



Accelerating societal transformation
July 27 – August 27 2021



Between July 27 and August 27, 2021, CIRODD and its partners will hold their first Summer School on Societal Transformation. The School's Objective, which will be given over 45 hours, is to develop key competencies for the achievement of UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at the municipal level for up to 50 change driven leaders drawn from both the public and private sectors. You will be working with other committed professionals and graduate students from Quebec and Canada concerned with local responses necessary in civil society. You will help craft solutions that are to be applied to real-life community challenges.

Description

The Summer School is designed to accelerate the socio-ecological transition in our societies and that applying the SDGs at the ground level offers the greatest promise. Our inspiration is the development of UNESCO's framework of key competencies that are based on acquiring overarching competences in integrated problem-solving.

This first edition of the Summer School on Societal Transformation is an essential step to the creation of a community of practice aimed at increasing expertise and experience sharing across Canada and internationally. By enrolling, you will be at the global vanguard bringing about systemic social change.

Key Principles

- Learner-centered: focused on you, as a professional or graduate student ;
- Teamwork: collaborative, with multi-sectoral and interdisciplinary integration ;
- Bilingual content facilitation and coaching of teams ;
- Hands-on: training based on life case studies ;
- Virtual and hybrid learning (if regulations permit).

If you wish to ...

- Actively integrate SDGs in your projects ;
- Discover innovative tools and strategies ;
- Develop your knowledge and apply your expertise through inspiring case studies ;
- Reinforce your multi-sectoral collaborative approaches at various scales ;
- Generate collective intelligence ;
- Engage in dialogue about best practices and share expertise and resources ;
- Collaborate in the development of a community of practice to contribute to the socio-ecological transition.

The Summer School Target Participants in Quebec and across Canada:

- **Municipal professionals and elected officials**
Program or liaison officers, councillors, directors, coordinators, project managers, section heads, business analysts, assistants, etc. from all sectors.
- **Graduate and post graduate students**
From Canadian universities, eligible to study in Canada.
- **Professionals promoting sustainable development nationally, regionally or locally**
Professional coordinating agencies, environmental NGOs, regional environmental councils, change agent facilitators, business and entrepreneurial development coaches, etc.

A 45-hour, three phases Summer School:

- **Phase 1 (July 27 to August 1, 2021): Introductory module** of asynchronous activities to set the key competencies framework for implementing sustainable development as well as Q&A sessions that contribute to building participant networks and relationships.
- **Phase 2 (August 2 to 13, 2021): Intensive module** for the acquisition of key skills and targeted knowledge, introduction to and close examination of our cooperating partner's municipal case studies, expert coaching, nurturing teamwork and progress presentations.
- **Phase 3 (August 16 to 27, 2021): Teamwork module** allowing for continued progress on your case-study, involving half a day per week; capstone interdisciplinary workshops, individualized team coaching and final presentations.

Preliminary timetable

A presentation allowing to visualize the preliminary timetable is available on CIRODD's website.

The preliminary program will be posted online in the coming weeks.

Key resources will be made available to participants prior to the Summer School to familiarize with the SDGs framework and how it can be applied to municipalities and local communities, as well as to better understand the concepts of the socio-ecological transition. To further support this, an online conference will be offered later this spring (2021).

To stay tuned, contact info.cirodd@gmail.com to be added to our mailing list, and [subscribe to the CIRODD newsletter](#).

Live case studies

As part of the Summer School, partner municipalities and communities offer real-life situations that hone key competencies to integrate the SDGs into complex problem solving.

The case studies enable the acquisition of applied knowledge and skills necessary for application at various levels of local governance and within different sectors such as urban planning and design, transportation, climate change, urban agriculture, etc. Different SDGs will thus be explored, as well as their combinations.

Among the live cases proposed:

- **At a neighborhood scale:**
Reinventing Montréal: a site participating in the C40 Reinventing Cities international competition.

The venues selected for this competition represent an excellent playground for the creation of innovative solutions for next-generation urban developments. For this Montreal site, projects will address energy efficiency, the use of clean energy sources, and aim to achieve zero or positive energy. They will have to respond to the 10 C40 challenges, implement SDGs and promote an approach that puts people and the environment at the heart of design.

