Governance
Capacity
Development
Session Series

Strengthening Public Governance and Accelerating Innovation to Achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

United Nations | Department of Economic and Social Affairs

GRC Seoul National University

Co-organized by
UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs
& Seoul National University

Strengthening Public Governance and Accelerating Innovation to Achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

2 April ~ 25 June 2021,

Every Friday, 15:00 ~ 16:30 PM
(KST, GMT+9)

You are cordially invited to join a Governance Capacity Development Session Series on Strengthening Public Governance and Accelerating Innovation to Achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, co-organized by UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA), through its Division for Public Institutions and Digital Government (DPIDG) and the UN Project Office on Governance (UNPOG), and the Global Research & Development Business Center of Seoul National University (SNU GRC).

Target Audience

The target audience of this Governance Capacity Development Session Series includes:

- Government officials from countries in the Asia and Pacific and East Africa Regions, particularly those government officials working at national SDG focal points, public administration, ICT and innovation, digital transformation, smart city management, social inclusion, disaster risk reduction and building resilience;
- Graduate students enrolled in SNU ITPP Program who are actually mid-career government officials, professors, institute researchers, and bank officials from developing countries;
- All university students who are interested in UN SDGs and residing or studying in the Republic of Korea; and
- General audience who wishes to obtain the professional knowledge on SDGs and ESG approaches and principles.

Certificate of Attendance

Upon successful completion of this Governance Capacity Development Session Series, you will receive a Certificate of Attendance jointly issued by UN DESA and SNU GRC, which will be a valuable proof of acquiring in-depth knowledge on SDGs and ESG approaches for your professional practice.

Online Registration via Zoom

You can join the Governance Capacity Development Session Series through either ZOOM or YouTube with below links. When you are registered to the Session Series, you will be given a security code to access the training for receiving a Certificate of Attendance while YouTube will be open for general audience.

zoom for Registration

Via ZOOM: https://snu-ac-kr.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_AELAJxbUQJGz9hW1GsYvCA

Inquiry

If you may have difficulties to register through the weblink or any other queries, please contact us:

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- SNU GRC: Ms. Rosie Hyein Lee, hyein.lee@snu.ac.kr

Purpose

of the Governance Capacity Development Session Series

This Governance Capacity Development Training Session Series is to provide a common knowledge base to discuss and share general knowledge on the framework of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the critical importance of strengthening public governance and building effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels for SDG implementation. This Series provide a fundamental basis to understand and implement:

- Multi-level governance and the whole-of-government approach to address the integrated, indivisible and interlinked nature of SDGs and the importance of embracing ESG approaches to better address interlinkages, synergies and trade-offs between the Goals and targets;
- The ESG approaches and its synergy with the overarching framework of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;
- Infusing ESG approaches into Smart City development and realization of sustainable city governance;
- Strategies and approaches to accelerating digital transformation for SDG implementation and sustainable and resilient recovery from COVID-19;
- Innovation for inclusive and participatory governance and leveraging digital technologies for inclusion of vulnerable groups, particularly by addressing the digital divide and promoting digital inclusion;
- Data governance for effective use of open data and big data analytics in the context of combating COVID-19;
- Public-Private-People partnership - with focus on ESG approaches - to accelerate SDG implementation;
- Fostering global start-ups and enhancing entrepreneurship education for SDG implementation;
- Facilitation of peer-to-peer learning and building partnership among participants on innovation for realizing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development including open innovation for digital transformation as well as integrating ESG approaches in public governance and sustainable finance; and
- Building a knowledge base on strengthening public governance and accelerating innovation - with focus on ESG approaches - for realizing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Governance Capacity
Development Session Series

