the biological, chemical and physical systems that supports all life.

## Activities & Achievements

During 2022 we continued to explore how lifewide learning might support humanity's quest for more sustainable and regenerative futures and have tried to engage the UNESCO Institute for Lifelong Learning (more to do here). We are currently trying to show how our lifewide-ecological concept can provide the foundation on which humans can develop the ecological world view so necessary to make the transition through this century to a new Ecological Civilisation. In 2023 we will be trying to engage Jeremy Lent - one of the leading thinkers and advocates for an Ecological Civilisation.

2022 has been a successful year. Firstly, we undertook a 3 month long action learning-based inquiry aimed at how we might collaborate with others to make small changes that support the idea of a more sustainable regenerative future. This was the longest inquiry we have undertaken and the most challenging as we tried to move beyond ourselves and collaborate with others. It was also the first inquiry we had undertaken in collaboration with our sister organisation Creative Academic. Through this process we were able to evaluate and offer suggestions for improvement on the recently published Inner Development Goals intended to support the SDGs. Our conference in July and Magazine in September celebrated and shared the results of our inquiry with our community and with the wider world. We also shared the results of our IDG evaluation with the lead researcher (although we have yet to receive feedback).

Our second success was in having a chapter published in the latest edition of the Springer Handbook of Lifelong Education. A key reference work for researchers, policy influencers and practitioners in adult lifelong learning. I attach a copy *Jackson, N.J. (2022) Steps To An*

*Ecology of Lifelong-Lifewide Learning for Sustainable, Regenerative Futures In  
K. Evans, Lee, W.O. Markowitsch, J. & Zukas M. (Eds) Third International Handbook of  
Lifelong Learning Springer*

In March, on behalf of Lifewide Education, I gave a keynote presentation to the OU-NTU Employability Conference. The conference was seeking to broaden the discourse around employability and I attempted an integration of employability theories within our own lifewide-ecological frame of thinking.

In November I explored how our lifewide-ecological ideas relate to the idea of competence and presented them at a conference at the Southern University of Denmark. Looking back on the year I can see we have made progress in developing our core ideas and in connecting them to other ideas. In this way we continue to expand their meaning and significance.

### **Looking ahead**

It often takes a while for new ideas to be recognised so its a real credit to all of us that I will be giving the opening keynote address on the theme of a lifewide-ecological concept of lifelong learning at the International Lillehammer Lifelong Learning ICDE Conference 15-17 February 2023 in Norway. The conference is hosted by Inland Norway University of Applied Sciences in collaboration with the International Council for Open and Distance Education (ICDE), and has many partners representing unions, confederations, employers, and governmental and transnational organisations including ILO, UNESCO, EADTU, EPALE, Commonwealth of learning ([see the Conference Website](#)).

We are in a healthy position regarding the recognition of our work and ideas and we can look forwards to building on what we have achieved to develop new ideas to explore through our programme of collaborative action learning inquiries in 2023.

### **Acknowledgements**

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