Digital Sustainability Consultant (DSC)

**Learning Pathway: Professional level in Level 6 Advanced Diploma in Digital Sustainability Consultancy**

This curriculum prepares learners to deliver professional-level consulting services and manage complex sustainability transformation projects across diverse industry sectors. Graduates will master advanced consulting methodologies, project management frameworks, and strategic advisory capabilities. They typically lead major consulting engagements, develop innovative sustainability solutions, and provide expert guidance to organisations undertaking comprehensive digital sustainability transformations.

EQF Level 6 | 45.0 ECTS | 14 Learning Units | Work-Based Learning: 40.0% (exceeds 20% minimum)

# Programme Overview

**Role Focus:** Advisory services and solution bridging

**Target Audience:** Experienced professionals seeking professional certification in sustainability consulting, transformation management, and strategic advisory services

**Learning Approach:** EQF Level 6 professional development programme with 45.0 ECTS, combining theoretical knowledge with practical application through structured learning and standardised work-based learning integration.

**Core Tools & Platforms:** Consulting methodologies, Assessment frameworks, Solution design tools, Client engagement platforms

# Competence Frameworks Alignment

**GreenComp Framework:** 2.2 Critical thinking, 3.3 Political agency, 4.2 Envisioning

## e-CF Framework (Detailed Mapping)

**A.4:** Product/Service Planning - Level 3

**A.5:** Architecture Design - Level 3

**E.3:** Risk Management - Level 3

*Learning outcomes are mapped directly to GreenComp and e-CF framework descriptors*

# Dual Education Model & Work-Based Learning

**WBL Compliance:** 40.0% work-based learning (exceeds minimum 20%)

## Model Implementation

**Minimum Wbl Percentage:** 20

**Employer Partnership:** Mandatory for all programmes

**Workplace Learning:** Integrated throughout curriculum

**Assessment Split:** 70% academic, 30% workplace-based

## Quality Assurance

**Workplace Standards:** Standardised workplace learning environments

**Mentor Qualifications:** Certified workplace mentors

**Assessment Criteria:** Unified workplace assessment standards

**Monitoring Systems:** Regular quality monitoring of WBL delivery

# Flexible Learning Pathways

**Modular Design:** Learning units designed for flexible recombination

**Competence Catalog:** Integrated with competence-based learning unit catalog

**Stackability Options:** Horizontal and vertical stacking supported

**Pathway Flexibility:** Multiple entry and exit points available

# Assessment Framework

**Primary Method:** Professional consulting certification

**Work-Based Component:** Professional consulting practice and methodology development

**Assessment Components:**

**• Complex client engagement:** 40%

**• Best practice development:** 30%

**• Professional methodology innovation:** 30%

**Rationale:** Professional certification requires demonstrated excellence in complex consulting and methodological innovation

# Delivery Framework

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Total Contact Hours** | 385 hours |
| **Self-Study Hours** | 278 hours |
| **Work-Based Hours** | 450 hours |
| **WBL Percentage** | 40.0% (exceeds 20% minimum) |
| **Work-Based Learning** | Integrated (dual education model) |
| **Delivery Methods** | Classroom, Online, Workplace, Blended |

# Learning Unit Structure

## Learning Unit 1: Introduction to Digital Sustainability

*This learning unit forms part of the Professional level in Level 6 Advanced Diploma in Digital Sustainability Consultancy*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **ECTS Credits** | 0.5 |
| **EQF Level** | 5 (Programme: 6) |
| **Total Workload** | 12.5 hours |
| **Contact Hours** | 4 hours |
| **Self-Study Hours** | 3 hours |
| **Workplace Hours** | 5 hours |
| **WBL Percentage** | 40.0% |
| **Thematic Area** | Foundation |

**Description:** Core sustainability concepts and their intersection with technology systems for digital professionals

### Work-Based Learning Integration

**Employer Partnerships:** Consulting firms, professional services, SMEs

**Mentor Support:** Workplace mentor assigned for practical guidance

**Workplace Activities:**

• Client consulting projects

• Solution implementation support

• Transformation facilitation

### Learning Outcomes

**Knowledge:** Critically evaluate solution design frameworks in introduction to digital sustainability within professional sustainability practice.

