

# INFORMAL COUNTRY REPORT

## AUSTRIA

### Interim Report on the UN – Decade of Education for Sustainable Development Summary

To achieve the goals of the UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) the “Austrian Strategy for Education for Sustainable Development” was developed, which was adopted by the Austrian Council of Ministers in 2008. (Link to the English short summary: <http://www.umweltbildung.at/cgi-bin/dekadenbuero/af.pl?contentid=12003>). Based on this strategy, the Office for the UN decade was set up by the Austrian Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management (Section II/3) and the Ministry for Education, the Arts and Culture (Section I/6) to coordinate UN-Decade for ESD activities and increase their visibility.

Apart from public relations, one of its main responsibilities is networking different players that are committed to ESD standards. As a result of the office’s public relations and networking tasks this report was created.

This Interim Report 2012 focusses on institutions and activities to describe the implementation of the UN-Decade in Austria

- In terms of international agreements, Austria is in the process of implementing the UNESCO Framework as well as the UNECE Strategy. In this context the EU Strategy for Sustainability Development is also relevant. Austria is also part of the European Higher Education Area and numerous other international networks and programmes such as CEHAPE (Children’s Environment Health Action Plan for Europe), ENSI (Environment and School Initiatives), CoDeS (Collaboration of Community and School for Sustainable Development), Support - EU-COMENIUS 3 (Partnership and Participation for a Sustainable Tomorrow) and SEED (School Development through Environmental Education).
- On a national level different programmes and activities are implemented by ministries (mainly by the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management, the Ministry for Education, the Arts and Culture and the Ministry for Science and Research). In the Interim Report 2012 nine major programmes/initiatives are described. Apart from the ministries numerous other institutions and organisations are setting up ESD activities. Representing the wide range of relevant activities the Interim Report will list and outline those projects distinguished by the Austrian UNESCO Committee.

- In the area of “Evaluation, Research and Development” Austria participates in the UNECE evaluation process and produces the designated reports. The Report provides an overview over two regional centres of expertise (RCEs) which managed to establish themselves in Austria. Also, the most relevant research projects on ESD are introduced.

In the Interim Report 2012 ends with an outlook on planned activities until the end of the UN-Decade for ESD 2014, as well as an overview over literature, dissertations and web links related to ESD in Austria.

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