

**INFORMAL COUNTRY REPORT  
(Georgia)**

**Questionnaire for 2014 informal country reporting on the implementation of the priority action areas**

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*I. Priority action area (a) to promote the introduction of ESD into teacher education: Advances made and challenges encountered since the eighth Steering Committee meeting in March 2013*

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1. Has there been any significant advancement made with regard introducing/ extending ESD as a part of educators' initial training?

Yes  No

- The Professional Standards for Teachers will be adopted by the end of March 2014, in which sustainable development is incorporated. A guidebook is being developed for the above mentioned document (with the financial support of UNICEF), in which the needed competencies for ESD will be shown.

- *Please indicate if you wish to make a presentation on this topic/if there is an outstanding initiative in your country on this topic*

2. Have there been any significant advances made with regard to introducing/ extending ESD as a part of educators' in-service training?

Yes  No

- The LEPL National Center for Teacher Professional Development under the Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia conducts permanent trainings for teachers' professional development by various programs. One of the models for the long term training course for Geography teachers is "Environment and Sustainable Development". The training discusses the history of humans and the environment, the concept of sustainable development and its principles, Environmental Impact Assessment, global environmental challenges, problems related to climate change, water, land, forest and natural disasters.

There is also a training for teachers of the selective course "Environment and Sustainable Development" (adapted for biologists). This in-service training is intended for practicing teachers, but each interested relevant person can attend the training.

The LEPL Environmental Information and Education Center under the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources Protection of Georgia, was established on the basis of the Aarhus Centre in 2013. The Centre will provide teachers trainings on different environmental topics related to the sustainable development.

*Please indicate if you wish to make a presentation on this topic/if there is an outstanding initiative in your country on this topic*

3. Are there any recently produced materials/resources that are accessible to a wider audience (e.g., online)?

Yes  No

Some related information is accessible at the web site of the Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia at the following address: [www.mes.gov.ge](http://www.mes.gov.ge) in Georgian and English

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languages, mostly – in Georgian.

All information regarding the activities of LEPL Environmental Information and Education Centre and/or materials related to environmental education and ESD will be placed on the web site of the Centre which is currently under development and will be finalized soon. Information will be provided in Georgian and English languages.

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II. Priority action area (b) to ensure that there is an ESD school plan in every school by 2015: Advances made and challenges encountered since the eighth Steering Committee meeting in March 2013

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1. Has the number of schools adopting a “whole-institution approach” to sustainable development (SD)/ESD increased?

Yes  No

- In general, the number of schools which have participated in relevant trainings or other environmental activities is gradually increasing.

For expanding the activities in this direction, revision of the National Curriculum is planned for 2016. In its framework cross curriculum competencies will be emphasized. At this stage, 9 cross curriculum competencies are mentioned, including ecological knowledge.

- *Please indicate if you wish to make a presentation on this topic/if there is an outstanding initiative in your country on this topic*

2. Have any (additional) incentives and assistance measures (guidelines, award scheme, funding, training, technical support) been made available that support ESD school plans?

Yes  No

- A special Working Group has been created for coordination of formal and informal environmental education in the country as well as implementation of “Environmental Education for Sustainable Development, Georgian National Strategy and Action Plan 2012-2014”. The first meeting will be held on April 1, 2014.

UNDP together with the support of the Government of Finland and cooperation with the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources Protection of Georgia, and the Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia developed a Teacher’s Guidebook to Environmental Education for grades I-IX.

- *Please indicate if you wish to make a presentation on this topic/if there is an outstanding initiative in your country on this topic*

3. Are there any recently produced materials/resources that are accessible to a wider audience (e.g., online)?

Yes  No

- Some related information is accessible at the web sites of the Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia at the following address: [www.mes.gov.ge](http://www.mes.gov.ge); the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources Protection of Georgia at the following

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II. Priority action area (b) to ensure that there is an ESD school plan in every school by 2015: Advances made and challenges encountered since the eighth Steering Committee meeting in March 2013

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address: [www.moe.gov.ge](http://www.moe.gov.ge) in Georgian and English languages, mostly – in Georgian. Teacher’s guidebook is available on the web site of UNDP in Georgia at the following address: [www.ge.undp.org](http://www.ge.undp.org).

All information regarding the activities of LEPL Environmental Information and Education Centre and/or materials related to environmental education and ESD will be placed on the web site of the Centre which is currently under development and will be finalized soon. Information will be provided in Georgian and English languages.

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III. Priority action area (c) to reorient technical and vocational education and training in support of sustainable development and the transition to a green economy: Advances made and challenges encountered since the eighth Steering Committee meeting in March 2013

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1. Has there been advancement towards a structural reorientation of technical and vocational education and training (TVET) towards ESD?

Yes  No

- Please specify
- Please indicate if you wish to make a presentation on this topic/if there is an outstanding initiative in your country on this topic

2. Have any incentives and assistance measures been made available that support the reorientation of TVET towards SD?

Yes  No

- For having a clear picture on the existing situation in educational institutions throughout the country regarding environmental education including ESD, the LEPL Environmental Information and Education Centre together with GIZ started the project - Assessment of Environmental Education in Georgia. The assessment will cover all education levels including vocational institutions. Under the project recommendation on promotion of environmental education and ESD in the educational institutions will be developed in October 2014.
- Please indicate if you wish to make a presentation on this topic/if there is an outstanding initiative in your country on this topic

3. Are there any recently produced materials/resources that are accessible to a wider audience (e.g., online)?

Yes  No

- Please specify and, if applicable, indicate the language and website address
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IV. Implementing education for sustainable development beyond the United Nations Decade of ESD

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1. Is there already a political commitment/indication that ESD implementation will continue to be supported after the United Nations Decade of ESD?

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*IV. Implementing education for sustainable development beyond the United Nations Decade of ESD*

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Yes  No

- One of the indications of this was the establishment of the LEPL Environmental Information and Education Centre under the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources Protection of Georgia in 2013 with the functions to support and promote environmental education including the ESD throughout the country.

2. Is there an indication of what will (continue to) be the priorities of your country for future ESD implementation?

Yes  No

- At this stage, it is envisaged that informal education for ESD will be one of the directions which will be promoted actively by the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources Protection of Georgia.

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