*Framework: GreenComp: 3.3 Political agency*

**Skills:** Innovate solution architecture design in introduction to digital sustainability to support organisational sustainability objectives.

*Framework: e-CF: Architecture Design - Level 3*

**Competence:** Lead initiatives in consulting delivery responsibilities for introduction to digital sustainability while ensuring professional standards and stakeholder value.

*Framework: e-CF: Risk Management - Level 3*

## Learning Unit 2: Sustainability Assessment and Benchmarking

*This learning unit forms part of the Professional level in Level 6 Advanced Diploma in Digital Sustainability Consultancy*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **ECTS Credits** | 5 |
| **EQF Level** | 6 (Programme: 6) |
| **Total Workload** | 125 hours |
| **Contact Hours** | 43 hours |
| **Self-Study Hours** | 31 hours |
| **Workplace Hours** | 50 hours |
| **WBL Percentage** | 40.0% |
| **Thematic Area** | Analysis |

**Description:** Evaluate organizational sustainability performance against relevant benchmarks

### Work-Based Learning Integration

**Employer Partnerships:** Consulting firms, professional services, SMEs

**Mentor Support:** Workplace mentor assigned for practical guidance

**Workplace Activities:**

• Client consulting projects

• Solution implementation support

• Transformation facilitation

### Learning Outcomes

**Knowledge:** Formulate implementation roadmapping for sustainability assessment and benchmarking within professional sustainability practice.

*Framework: GreenComp: 4.2 Envisioning*

**Skills:** Transform implementation facilitation of sustainability assessment and benchmarking to support organisational sustainability objectives.

*Framework: e-CF: Risk Management - Level 3*

**Competence:** Drive change in solution implementation leadership in sustainability assessment and benchmarking while ensuring professional standards and stakeholder value.

*Framework: e-CF: Product/Service Planning - Level 3*

## Learning Unit 3: Sustainability Frameworks and Standards

*This learning unit forms part of the Professional level in Level 6 Advanced Diploma in Digital Sustainability Consultancy*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **ECTS Credits** | 5 |
| **EQF Level** | 6 (Programme: 6) |
| **Total Workload** | 125 hours |
| **Contact Hours** | 43 hours |
| **Self-Study Hours** | 31 hours |
| **Workplace Hours** | 50 hours |
| **WBL Percentage** | 40.0% |
| **Thematic Area** | Management |

**Description:** Overview of major sustainability frameworks, regulations, and standards

### Work-Based Learning Integration

**Employer Partnerships:** Consulting firms, professional services, SMEs

**Mentor Support:** Workplace mentor assigned for practical guidance

**Workplace Activities:**

• Client consulting projects

• Solution implementation support

• Transformation facilitation

### Learning Outcomes

**Knowledge:** Develop consulting best practices in sustainability frameworks and standards within professional sustainability practice.

*Framework: GreenComp: 2.2 Critical thinking*

**Skills:** Optimise advisory service delivery for sustainability frameworks and standards to support organisational sustainability objectives.

*Framework: e-CF: Product/Service Planning - Level 3*

**Competence:** Take accountability for advisory relationship management for sustainability frameworks and standards while ensuring professional standards and stakeholder value.

