

Economic Commission for Europe

Committee on Environmental Policy

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

Virtual consultation meeting

7 May 2020 (am)

Item 13 of the provisional agenda

Publications on education for sustainable development from the Economic Commission for Europe region

Information note No. 4

Following the decision of the 14th meeting of UNECE Steering committee on ESD (May 2019), it was planned to publish two publications in 2021:

- 1) “Progress report on implementing the UNECE Strategy for ESD from 2015 to 2020 and good practice examples” (to be submitted for translation in the 1st quarter of 2021) and
- 2) “Good practice examples on youth engagement in ESD in UNECE region” (to be finalised by the end of 2020 and to be published sometime in 2021).

Below you will find draft proposals for the two above publications regarding the content and structure.

NOTE: The proposals below are suggestions from the Chair and the secretariat, as a basis for discussion

DRAFT PROPOSAL FOR THE FIRST PUBLICATION

“Progress report on implementing the UNECE Strategy for ESD from 2015 to 2020 and good practice examples”

Version A.

Proposed title: *Progress report on implementing the UNECE Strategy for ESD from 2017 to 2020 and good practice examples*

Purpose: The purpose of this publication is to give an overview on the progress that has been achieved by UNECE Member States during Phase IV of implementation of UNECE Strategy for ESD (2017-2019), as well as to review and discuss, on the basis of the analysis of the member States' national implementation reports (NIRs), the challenges and obstacles encountered, but also the main axes of Strategy's orientation for the period from 2020 to 2030. At the same time, it seeks to present case studies from the member States, highlighting good practice examples of the Strategy's implementation at the national level.

Draft proposed content

Introduction

Chapter 1: BACKGROUND

Chapter 2: Methodology

Chapter 3: MAJOR FINDINGS

Chapter 4: PROGRESS TOWARDS MEETING THE STRATEGY'S OBJECTIVES

- Issue 1: Policy, regulatory and operational frameworks that support the promotion of ESD
 - Cases studies (3)
- Issue 2: The promotion of sustainable development through formal, non-formal and informal learning
 - Case studies (3)
- Issue 3: Equipping educators with the competence to include sustainable development in their teaching
 - Case studies (3)
- Issue 4: ESD tools and materials
 - Case studies (3)
- Issue 5: Promote research on and development of ESD
 - Case studies (3)
- Issue 6: Strengthen cooperation on ESD at all levels within the ECE region
 - Case studies (3)
- Issue 7: Foster conservation, use and promotion of knowledge of indigenous peoples, as well as local and traditional knowledge, in ESD
 - Case studies (3)

Chapter 5: THE FUTURE OF ESD ACROSS THE REGION

- Challenges and obstacles encountered in the implementation of the Strategy for ESD
- Opportunities for advancing the implementation of ESD into the future
- Placing ESD at the core of SDGs and educational systems

Version B.

Proposed title: *Progress report on implementing the UNECE Strategy for ESD from 2017 to 2020 and its future in the post-pandemic era (2020-2030)*

(an alternative publication inspired by emerging ideas for post-pandemic period)

Purpose: The purpose of this publication is to give an overview on the progress that has been achieved by UNECE Member States during Phase IV of implementation of UNECE Strategy for ESD (2017-2019), as well as to critically examine and discuss, on the basis of the analysis of the member States' national implementation reports (NIRs), the challenges and obstacles encountered. The publication might also focus on the possibility of reviewing the Strategy's mission, aspirations, and main axes of orientation in order to continue to be an important tool for guiding and supporting countries in implementing ESD on the national level during the decade 2020-2030 in the new global context, and the steps that should be adopted by countries for the implementation of the Strategy in the existing framework of 2030 Agenda and its SDGs, taking into consideration the newly emerged socio-economic challenges of the post-pandemic era.

This alternative version of the publication is proposed in the view of: a) the radical changes that have taken place internationally and the scientific debate that has begun regarding the reorganization of states and societies with a view to the post-pandemic period; b) the discussion between the members of the Committee on the need to review the new strategic framework of UNECE Strategy for ESD based on the new data on the impact of the pandemic; c) perhaps, the need for a new version that will link the results of the Strategy's evaluation with more critical and intellectual approach to the orientation of the Strategy for the decade 2020-2030, always in relation to the goals of sustainability and realities of the post-pandemic era.