Schedule

Date	Theme and Speakers
2 April Friday, 15:00 ~ 16:30	Opening
	The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and SDG 16 as a Cross-Cutting Enabler of all SDGs
9 April Friday, 15:00 ~ 16:30	Infusing ESG into Smart City Development and Realization of Sustainable City Governance
16 April Friday, 15:00 ~ 16:30	Accelerating Digital Transformation for SDG Implementation and Sustainable and Resilient Recovery from COVID-19
23 April Friday, 15:00 ~ 16:30	Making Digital Transformation and ESG Compatible and Mutually Reinforcing
30 April Friday, 15:00 ~ 16:30	Strengthening Data Governance for Effective Use of Open Data and Big Data Analytics – in the context of combating COVID-19
07 May Friday, 15:00 ~ 16:30	Fostering Public-Private-People Partnership to Accelerate SDG Implementation, with Focus on ESG
21 May Friday, 15:00 ~ 16:30	Innovating Public Governance and Leveraging Digital Technologies for Inclusion of Vulnerable Groups
04 June Friday, 15:00 ~ 16:30	Establishing Strong Foundation of ESG Practice in Green Leadership & Technology Innovation
18 June Friday, 15:00 ~ 16:30	Risk-informed Governance and Leveraging Technologies for Disaster Risk Reduction and Building Resilience
25 June Friday, 15:00 ~ 16:30	Fostering Global Start-ups and Enhancing Entrepreneurship Education for SDG Implementation
	Closing

Background and Context

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is a global plan of action to drive economic prosperity and social well-being while protecting the environment. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development recognizes "the need to build peaceful, just and inclusive societies that provide equal access to justice and that are based on respect for human rights (including the right to development), on effective rule of law and good governance at all levels and on transparent, effective and accountable institutions" (A/RES/70/1, para. 35). Furthermore, the Principles for Effective Governance for Sustainable Development, adopted by the United Nations Committee of Experts on Public Administration in its resolution 2018/12 and endorsed in 2019 by the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), highlight the need for pragmatic ongoing improvements in national and local governance capabilities to achieve 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and other international agreements[1].

The critical role of public institutions, as laid out in Goal 16 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, is a cross-cutting enabler for the achievement of all the other goals. Without

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1) See Principles of effective governance for sustainable development. E/2018/44-E/C.16/2018/8

effective, inclusive and accountable institutions there can be no progress in the delivery of services such as health, education, clean water and sanitation, transportation, among others. The SDGs and the commitments contained in the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, the Small Island Developing States Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and other agreements adopted by UN Member States are interrelated and mutually reinforcing. As they need to be implemented in a complementary and synergistic way, public institutions need new capacities and knowledge to provide integrated support to implementation of these global agendas. Current governance models and capacities need to be transformed to embrace the holistic, universal and inclusive principles of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, such as leaving no one behind, while effectively addressing the risks and obstacles to the SDG achievement.

We need strong public institutions at all levels to foster new ways of working and thinking such as the Environment, Social and Governance (ESG) approaches that can build on the SDGs. Despite the fact that the ESG approaches are not officially endorsed by the UN, the adoption of ESG approaches in private investments is evolving from a risk management practice to a driver of innovation and new opportunities that create long-term value for business and society. Promoting ESG approaches throughout the investment value chain can encourage greater private investment in sustainable development, resulting in greater impact[2)]. Public institutions should be equipped with new capacities, including referring to the ESG approaches, to ensure more responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making processes and better address interlinkages, synergies and trade-offs between the Goals and targets through a whole-of-government for policy coherence and a whole-of-society approach for effective partnership to pursue sustainable development.

In general, the ESG approaches aim to realize economic achievements while considering positive social and environmental outcomes and promoting good governance practices. The ESG approaches should be internalized in transitioning towards more sustainable, inclusive and resilient societies. Understanding how the SDGs are interlinked with the ESG approaches could make for better policies and more effective action to realize 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

2) UN Global Compact. https://www.unglobalcompact.org/take-action/action/private-sustainability-finance