*Framework: e-CF: Architecture Design - Level 3*

## Learning Unit 4: Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive (CSRD) Implementation

*This learning unit forms part of the Professional level in Level 6 Advanced Diploma in Digital Sustainability Consultancy*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **ECTS Credits** | 0.5 |
| **EQF Level** | 5 (Programme: 6) |
| **Total Workload** | 12.5 hours |
| **Contact Hours** | 4 hours |
| **Self-Study Hours** | 3 hours |
| **Workplace Hours** | 5 hours |
| **WBL Percentage** | 40.0% |
| **Thematic Area** | EU Legislation |

**Description:** Step-by-step guide to CSRD compliance and sustainability reporting requirements

### Work-Based Learning Integration

**Employer Partnerships:** Consulting firms, professional services, SMEs

**Mentor Support:** Workplace mentor assigned for practical guidance

**Workplace Activities:**

• Client consulting projects

• Solution implementation support

• Transformation facilitation

### Learning Outcomes

**Knowledge:** Create client assessment methodologies for corporate sustainability reporting directive (csrd) implementation within professional sustainability practice.

*Framework: GreenComp: 3.3 Political agency*

**Skills:** Establish client needs analysis for corporate sustainability reporting directive (csrd) implementation to support organisational sustainability objectives.

*Framework: e-CF: Architecture Design - Level 3*

**Competence:** Manage complex situations in client engagement projects involving corporate sustainability reporting directive (csrd) implementation while ensuring professional standards and stakeholder value.

*Framework: e-CF: Risk Management - Level 3*

## Learning Unit 5: EU Taxonomy Regulation: Classification and Compliance

*This learning unit forms part of the Professional level in Level 6 Advanced Diploma in Digital Sustainability Consultancy*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **ECTS Credits** | 0.5 |
| **EQF Level** | 5 (Programme: 6) |
| **Total Workload** | 12.5 hours |
| **Contact Hours** | 4 hours |
| **Self-Study Hours** | 3 hours |
| **Workplace Hours** | 5 hours |
| **WBL Percentage** | 40.0% |
| **Thematic Area** | EU Legislation |

**Description:** Practical guide to understanding and implementing EU Taxonomy for sustainable activities

### Work-Based Learning Integration

**Employer Partnerships:** Consulting firms, professional services, SMEs

**Mentor Support:** Workplace mentor assigned for practical guidance

**Workplace Activities:**

• Client consulting projects

• Solution implementation support

• Transformation facilitation

### Learning Outcomes

**Knowledge:** Synthesise solution design frameworks in eu taxonomy regulation: classification and compliance within professional sustainability practice.

*Framework: GreenComp: 4.2 Envisioning*

**Skills:** Lead solution architecture design in eu taxonomy regulation: classification and compliance to support organisational sustainability objectives.

*Framework: e-CF: Risk Management - Level 3*

**Competence:** Lead initiatives in consulting delivery responsibilities for eu taxonomy regulation: classification and compliance while ensuring professional standards and stakeholder value.

*Framework: e-CF: Product/Service Planning - Level 3*

## Learning Unit 6: EU Environmental Management Standards and Certification

*This learning unit forms part of the Professional level in Level 6 Advanced Diploma in Digital Sustainability Consultancy*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **ECTS Credits** | 2.0 |
| **EQF Level** | 5 (Programme: 6) |
| **Total Workload** | 50.0 hours |
| **Contact Hours** | 17 hours |
| **Self-Study Hours** | 12 hours |
| **Workplace Hours** | 20 hours |
| **WBL Percentage** | 40.0% |
| **Thematic Area** | EU Legislation |

**Description:** Practical guide to EMAS, ISO 14001, and EU environmental management requirements

### Work-Based Learning Integration

**Employer Partnerships:** Consulting firms, professional services, SMEs

**Mentor Support:** Workplace mentor assigned for practical guidance

**Workplace Activities:**

• Client consulting projects

• Solution implementation support

• Transformation facilitation

### Learning Outcomes

**Knowledge:** Critically evaluate implementation roadmapping for eu environmental management standards and certification within professional sustainability practice.

*Framework: GreenComp: 2.2 Critical thinking*

**Skills:** Innovate implementation facilitation of eu environmental management standards and certification to support organisational sustainability objectives.