In case the second proposal (under "B") for publication is adopted, the suggestion is to outline it in two parts:

- 1) The **first part** to be devoted to analytical presentation of the results of the 4th cycle of the Strategy's implementation and the discussion about the encountered challenges.
- 2) The **second part** of the publication to be focused on the future of the Strategy through a critical lens, which could be outlined in the chapters as proposed below.

Proposed title for the second part: "Lessons learnt from countries on integrating ESD Strategy and how ESD in UNECE Region can be useful during the challenging times"

Examples of chapters for the second part: (questions as ideas for the discussion):

1. Can ESD Strategy address humanitarian crises?
2. What key issues and challenges arise for ESD in the UNECE Region in the new emerging situation with regard to implementation of sustainability goals in the post-pandemic era?
3. What is the future of ESD in a post-pandemic era; ESD, SDGs and the improvement of educational systems in the view of this challenges?
4. How the Strategy for ESD can help to shape quality education systems capable of contributing to the "reconstruction" of society through:

- (a) The whole institution approach
 - (b) The quality education
 - (c) ICT and Digital Education
 - (d) Innovation, entrepreneurship and employability.
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The countries can be also **invited to contribute and critically reflect on one of the 8 thematic issues of the UNECE Strategy for ESD** and express their ideas and give country examples **on how ESD can practically contribute to global challenges with the emphasis on the post-pandemic era.**

In case the Committee makes a choice of the version "B" proposal for the publication and approves the first suggestion of outline with 'autonomous chapters', it will be recommended **to invite scientists, academics, and relevant experts to contribute** voluntarily to drafting the publication.

Issues for consideration and decision to be taken by the Steering Committee regarding the above two proposals (under versions "A" and "B")

The Steering Committee is invited to agree on:

- The type of publication:
 - more 'analytical' publication focused mainly on the implementation of the Strategy (version "A"), or
 - rather 'reflective' publication including critical analysis and reflections (version "B").
- The title, content and the proposed chapters.
- The choice of contributing countries (elaborate criteria, in case of version "A").
- Composition of the editorial team.
- Authorship of chapters (in case of version "B" - elaborate criteria for selecting authors of the chapters or, alternatively, to invite countries to express their interest to participate).
- The format and length of the publication (length of chapters and of case studies in case of version "A").

DRAFT PROPOSAL FOR THE SECOND PUBLICATION

“Good practice examples on youth engagement in ESD in UNECE region”

Purpose: The purpose of this publication is to give a "step" to young people and to highlight their role and contribution to ESD issues, as well as to present good examples of practices from UNECE member States, through which their participation in consultation, planning, decision-making and action on issues related to sustainable development goals is demonstrated. In addition, the challenges related to the participation of young people in the relevant areas will be discussed, as well as their ways of participating in policy issues related to ESD.

The publication could take the form of a *comparative study* (with research in UNECE countries) or it could be a theoretical publication that initiates discussion among youth, especially regarding their role in ESD and mainly their participation in the mechanisms and in the decision-making processes on ESD issues.

Draft questions as a food for thought for framing the content:

1. How do countries involve young people in sustainability processes - Monitoring the participation of young people in ESD issues in the UNECE countries (specific data could be discussed from all countries, on the basis of specific questions proposed by countries, they could be analysed and a comparative depiction of the situation could be made).
2. Why involve youth in ESD policies?
3. How to get people involved in ESD Strategy (negotiation, decision making, participation)?
4. What is the role of youth in the UNECE ESD strategic planning process and more specifically in the four strands (Whole Institution Approach, Quality Education, ICT and Digital Education, Innovation, Entrepreneurship)?
5. What methods and actions are needed for engaging youth more effectively on ESD policies and the SDGs?
6. What are the challenges for youth on ESD and the SDGs?
7. Do you have a best practice example of youth engagement on ESD in your country in negotiation, co-design, decision making participation?
8. What frameworks are required to include the youth in political processes?

The Chair's recommendation is to establish an editorial board from experts and experienced members of the UNECE Steering Committee on ESD and from Youth representatives. The chapters suggested are to be written by the young people from the established consortium for YOUTH and ESD. We could invite young people to declare their interest to participate in drafting the publication.

The Steering Committee is invited to discuss and agree on:

- The type of the publication (comparative study or theoretical publication with the positions of 'Youth' on various ESD issues).
- The timeline and the deadline for submitting the publication.
- The title, content and proposed chapters.

- The choice of contributing countries (which countries to invite).
- Composition of the editorial team.
- Authorship of chapters (criteria for selection of the authors of the chapters?).
- The format and the length of the publication.