

NEST Online Learning at a Glance

Framing, Governing and Facilitating Social Innovation Ecosystems for Healthy Living

Healthy living challenges are rarely caused by one factor or solved by one organisation. They are shaped by people, places, relationships, organisations, policies, resources and wider conditions. The NEST Social Innovation Ecosystem Course supports learners in understanding and contributing to local Social Innovation Ecosystems for Healthy Living (SIEHLs): place-based, action-oriented and continuously evolving communities of actors working collaboratively around locally defined complex healthy living challenges.

The Online Course provides a common, flexible learning foundation within the NEST learning journey. It is largely self-guided, but deliberately connected to practice. Learners are repeatedly invited to relate concepts, questions and resources to an actual or emerging SIEHL, or to a locally relevant healthy living challenge.

The course does not provide a blueprint for the 'perfect ecosystem'. It helps learners recognise what matters in a particular situation, explore different perspectives, make informed choices, use appropriate NEST resources and learn from what happens in practice.

Three interconnected dimensions

FRAMING	GOVERNING	FACILITATING
Understand the challenge, local social space, actors, relationships and wider conditions.	Develop governance that is flexible, enables collaboration, shared direction, participation and adaptation.	Create conditions for participation, dialogue, collaboration, learning, co-creation and shared ownership.

How the online learning works

The Online Course combines concise conceptual input with cases, reflection prompts, practical application, knowledge checks and links to the wider NEST resource base. Learners can follow the complete sequence, but they can also return to earlier modules when new questions emerge. This reflects the reality that ecosystem development is not linear.

- **Flexible & self-guided** | Move through the modules at a pace that fits your context and return when questions become relevant.
- **Evidence & practice-based** | Use concepts and evidence to make sense of authentic ecosystem situations rather than learning theory in isolation.
- **Connected to context** | Relate learning to your own SIEHL, professional practice or a locally relevant healthy living challenge.
- **Reflective & adaptive** | Notice what happens, question assumptions, learn from different perspectives and adapt.
- **Connected to NEST resources** | Move from the guided course into publications, canvases, facilitation activities and practical tools when useful.

The Online Learning Journey

An introductory module and eight interconnected core modules

0	Welcome to Our Learning Journey Choose a learning context, understand the learning approach and connect with the wider NEST resource base.
1	Healthy Living & Complex Challenges Explore why healthy living challenges are complex and why ecosystem approaches become relevant.
2	Social Innovation Ecosystems for Healthy Living Understand what a SIEHL is, how it differs from a project or network, and how stakeholders become ecosystem actors.
3	Understanding & Engaging Your Ecosystem Make the ecosystem visible, work with different knowledge and explore engagement, participation and empowerment.
4	Governing a SIEHL Explore shared direction, roles, decision-making, coordination and adaptive governance.
5	Facilitating Collaboration & Change Explore facilitation roles and conditions for participation, collaboration, learning, co-creation and productive tension.
6	Learning, Knowledge Creation & Reflexive Monitoring Turn individual insights into shared learning, collaborative knowledge creation and reflexive monitoring.
7	Sustaining & Continuously Developing the Ecosystem Revisit continuous readying and explore resources, financing and conditions that sustain the capacity to collaborate.
8	From Learning to Practice Bring learning together, identify what matters now and take the next step in your own ecosystem practice.

The modules provide orientation - not a linear model of ecosystem development.

A participation question may lead you back to how the challenge was framed. A governance issue may reveal a relationship challenge. Reflection on an activity may create new knowledge that changes what should happen next. Learners are encouraged to move forward, return, connect and adapt.

Learning in Complexity

Learning for situations that cannot be fully predicted in advance

NEST learning is designed for complex healthy living challenges and evolving ecosystem situations. Defined concepts and learning outcomes matter, but they are not the whole learning process. Important learning also emerges through interaction, experience, uncertainty, reflection and action.

UNDERSTANDING + EXPERIENCE + COLLABORATION +
APPLICATION + REFLECTION + ADAPTATION

- **Start from an authentic context** | Keep a real ecosystem, professional context or locally relevant healthy living challenge in mind.
- **Use questions, not only answers** | Uncertainty is not treated as failure. Useful questions and changing perspectives are part of learning.
- **Connect concepts with experience** | Use NEST concepts to interpret practice - and let practice challenge or refine your understanding.
- **Reflect on what emerges** | Notice relationships, participation, tensions, assumptions, unexpected developments and new possibilities.
- **Develop evaluative judgement** | Learn to judge what may be appropriate in a particular context rather than searching for one universally correct response.
- **Adapt and continue** | Use what you learn to inform what you do next. Ecosystem development and learning continue beyond course completion.

The aim is not simply to remember NEST content. It is to become increasingly able to recognise what matters, ask useful questions, make informed choices, select relevant resources and learn from experience.

Connecting Online Learning with Practice

Self-guided does not mean isolated from the ecosystem in practice

Online learning provides a common foundation, but NEST treats local SIEHL practice as a central learning environment in its own right. Real relationships, challenges, decisions and developments can trigger learning, provide material for reflection and create new questions for the course.

ONLINE LEARNING	LOCAL SIEHL PRACTICE	REFLECTION & SHARED LEARNING
Explore concepts, cases, questions and NEST resources.	Apply, observe, participate, facilitate and learn from real situations.	Make sense of what happened, compare perspectives and consider what may be useful next.

A recurring question throughout the course

What does this mean for our local ecosystem?

Learners are encouraged to use this question repeatedly. The answer may change as the ecosystem develops. That is part of the learning process. Experiences from practice can lead learners back to earlier modules, different NEST resources or new questions.

The wider NEST learning environment

The Online Course is complemented by an experiential Intensive Course, mentoring and learning in and through local SIEHL practice. These are not separate worlds: each can generate experiences and questions that enrich the others.

The wider NEST publications and Toolbox provide deeper conceptual foundations, governance and facilitation guidance, canvases, activities and resources. The Online Course acts as a guided pathway through this wider knowledge and practice base.

What Learners Take Forward

From course completion to continued ecosystem learning

By the end of the Online Course, learners have explored the interconnected foundations of framing, governing and facilitating local ecosystems. The final module helps learners look back, identify what matters in their own context, find relevant NEST resources and decide what to take forward into practice.

Core capabilities developed through the journey

- **Frame** | Make sense of complex healthy living challenges, local contexts, actors, relationships and different forms of knowledge.
- **Engage** | Support meaningful participation, inclusion, empowerment and movement towards shared ownership.
- **Govern** | Contribute to adaptive, collective and reflexive governance arrangements that enable collaboration.
- **Facilitate** | Create conditions for dialogue, participation, collaboration, learning, co-creation and constructive work with tension.
- **Learn together** | Make learning visible, create knowledge collaboratively and use reflexive monitoring to inform adaptation.
- **Sustain & develop** | Strengthen relationships, capabilities, resources and enabling conditions through continuous readying and ecosystem development.
- **Act & learn** | Take learning into practice, pay attention to what happens and use experience to inform what comes next.

Optional add-on learning

Add-on Module A: *Mentoring Ecosystem Facilitators* - for people supporting facilitators through reflective, context-sensitive mentoring that strengthens their own capacity to interpret, learn and adapt.

Add-on Module B: *Educating & Guiding Local Ecosystem Facilitators* - for educators and mentors designing contextualised, experiential learning journeys that value learner expertise and connect learning with practice.

The online journey is therefore both a course and an entry point into a wider NEST learning ecosystem.

Note: This Executive Summary is designed as an introduction to the NEST online learning platform. For the complete learning journey, use the NEST Social Innovation Ecosystem Online Course and the wider NEST course and publication suite.