



Supplementary Figure S1. Number of ESD publications from 2016 to 2022 without including the records from the journal of *Sustainability*, given their disproportionately high productivity. The exact values of publications in each year are labeled adjacent to the points.

Supplementary Table S1. Pearson's correlation analysis between number of ESD publications and average education level by countries.

Variables	Degree of Freedom	t value	p-value
Number of ESD publications, Average education level in 2020 [@]	110	3.9559	0.0001***
Number of ESD publications, Average education level in 2025 [@]	110	3.8743	0.0002***

[@]: Average educational level is defined by the percentage of adults (age 15 or higher) who have completed post-secondary education by country. Data obtained from [108], and the data in 2025 are based on their estimation.

***: $p < 0.001$.