Meanwhile, public sector must innovate to respond to increasing demands from citizens for quality public services and build citizen trust in government. Public sector innovation can be defined as the implementation by a public sector organization of new or significantly improved products, services or ways of doing things, either within the structure of the public sector itself or in the way in which public services are provided (OECD, 2005). The typology of innovations in the public sector could include service innovations, service delivery innovations, administrative and organizational innovations, conceptual innovations, policy innovations and systematic innovations. Much of the discussions on public sector innovations have focused on innovative approaches in service delivery which has been driven by ICTs and digital government coupled with better partnerships with citizens, civil society and the private sector. It is important that government expands its focus to other dimensions of innovations, beyond the currently predominating discussions on innovative public service delivery via ICT. Government should attempt to fully apply and foster different innovations in public sector in a multi-dimensional approach, as an essential endeavour to build effective, accountable and inclusive public institutions at all levels and achieve SDG implementation.

More recently, with social distancing and quarantine measures underway to contain the COVID-19, digital solutions by leveraging ICTs and digital government have become critical to delivering essential public services and keeping people informed and engaged. Digital government, highly reliant on real-time data and analytics and full data sharing across government institutions and among stakeholders, has enabled governments to prioritize and make rapid policy decisions, streamline institutional coordination and business processes, and empower local authorities to address COVID-19 at frontline. Actually, the COVID-19 crisis also provided an unprecedented opportunity for government to accelerate digital transformation and digital economy development, as all governments are confronted with the significant challenges of revitalizing the economy, mitigating hardships of people, especially of vulnerable groups, and reducing social tensions.

At the same time, it is imperative that government promotes inclusion and ensures leaving no one behind to accelerate the implementation of the SDGs. The COVID-19 has underscored the importance of promoting social inclusion of vulnerable groups as they are disproportionately hit by the crisis. Public institutions shall take into full consideration the unique vulnerabilities and special needs of vulnerable groups such as women, youth, persons with disabilities, older persons, and migrants and refugees. Despite the widely agreed and recognized importance of inclusion, countries often have no capacities to implement leaving no one behind in practice. Promoting inclusive governance through multi-stakeholder engagement and participation is therefore of significant concern when the process and impact of pursuing transformation and innovation may entail further marginalization of these vulnerable groups due to their lack of financial resources, technical capacities, and information.

Organizers

UN DESA/DPIDG/UNPOG

UN DESA holds up the development pillar of the UN Secretariat and works to promote the social, economic and environmental dimensions of sustainable development. UN DESA promotes capacity development as a link between global and regional processes and development at the country level. The mandate of DPIDG is to assist Member States in fostering effective, efficient, transparent, accountable, innovative and citizen-centered public governance, administration and services for sustainable development. United Nations Project Office on Governance (UNPOG), as an integral part of UN DESA/DPIDG, is mandated to address the strengthening of the capacities of public administration in Asia and the Pacific and Eastern Africa to translate the SDGs and other internationally agreed goals into institutional arrangements, strategies and programmes at country level

Seoul National University –Global R&DB Center/ Institute for Sustainable Development

Seoul National University(SNU), Seoul, Korea was founded in 1946 as the first national university of Korea. In the aspect of its global standing, SNU has been the leading institute in higher education in Korea as it places 37st in the world, 14th Asia by QS World University Rankings as of 2020 for instance (http://en.snu.ac.kr/global-standing). With its well-established recognition, SNU has 15 Colleges, 1 Graduate School, and 12 Professional Schools with 5,533 faculty members dedicated to honoring public service and pioneering knowledge. In addition, SNU's research performance has been acknowledge globally 13th in terms of SCI Paper publications. In SNU there are 27,784 enrolled students, 16,556 undergraduates and 11,228 graduate as of April, 2019. To ensure that excellent faculty members and students develop their academic careers better, SNU provides more learning opportunities than ever for both domestic and international students from basic studies to convergence science.

The Seoul National University Global Research & Development Business Center(GRC) is a state-designated institute under Seoul National University. GRC has a global R&DB cooperation platform based on an international Science & ICT Innovation professional's network which has been firmly and actively established through the International Technology Professional Program (ITPP) since its start in 2003. As of 2020, GRC's international ICT professional's network consists of more than 341 Science & ICT policy professionals from over 78 countries. GRC aims to reinforce the future of Science & ICT innovation on a global level with its experience and resources. GRC is continuously building strategic national, regional and global partnerships with various stakeholders in the development of value-added Science and ICT innovation.