*Framework: e-CF: Product/Service Planning - Level 3*

**Competence:** Drive change in solution implementation leadership in eu environmental management standards and certification while ensuring professional standards and stakeholder value.

*Framework: e-CF: Architecture Design - Level 3*

## Learning Unit 7: Digital Inclusion and Social Sustainability

*This learning unit forms part of the Professional level in Level 6 Advanced Diploma in Digital Sustainability Consultancy*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **ECTS Credits** | 5 |
| **EQF Level** | 5 (Programme: 6) |
| **Total Workload** | 125 hours |
| **Contact Hours** | 43 hours |
| **Self-Study Hours** | 31 hours |
| **Workplace Hours** | 50 hours |
| **WBL Percentage** | 40.0% |
| **Thematic Area** | Social Sustainability |

**Description:** Technical implementation of digital inclusion systems, accessibility technologies, and social impact data analytics

### Work-Based Learning Integration

**Employer Partnerships:** Consulting firms, professional services, SMEs

**Mentor Support:** Workplace mentor assigned for practical guidance

**Workplace Activities:**

• Client consulting projects

• Solution implementation support

• Transformation facilitation

### Learning Outcomes

**Knowledge:** Formulate consulting best practices in digital inclusion and social sustainability within professional sustainability practice.

*Framework: GreenComp: 3.3 Political agency*

**Skills:** Transform advisory service delivery for digital inclusion and social sustainability to support organisational sustainability objectives.

*Framework: e-CF: Architecture Design - Level 3*

**Competence:** Take accountability for advisory relationship management for digital inclusion and social sustainability while ensuring professional standards and stakeholder value.

*Framework: e-CF: Risk Management - Level 3*

## Learning Unit 8: Sustainable Finance Disclosure Regulation (SFDR) Fundamentals

*This learning unit forms part of the Professional level in Level 6 Advanced Diploma in Digital Sustainability Consultancy*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **ECTS Credits** | 0.5 |
| **EQF Level** | 5 (Programme: 6) |
| **Total Workload** | 12.5 hours |
| **Contact Hours** | 4 hours |
| **Self-Study Hours** | 3 hours |
| **Workplace Hours** | 5 hours |
| **WBL Percentage** | 40.0% |
| **Thematic Area** | EU Legislation |

**Description:** Introduction to SFDR requirements for financial services and investment transparency

### Work-Based Learning Integration

**Employer Partnerships:** Consulting firms, professional services, SMEs

**Mentor Support:** Workplace mentor assigned for practical guidance

**Workplace Activities:**

• Client consulting projects

• Solution implementation support

• Transformation facilitation

### Learning Outcomes

**Knowledge:** Develop client assessment methodologies for sustainable finance disclosure regulation (sfdr) fundamentals within professional sustainability practice.

*Framework: GreenComp: 4.2 Envisioning*

**Skills:** Optimise client needs analysis for sustainable finance disclosure regulation (sfdr) fundamentals to support organisational sustainability objectives.

*Framework: e-CF: Risk Management - Level 3*

**Competence:** Manage complex situations in client engagement projects involving sustainable finance disclosure regulation (sfdr) fundamentals while ensuring professional standards and stakeholder value.

*Framework: e-CF: Product/Service Planning - Level 3*

## Learning Unit 9: Introduction to EU Sustainability Legislation

*This learning unit forms part of the Professional level in Level 6 Advanced Diploma in Digital Sustainability Consultancy*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **ECTS Credits** | 1 |
| **EQF Level** | 5 (Programme: 6) |
| **Total Workload** | 25 hours |
| **Contact Hours** | 8 hours |
| **Self-Study Hours** | 6 hours |
| **Workplace Hours** | 10 hours |
| **WBL Percentage** | 40.0% |
| **Thematic Area** | EU Legislation |

**Description:** Practical knowledge of European Union sustainability regulations affecting business operations

### Work-Based Learning Integration

**Employer Partnerships:** Consulting firms, professional services, SMEs

**Mentor Support:** Workplace mentor assigned for practical guidance

**Workplace Activities:**

• Client consulting projects

• Solution implementation support

• Transformation facilitation

### Learning Outcomes

**Knowledge:** Create solution design frameworks in introduction to eu sustainability legislation within professional sustainability practice.

