



## **United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Steering Committee on Education for Sustainable Development**

Tenth meeting of UNECE Steering Committee on Education for Sustainable Development  
8-9 June 2015

Agenda Item 10: Other business

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### **Information Paper 5**

**Issue for discussion: Contributing to the implementation of the United Nations System-wide Action Plan on Gender Equality**

Prepared by the UNECE Secretariat

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<sup>1</sup> This document was not formally edited.

### **Summary of background and future actions**

- In 2012 a UN System wide Action Plan was adopted which is to be applied throughout the UN system
- The aim was for UN to have a set of common measures with which to measure progress in its gender-related work, including the mainstreaming of the gender perspective across all its operations.
- Against this background, each programme, including ESD Strategy, has to report on how it contributes to strengthening gender equality on a regular basis.
- While the UNECE Strategy for ESD identifies gender equality as a core theme of ESD and asks countries to report on the work they are doing to support gender equality in the mandatory national reporting, no work has yet been done on regional level on supporting countries in their efforts to address gender through ESD.
- However there exist good examples and materials in and beyond the UNECE region available on addressing gender equality through ESD
- The Bureau at its last meeting on 10 February 2015 decided that the secretariat **should make a 3<sup>rd</sup> effort** to work on collecting / sharing good practices related to gender equality in ESD
- Options include: good practice collection and uploading on the web/ roundtable at next Steering Committee meeting / newsletter special on available materials on this topic / other

### ***Introduction***

In 2012, a UN System-Wide Action Plan on Gender Equality and Women Empowerment was adopted which is applied throughout the UN system. Since then, as part of the Action Plan, the UNECE Strategy for ESD is asked to report on how it contributes to strengthening gender equality.

The UNECE Strategy for ESD identifies gender equality as a key theme for Education for Sustainable Development. Following this mandate, the Secretariat has launched in 2013 a call for sharing good practices in promoting gender equality through ESD and encouraged to use the established secure online working space for sharing information on gender in ESD. However, by December 2014 hardly any cases of good practices/resources were submitted to the Secretariat indicating that so far no work has been carried out on regional level to support countries in their efforts to address gender equality through ESD.

### ***Summary of the previous reporting results***

#### **Reported by UNECE Strategy for ESD to UN Gender Programme in 2013**

At its 13th meeting, the Bureau of the UNECE Steering Committee for ESD discussed the possibility to adapt the toolkit for promoting gender equality in education, developed by UNESCO Bangkok, for the UNECE region. The Bureau decided, however, to launch instead a call for sharing good practices in promoting gender equality through ESD. Following this mandate, the secretariat invited members and observers of the Steering Committee for ESD to share such good practices and moreover, established a secure online working space for sharing information on gender in ESD. A limited number of good practices/resources were submitted by December 2013. The Secretariat will re-circulate the call for good practices in early 2014, with a view to presenting the outcomes of the collection at the Steering

Committee's 9th meeting under Agenda item 1 (a) Implementing the third phase of the UNECE Strategy for Education for Sustainable Development: 1 (a) Member States' progress and 2013/2014 champions.

Reported by UNECE Strategy for ESD to UN Gender Programme in 2014

At its 14th meeting, the Bureau of the UNECE Steering Committee for ESD discussed the possibility of addressing the promotion of gender equality in education for sustainable development at the 9th meeting of the Steering Committee on ESD. The Bureau decided, however, not to include the issue in the Steering Committee meeting's agenda, but to re-circulate instead a call for sharing good practices in promoting gender equality through ESD. Following this mandate, the secretariat re-invited members and observers of the Steering Committee for ESD to share such good practices and encouraged to use the established secure online working space for sharing information on gender in ESD. A limited number of good practices/resources were submitted by December 2014. The secretariat will raise the issue again at the upcoming 15<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Bureau to be held on 10 February 2015.

***Bureau's decision at its 15th meeting on 10 February 2015 and the way forward***

Following the existing reporting obligation on gender-related issues, the Bureau has mandated the Secretariat to launch a call for member countries to report on what are they doing generally in education sector on gender equality and equity (in society, in the government) and to invite the Steering Committee members and observers to provide their contributions on the issue.

Following this mandate, the secretariat has **asked** the members and observers of the UNECE Steering Committee to send to the secretariat examples of **good practices and success stories related to gender equality in the education sector**. It was agreed that the **outcomes of resource collection would be shared** at the forthcoming 10th Steering Committee meeting.

- **The Steering Committee will be invited to have a further discussion** on how might be a reasonable way **to connect the broader effort** that is going on in education sector regarding gender equality more directly and specifically **to ESD and decide on further steps**.

If agreed, the secretariat will upload on the website the provided inputs which need to be presented in the unified format (1–1,5 pp.) including the summary of achievements. The template with reporting format will be sent out to the Steering Committee members before the end of June 2015.

### ***Outcomes of resource collection: List of countries/organisations and provided inputs***

(received in the form of text or pdf files, links to documents and projects on the web in Eng. and/or national languages)

#### **Austria**

- Austrian Federal Ministry for Education and Women's Affairs on Gender Equality: link to the Ministry's basic decree; a list of competencies; some teaching examples how to promote these competencies; references to the school curricula (Lehrplanbezüge) of all levels; 2 articles in Germ. and/or Eng.
- Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management: information about four gender projects "Good practices in promoting gender equality through ESD"
- The Academy of Fine Arts Vienna: the project „Gender Equality NOW!”

#### **Finland:**

- Ministry of Education and Culture: information (legal acts) about Gender equality in Finland on national level.

#### **Germany**

- German Commission for UNESCO: a selection of activities/initiatives by the German Government and other stakeholders promoting gender equality in education in Germany.

#### **Hungary**

- Ministry of Agriculture of Hungary: information about a relevant project by the Association of Hungarian Women in Science, which is starting just now in Hungary "I-plan Smartfuture for girls"

#### **Kyrgyzstan**

- RCE KG: success story based on the project implemented in 2011-2012 «Gender Sensitivity to Democratic Values of Rural Population of Issyk-Kul Oblast through ESD principles» (also presentation for the SC meeting).

#### **Moldova**

- Ministry of Environment: some information about gender equality addressed in normative and legislative acts and some data on the number of students in education system broken down by gender.

#### **Montenegro**

- Ministry of Sustainable Development and Tourism: some information on Best case examples related to gender equality in education sector in Montenegro in 2014 with the link to the government website in national language.

#### **Sweden**

- Ministry of Education and Research: some information on good practices and success stories related to gender and equality in the education sector in Sweden.

### **Switzerland**

- Federal Office for the Environment FOEN: links to Swiss projects related to gender equality in the education sector;
- Information about the project “Gender-Sensitive Development of Environmental Professions” to be supported in 2015/2016 by the Federal Office for the Environment FOEN and the Federal Office for Gender Equality FOGE.

### **Ukraine**

- State Ecological Academy of Postgraduate Education and Management under the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of Ukraine: reference to the national experience on incorporating gender component in education.

### **UNESCO**

- Links to good practices and success stories on gender equality in education, as well as to the relevant reports and studies.