Themes

for the Governance Capacity Development Session Series

1 The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and SDG 16 as a Cross-Cutting Enabler of all SDGs

This Session will introduce the framework of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Developmentand the integrated, indivisible, and interlinked nature of SDGs, and the importance of strengthening institutional coordination and policy coherence for SDG implementation. The Session will also discuss the Principles of Effective Governance for Sustainable Development, which is to guide countries on how to build effective, accountable, and inclusive institutions, to achieve the shared vision for people and the planet embodied in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The Principles are constructed to support countries in operationalizing the institutional aspects of SDG 16 through concrete strategies. This Session will also introduce the critical role of SDG 16 as a cross-cutting enabler for all other SDGs, focusing on building effective, inclusive, and accountable public institutions.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development provides a practical framework for mainstreaming the Economic, Social, and Governance (ESG) aspects of public and private sectors. This Session will explore how SDGs can align ESG values with broader societal, environmental, and governance goals.

2 Infusing ESG Principles into Smart City Development and Sustainable City Governance

3) https://www.unfpa.org/urbanization

The world is undergoing the largest wave of urban growth in history. More than half of the world's population now lives in towns and cities, and by 2030 this number will swell to about 5 billion[3]. The importance of cities is enshrined in global development agendas, particularly the New Urban Agenda, the Paris Agreement and Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction. And , the role of cities is prominently highlighted in Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 11 and the urban dimensions of the SDGs. The whole spectrum of city planning, building design, architecting basic civic infrastructure, and organizing and implementing such plans should be fully framed and guided by the totality of elevation of citizen values, environmental and ecosystem protection, safety and security, health, life-long talent developmsent, open business opportunities, social transparency, gender equality, respect for minor groups, and enriched cultural openness. In order to ensure that the urbanization could lead to building more climate-resilient, sustainable, inclusive and continuously improving societies, the smart city development should be fully framed and guided by an integrated and balanced benchmarking process, which could be measured by a set of indicators including the elevation of citizen values, environmental and ecosystem protection, safety and security, health, life-long talent development, open business opportunities, social transparency, gender equality, respect for minor groups, and the enriched cultural openness. For fulfilling this objective and making the cities of the future smarter and more sustainable, the ESG principles and approaches should be applied to Smart City development.

This Session will focus on how the principles and framework of ESG can be applied to the whole Smart City implementation projects through infusing the spirit, the core principles and the best practices of ESG into envisioning, planning, architecting, and implementing such Smart Cities. This Session will also cover how the Smart City management, based on ESG principles, can be governed through establishing the holistic framework with engagement of all stakeholders including municipal agencies, civic service entities, civil society organizations, private sector and citizens.

3 Accelerating Digital Transformation for SDG implementation and Sustainable and Resilient Recovery from COVID-19

Innovation in public service delivery and effective engagement of all stakeholders are key to SDG implementation. This Session will introduce the regional and global digital government development based on the UN E-Government Survey, the major barriers to digital government development including digital divide and digital exclusion and share knowledge about effective strategies for advancing digital government and accelerating digital transformation for a sustainable and resilient recovery from COVID-19.

The COVID-19 crisis also provided an unprecedented opportunity for Government to accelerate digital transformation and digital economy development, as all governments are confronted with the significant challenges of revitalizing the economy, mitigating hardships of people, especially of vulnerable groups, and reducing social tensions.

The Session will also share lessons learned and exchanging good practices in fostering private partnership with ICT business sector and individuals as well as international partnership with tech giants and among governments for open innovations and solutions to facilitate digital transformation on national, regional and global levels.