*Framework: GreenComp: 2.2 Critical thinking*

**Skills:** Establish solution architecture design in introduction to eu sustainability legislation to support organisational sustainability objectives.

*Framework: e-CF: Product/Service Planning - Level 3*

**Competence:** Lead initiatives in consulting delivery responsibilities for introduction to eu sustainability legislation while ensuring professional standards and stakeholder value.

*Framework: e-CF: Architecture Design - Level 3*

## Learning Unit 10: Digital Circular Business Models

*This learning unit forms part of the Professional level in Level 6 Advanced Diploma in Digital Sustainability Consultancy*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **ECTS Credits** | 5 |
| **EQF Level** | 6 (Programme: 6) |
| **Total Workload** | 125 hours |
| **Contact Hours** | 43 hours |
| **Self-Study Hours** | 31 hours |
| **Workplace Hours** | 50 hours |
| **WBL Percentage** | 40.0% |
| **Thematic Area** | General |

**Description:** Design business models that leverage digital technologies for circular economy

### Work-Based Learning Integration

**Employer Partnerships:** Consulting firms, professional services, SMEs

**Mentor Support:** Workplace mentor assigned for practical guidance

**Workplace Activities:**

• Client consulting projects

• Solution implementation support

• Transformation facilitation

### Learning Outcomes

**Knowledge:** Synthesise implementation roadmapping for digital circular business models within professional sustainability practice.

*Framework: GreenComp: 3.3 Political agency*

**Skills:** Lead implementation facilitation of digital circular business models to support organisational sustainability objectives.

*Framework: e-CF: Architecture Design - Level 3*

**Competence:** Drive change in solution implementation leadership in digital circular business models while ensuring professional standards and stakeholder value.

*Framework: e-CF: Risk Management - Level 3*

## Learning Unit 11: Sustainable ICT Procurement and Policy

*This learning unit forms part of the Professional level in Level 6 Advanced Diploma in Digital Sustainability Consultancy*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **ECTS Credits** | 5 |
| **EQF Level** | 6 (Programme: 6) |
| **Total Workload** | 125 hours |
| **Contact Hours** | 43 hours |
| **Self-Study Hours** | 31 hours |
| **Workplace Hours** | 50 hours |
| **WBL Percentage** | 40.0% |
| **Thematic Area** | Management |

**Description:** Develop policies and practices for sustainable technology procurement

### Work-Based Learning Integration

**Employer Partnerships:** Consulting firms, professional services, SMEs

**Mentor Support:** Workplace mentor assigned for practical guidance

**Workplace Activities:**

• Client consulting projects

• Solution implementation support

• Transformation facilitation

### Learning Outcomes

**Knowledge:** Critically evaluate consulting best practices in sustainable ict procurement and policy within professional sustainability practice.

*Framework: GreenComp: 4.2 Envisioning*

**Skills:** Innovate advisory service delivery for sustainable ict procurement and policy to support organisational sustainability objectives.

*Framework: e-CF: Risk Management - Level 3*

**Competence:** Take accountability for advisory relationship management for sustainable ict procurement and policy while ensuring professional standards and stakeholder value.

