SSI/SAQ education to develop responsible citizenship towards socio-political action

Ways to deal with controversies and needs for transitions

MC Knippels & L Simonneaux

Socio-Scientific Issues (SSIs) and Socially Acute Questions (SAQs) such as climate change, biodiversity loss, new diseases... present complex, contentious, and multidisciplinary challenges deeply intertwined with scientific, social, economic, and ethical dimensions. These issues, often the subject of debates and media attention, highlight the intersection of scientific development, societal governance, and ethical considerations. As wicked problems, they necessitate political action and decision-making for resolution. Therefore, biology education plays a crucial role in fostering responsible citizenship by equipping students with the skills to engage with these complex issues and take informed and effective action. To face this stake, we will discuss important goals, related challenges (e.g. eco-anxiety) and didactical approaches for biology education.