4 Making Digital Transformation and ESG Compatible and Mutually Reinforcing

The essential value of advanced technologies including digital technologies is the improvement and enhancement of human values and enabling conditions needed thereof. Through significant achievement of technological enhancement in those areas of Big Data, AI, AR/VR, IoT, Blockchain, robotics, and mobile communication including 5G, people now have tools to dramatically improve environment, industries, businesses, education, culture, social services, transportation, and person-to-person connections. While, such digital technologies render a big range of opportunities to improve and advance human well-beings, there should be clear and basic consideration that should be applied to the development and implementation of such digital technologies based on ESG.

This Session will provide opportunities to explore how the development of digital technologies and their practical applications and implementation can be shaped in ways to ensure that they contribute to the improvement rather than deterioration or infringement of human well-beings, according to the framework and principles of ESG. Moreover, this Session will try to shed a light on a new path on how the ESG principles can provide new insights for those group of digital technology communities on discovering and exploring inspirational ideas to drive digital technologies to be architected and developed in a way to be accepted and welcomed by more people through providing much bigger social values as well as covering important basic human services.

5 Strengthening Data Governance for Effective Use of Open Data and Big Data Analytics – in the Context of COVID-19

All governments have fully recognized the importance of data-driven decision-making, but unfortunately most of them have not yet developed effective strategies for data governance. Despite remarkable progress in open government data initiatives by many countries, there are still many barriers and challenges for government to share their data with public due to concerns of national security or protection of data privacy. Since early 2020, governments have been highly dependent on all data including official statistics, administrative data, open data and big data analytics for decision-making and actions to address the COVID-19 pandemic. These data allow governments to set priorities and adjust their decisions quickly and effectively in response to rapidly evolving COVID-19 situations. Open data and big data analytics, particularly through Artificial Intelligence (AI) platforms and data visualization tools, are empowering governments to predict virus mutations, track virus spread in real-time, and identify medications for treating COVID-19. Governments are using big data analytics to get prepared, react effectively, and develop both short-term and long-term strategies.

This Session will introduce the strategies and approaches to strengthening data governance for effective use of open data and big data analytics for anticipatory governance and data-driven and evidence-based policy making including effective combating COVID-19. Particularly, this Session will address increasing public concerns about data privacy and security and public mistrust in data collection, use and dissemination by government, business and relevant non-government institutions. This Session will underscore the importance of adopting a holistic and whole-of-government approach to data governance to enhance public trust and support institutional coordination, mobilize concerted actions, and streamline government operations as a whole.

6 Fostering Public-Private-People Partnership to Accelerate the Accomplishment of SDG, with Focus on ESG

The 2020 SDG Progress Report finds "continued unevenness of progress" and identifies areas where significant improvement is required. Progress was stalled or reversed on the number of people suffering from hunger, the rate of climate change, and increasing inequalities[4)]. The vulnerable groups suffer most from the disasters including the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, which left them further behind. Focused efforts to fill up the SDG and ESG awareness gap among people and private sector is critical in realizing a better world for everyone. Yet, there is a big gap between all these important efforts and the awareness of SDG and ESG among general public. To address the uneven progress of SDG implementation and rising inequalities among countries and within the country, it is import for government to integrate the ESG principles in national development strategies for sustainable development. Meanwhile, for realizing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, all governments should mobilize whole-of-society efforts and build effective partnership with private sector, civil society organizations and people themselves.

This Session will sensitize and promote the roadmap for achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development - based on ESG approach - among public sector as well as private sector and people. This Session will also addrss the interlinkages between the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the ESG approach, which includes ideating methods and mechanisms of such linkage as well as in devising actual actions to mobilize and engage people and private sector into partnership that are scalable and speedy to enhance global efforts.

4) Report of the Secretary-General: Progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals

Innovating Public Governance and Leveraging Digital Technologies for Inclusion of Vulnerable Groups

Ensuring no one is left behind is the overarching principle of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Most of the SDGs are linked to the delivery of inclusive and equitable public services, which are especially critical for vulnerable groups. The COVID-19 pandemic has further marginalized vulnerable groups and exacerbated their vulnerabilities. This calls for innovation for inclusiveness of vulnerable groups, requiring new ideas and concepts, processes and mechanisms in policy design and service delivery to effectively address complex and special needs of vulnerable groups and promote their empowerment.

