



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

Eleventh meeting of UNECE Steering Committee on Education for Sustainable Development
15-16 February 2016

Agenda Item 6: Round table: mainstreaming gender issues in education for sustainable development

Information Paper 2

Round table: mainstreaming gender issues in education for sustainable development

Prepared by the UNECE Secretariat

¹ This document was not formally edited.

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 15th meeting of the Bureau to be held on 10 February 2015.

Reported by UNECE Strategy for ESD to UN Gender Programme in 2015

The secretariat raised the issue again at the Bureau meeting held on 10 February 2015. The Bureau had mandated the secretariat to launch a call for member States to report on what they were doing generally in the education sector on gender equality and equity, and to invite the Steering Committee members and observers to provide their contributions on the issue. Following this mandate, the secretariat had accordingly asked Committee members and observers to send examples of good practices and success stories related to gender equality in the education sector to be shared at the tenth Steering Committee meeting.

At the tenth meeting of the Steering Committee, held on 8-9 June 2015, the secretariat presented the outcome of that call for information, with responses received from 10 countries and 1 observer organization, including web-links to documents and projects available on the web in English and/or national languages. The Steering Committee was then invited to further discuss how to connect the broader effort in the education sector to ensure gender equality more directly and specifically to ESD and to decide on further steps. Following the discussion, the Steering Committee requested the secretariat to upload the inputs provided on the Committee's website before the eleventh meeting to be presented in the unified format of one to one-and-a-half pages. A simple template with the reporting format was sent out to the Steering Committee members before end June 2015. The inputs received were uploaded on the web page of the eleventh meeting of the Steering Committee at the following link:

<http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=41587#/>. It was also agreed to organize a round table at the eleventh Steering Committee meeting to be held on 15-16 February 2016 to share experiences and achievements in the area.

Round table organized in the framework of 11th meeting of the Steering Committee and the way forward

At the round table, the secretariat will inform on the result of collection of inputs provided by the member States in the framework of reporting under the United Nations System-wide Action Plan on Gender Equality for the previous 10th meeting and also additional inputs provided for the current 11th meeting of the Steering Committee.

The latest collection of inputs in the form of the completed templates has added up in receiving inputs from the four additional countries besides the good practice cases received for the previous 10th meeting.

Altogether, 14 members States and 1 observer organization have sent their examples of good practices in the education sector and/or specifically ESD. List of countries who have shared with the Steering Committee the examples of good practices in promoting gender equality through ESD and/or education are the following:

Austria, Belgium-Flanders, Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Republic of Kyrgyzstan, Republic of Moldova, Montenegro, Sweden, Switzerland, Ukraine and UNESCO.

The Steering Committee members and observers will be invited to share their experiences in the area of mainstreaming gender issues in the education sector in general and specifically in ESD and make presentations on their achievements.

- The Steering Committee **will be invited to have a further discussion on possible connections** between the ongoing broader effort in education sector regarding gender equality, on one hand, and UNECE ESD process, on another hand.