*Framework: e-CF: Product/Service Planning - Level 3*

## Learning Unit 12: Large Language Prompt Design for Sustainability Data Science

*This learning unit forms part of the Professional level in Level 6 Advanced Diploma in Digital Sustainability Consultancy*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **ECTS Credits** | 5 |
| **EQF Level** | 6 (Programme: 6) |
| **Total Workload** | 125 hours |
| **Contact Hours** | 43 hours |
| **Self-Study Hours** | 31 hours |
| **Workplace Hours** | 50 hours |
| **WBL Percentage** | 40.0% |
| **Thematic Area** | Data |

**Description:** Design effective prompts for large language models applied to sustainability data contexts

### Work-Based Learning Integration

**Employer Partnerships:** Consulting firms, professional services, SMEs

**Mentor Support:** Workplace mentor assigned for practical guidance

**Workplace Activities:**

• Client consulting projects

• Solution implementation support

• Transformation facilitation

### Learning Outcomes

**Knowledge:** Formulate client assessment methodologies for large language prompt design for sustainability data science within professional sustainability practice.

*Framework: GreenComp: 2.2 Critical thinking*

**Skills:** Transform client needs analysis for large language prompt design for sustainability data science to support organisational sustainability objectives.

*Framework: e-CF: Product/Service Planning - Level 3*

**Competence:** Manage complex situations in client engagement projects involving large language prompt design for sustainability data science while ensuring professional standards and stakeholder value.

*Framework: e-CF: Architecture Design - Level 3*

## Learning Unit 13: Ethics and Governance in Digital Innovation

*This learning unit forms part of the Professional level in Level 6 Advanced Diploma in Digital Sustainability Consultancy*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **ECTS Credits** | 5 |
| **EQF Level** | 6 (Programme: 6) |
| **Total Workload** | 125 hours |
| **Contact Hours** | 43 hours |
| **Self-Study Hours** | 31 hours |
| **Workplace Hours** | 50 hours |
| **WBL Percentage** | 40.0% |
| **Thematic Area** | Ethics & Governance |

**Description:** Evaluate ethical implications of digital systems and ensure inclusive governance

### Work-Based Learning Integration

**Employer Partnerships:** Consulting firms, professional services, SMEs

**Mentor Support:** Workplace mentor assigned for practical guidance

**Workplace Activities:**

• Client consulting projects

• Solution implementation support

• Transformation facilitation

### Learning Outcomes

**Knowledge:** Develop solution design frameworks in ethics and governance in digital innovation within professional sustainability practice.

*Framework: GreenComp: 3.3 Political agency*

**Skills:** Optimise solution architecture design in ethics and governance in digital innovation to support organisational sustainability objectives.

*Framework: e-CF: Architecture Design - Level 3*

**Competence:** Lead initiatives in consulting delivery responsibilities for ethics and governance in digital innovation while ensuring professional standards and stakeholder value.

*Framework: e-CF: Risk Management - Level 3*

## Learning Unit 14: Circular Economy for Digital Systems

*This learning unit forms part of the Professional level in Level 6 Advanced Diploma in Digital Sustainability Consultancy*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **ECTS Credits** | 5 |
| **EQF Level** | 6 (Programme: 6) |
| **Total Workload** | 125 hours |
| **Contact Hours** | 43 hours |
| **Self-Study Hours** | 31 hours |
| **Workplace Hours** | 50 hours |
| **WBL Percentage** | 40.0% |
| **Thematic Area** | Circular Economy |

**Description:** Comprehensive circular economy principles and lifecycle thinking for sustainable digital system design and management

### Work-Based Learning Integration

**Employer Partnerships:** Consulting firms, professional services, SMEs

**Mentor Support:** Workplace mentor assigned for practical guidance

**Workplace Activities:**

• Client consulting projects

• Solution implementation support

• Transformation facilitation

### Learning Outcomes

**Knowledge:** Create implementation roadmapping for circular economy for digital systems within professional sustainability practice.

*Framework: GreenComp: 4.2 Envisioning*

**Skills:** Establish implementation facilitation of circular economy for digital systems to support organisational sustainability objectives.

*Framework: e-CF: Risk Management - Level 3*

**Competence:** Drive change in solution implementation leadership in circular economy for digital systems while ensuring professional standards and stakeholder value.

*Framework: e-CF: Product/Service Planning - Level 3*

Educational Curriculum Modeller (ECM) - Version 2.0 - July 10, 2025