Summer School participants will also have the opportunity to contribute to the development of an urban design simulation and scenario creation platform, a project of Concordia University's Next-Generation Cities Institute.

- **At the community scale:**
Centreville District Community Development Association (Nova Scotia): Emerging from COVID to tackle the Climate Emergency

Earmarked as a “growth centre” by the County Municipality over twenty years ago, the Association grew out of the need for a coordinated community voice in influencing policies and addressing local concerns. It now seeks to strengthen that voice as federal, provincial and municipal climate change policies and programs are introduced, and is investigating how SDGs implementation can support their efforts, in particular in the view of the renewal of the community's five years strategic plan.

- **At the municipality scale:**
Baie-Saint-Paul (Québec)

The municipality of Baie-Saint-Paul is a partner of the Summer School for this first edition. It will thus benefit from the participants' interdisciplinary perspective on aspects of local sustainable development.

Your exit competencies

By completing the Summer School, you will have increased knowledge and skills to:

- **Help solve complex local and regional problems that systemically accelerate the socio-ecological transition;**
- **Create collective future visions and scenarios that consider:**
 - uncertainty related to sociological, technical and cultural driving forces;
 - the impacts of planned and unintended consequences and cascading effects from intentional human action or inaction.
- **Build consensus based on shared stakeholder values and needs to achieve sustainability goals and aspirations, by:**
 - identifying interdependencies, synergies and discord between the actions or positions of case stakeholders and case study project colleagues;
 - better considering and reflecting the moral, ethics, principles and values of stakeholders' beliefs, policy positions and actions, including citizens;
 - identifying and integrating under-represented voices and communities.
- **Make decisions and implement system-wide interventions and solutions:**
 - thinking projects in terms of systems;
 - thinking projects with the SDG lens;
 - identifying the barriers and levers for positive change;
 - synthesizing municipal and local issues by accounting for varying scales and intersectoral dynamics.

The summer school training will allow participants to acquire (or to deepen) and apply the core competencies necessary for optimal sustainable development:

- Systems thinking competency ;
- Anticipatory competency ;
- Normative competency ;
- Strategic competency ;
- Interpersonal competency (collaboration, critical thinking, self-awareness).

Registration

Registration is based on assessment of an application, according to the following schedule:

- Online application starts: March 5, 2021
- Application deadline: April 14, 2021 at 4pm EST
- Announcement of successful applications and online registration opens: May 15, 2021

An FAQ section will be available when the call for applications opens. Questions can be sent to info.cirodd@gmail.com.

Registration fees

Professionals and elected officials in the municipal world	
Municipalities under 10,000 inhabitants	1,295\$
Municipalities between 10,000 and 100,000 inhabitants	1,395\$
Municipalities over 100,000 inhabitants	1,495\$
Agents for the promotion of territorial sustainable development	
	\$1,295
Non-profit organizations	
	1,295\$

Upon completion, a certificate of training for 45 hours will be given to participants who have not registered via a credited university course.

Graduate students in Canadian universities

The course is credited by Concordia University. Tuition fees will be established according to your educational institution and your situation. A bursary will allow graduates to have most of their course fees refunded if successfully completed.

Students from universities other than Concordia will have to register through the inter-university system at their home institution.

The number of places is limited.

Partners

CIRODD's academic and educational partners for this summer school are [Acadia University](#), [Concordia University](#), the [EDS Institute of Laval University](#), the [Maison de l'innovation sociale \(MIS\)](#) and [SDSN-Canada](#). CIRODD is also collaborating with the [Université du Québec à Chicoutimi \(UQAC\)](#).

The summer school is implemented with the financial support of the Secrétariat du Québec aux relations canadiennes through the [Canadian Relations Support Program](#), the Maison de l'innovation sociale (MIS), SDSN Canada, [Universities Canada](#) and Concordia University.

Information and contact

Visit our Facebook or LinkedIn pages and our Twitter feed to stay on top of developments! For more information and to discuss collaboration opportunities, contact [Stéphanie Jagou](#), Summer School Manager.