This Session will introduce innovative approaches, strategies and practices to promoting inclusive and participatory governance to engage vulnerable groups in policy designing, implementation and monitoring and reviewing processes. The Session will also examine how leveraging digital technologies can foster inclusion and empowerment of vulnerable groups, particularly by enabling inclusive public service delivery and enhancing social and economic participation of vulnerable groups. This part will also address the important concern of the digital divide, which often causes further marginalization of the vulnerable groups who do not have access to digital technologies or lack capacities to harness them, and how to promote digital inclusion.

Establishing Strong Foundation of ESG Practice in Green Leadership & Technology Innovation

Transformational leadership is key to transitioning ito the new paradigm of resilience, sustainability, equity and new economic growth. It is thus important for leaders to change their mindset with new way of thinking such as design thinking and system thinking in delivering on Sustainable Development Goals. Building globally responsible approach in leaders' mind is crucial for realizing the global transformation into the new paradigm and ultimately making this transformation reach every small corner of the global community. In this context, leading the ESG-based technological evolution is absolutely required during the transition. Softwarization, modularization, intelligentification, electrification, ecosystemization and platformization of all technologies available are critical in formulating right solutions that can fit into regional, national, or communal contexts and needs. Moreover, leaders' role in leading this process is key in building digital green societies.

This Session will seek for inspiring leaders' vision for designing the big framework of changes for the whole society and foster technology innovation with approaches that are aligned with the values, principles and practices of ESG, and meanwhile enhancing leaders' capability in leading important changes for the global, regional, national, and local community. Special focus shall be made on incentizing leaders to envision, establish, lead and realize technological innovation for realizing truly meaningful transformation of societies and on exploring opportunities of infusing ESG values into the evolution and advancement of technologies.

9

Risk-informed Governance and Leveraging Innovative Technology for Disaster Risk Reduction and Building Resilience

Reducing disaster risk and building resilience are interrelated thrusts of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR). The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development recognizes and reaffirms the urgent need to reduce the risk of disasters. The successful implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development will, in part, be measured by progress in implementation of DRR. The Sendai Framework calls on governments to move towards risk-informed governance arrangements that include a broader hazard and risk scope and incorporate the concept of systemic risk. The Priority 2 of the Sendai Framework in particular calls for strengthening disaster risk governance to manage disaster risk. Innovative technology including digital and frontier technologies are key drivers for ensuring DRR and building resilient communities. Risk-informed approach to governance requires extensive collaboration and ownership from various partners, including multiple agencies within governments. It is the foundation for mainstreaming risk into development policy and practice for more effective management of climate change and disaster risks.

This Session will explore how risk-informed governance and innovative technology can be leveraged for DRR and building resilience. This Session will also highlight some innovative practices on how risk-informed governance and innovative technology could contribute to DRR and building resilience.

10

Fostering Global Start-ups and Enhancing Entrepreneurship Education for SDG Implementation

New entrepreneurs for the new society requires a new mindset cultivated with aspirations for global solidarity and prosperity for all and everyone. Fundamental basis of education for new generations on business and entrepreneurship should include SDGs and ESG on top of all other technological or business management principles and theories. The next generation business leaders should possess ability of maintaining the equilibrium of inclusive economic growth, social equity and environmental sustainability. Entrepreneurs and start-up business leaders educated and shaped with the mindset of SDGs and ESG shall form the backbone of societies that can lead sustainable social progress and improvement that can benefit all.

This Session will present the basic reasons why a new educational model, based on SDGs and ESG, for entrepreneurs and start-up business seekers is needed and explain how such educational model can be mainstreamed and implemented in actual academic courses and programmes in a real university, vocational and/or social environment. As well, best practical models of turning the themes and knowledge of ESG into educational contents will be explored and discussed, providing participants with opportunities of discovering and developing creative and innovative ideas on the schemes, methods, content, modalities and outcomes of the new start-up and entrepreneurship education