

**"GOOD PRACTICE" IN EDUCATION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT  
IN THE UNECE REGION**

**"Good practices in ESD"** are initiatives closely related to Education for Sustainable Development, that demonstrate good practice, generate ideas and contribute to policy development. These good practices:

1. focus on the educational and learning dimensions of sustainable development.
2. are innovative. They develop new and creative solutions to common problems, such as:
  - ❖ ways to discover what the key local issues of sustainable development are
  - ❖ ways to adapt processes to relevant teaching and learning strategies
  - ❖ ways of fostering links between learning situations and the community
  - ❖ ways of integrating local knowledge and culture
  - ❖ curriculum development processes enabling content to be decided as locally relevant
  - ❖ starting points on how Education for Sustainable Development can best be put into effect.
3. make a difference. They demonstrate a positive and tangible impact on the living conditions, quality of life of the individuals, groups or communities concerned. They seek to bridge gaps between different societal actors/sectors and are inclusive, in order to allow new partners to join the implementing agents/bodies.
4. have a sustainable effect. They contribute to sustained improvement of living conditions. They must integrate economic, social, cultural and environmental components of sustainable development and reflect their interaction/interdependency in their design and implementation.
5. have the potential for replication. They provide effective methodologies for transdisciplinary and multi-sectoral co-operation. They serve as models for generating policies and initiatives elsewhere.
6. offer some elements of evaluation. They have been and can be evaluated in terms of the criteria of innovation, success and sustainability by both experts and the people concerned.

*If you submit more than one "good practice", please indicate the priority 1, 2 or 3.*

**Priority 2**

**1. NAME OF THE INITIATIVE CONSIDERED AS A GOOD PRACTICE<sup>1</sup>:**

**The Environmental Education Book - Environmental Education Programme for Schools in Tirana**

**2. RESPONSIBLE COUNTRY/ORGANIZATION:**

Name: **REGIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER, ALBANIA**

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Internet : <http://albania.rec.org>

**3. CONTACT PERSON (name and title):**

Mihallaq Qirjo

REC Country Office Director

**4. FOCUS OF THE INITIATIVE (check one or more box(es)):**

Education/Learning

Educators

Overcoming Poverty

Gender Equality

Health Promotion

HIV/AIDS

Sustainable Urbanization

Corporate Responsibility

Economy

Environment

Water

Climate Change

Biodiversity

Disaster Reduction

Rural Development

Sustainable Consumption

Sustainable Tourism

Citizenship

Peace, Human Rights & Security

Policy, Regulation, Governance

Intercultural Understanding

Cultural Diversity

Indigenous knowledge

Tools and materials (e.g. Media & ICTs)

Research / Development

Regional / international cooperation

other (Air, outdoor and indoor problems, )

<sup>1</sup> Your response to this questionnaire should not exceed 2 pages. Font: Arial, size - 9; margins - 2 centimeters.

## 5. INITIATIVE DESCRIPTION *(provide brief description)*

- Type (governmental, non-governmental, municipal, other):

Environmental education is considered a very important issue for sustainable development and society. In this frame environmental book developed the environmental patterns and models to school pupils.

Upon request of the Municipality of Tirana and the teachers' need for such a book in the schools, REC Albania published the book that was later distributed at the beginning of school year 2004-2005 for the pupils of the capital, Tirana.

- Working language(s):

ALBANIAN

- Setting // Number of persons involved:

The Target groups were the following:

- Teachers and pupils (ages 11-16), and
- Educators and teachers on environmental protection.
- Environmental NGOs
- Community

- Starting year and Duration:

1 YEAR [FROM: spring 2004 until autumn 2004]

- Budget and Funding Sources:

GEF/SGP, UNDP/LGP

- Partner organisations involved *(if any)*:

Municipality of Tirana  
Education Directorate for Tirana  
Ministry of Education and Science

- Stakeholders involved (e.g. local community). *Describe their involvement in this initiative and the kind of relationship you have with them.*

Institute of Curricula in Albania  
University of Tirana  
Environmental NGOs  
Teachers

The drafting process of this draft book was done in close collaboration with the best specialists of environmental education of Institute of Pedagogical Research, Tirana University and related Ministries, as well as with a number of teachers of several schools in Tirana. During the consultations and preparation phase, the need was identified for such an environmental book for kids and its inclusion to the school curricula as an alternative learning tool.

## 6. MAIN OBJECTIVES OF THE INITIATIVE *(provide brief description)*

- Improvement of the environmental situation in general;
- Knowledge of sustainable development on environmental issues by raising environmental awareness of the teenagers and students in Tirana city;
- Publication of the environmental book "Environment in my city" (The title in Albanian is "Mjedisi ne qytetin tim".
- Distribution to the schools of Tirana;
- Improving environmental behavior through trainings of teachers on "How to use it".

## 7. METHODOLOGY *(provide brief description)*

Methods/approach for this initiative *(list key background materials that were used; If necessary, use a separate sheet)*

The first activity was the publication of the book.

The second activity was distribution of the book. The list of secondary schools was compiled, in collaboration with the Municipality of Tirana.

The distribution process was launched by the Mayor of Tirana and was monitored by Deputy Mayor Mrs. Bizhga, Education Directorate and the staff of REC Albania.

The third activity was the training of the teacher that teach environmental education

## **8. RESULTS AND EVALUATION OF THE INITIATIVE** *(provide brief description and assessment)*

### ▪ Results

Book Publication - 2000 copies, A4 / 134 pgs / 4 colors  
Book Distribution - 1800 copies to 50 elementary schools  
More than 100 teachers followed the training sessions

### ▪ Strengths

"*Mjedisi ne qytetin tim*" was the first color book for kids, really attractive and interesting for learning on nature and urban problems;

### ▪ Weaknesses and risks

The env-book was developed only for Tirana city and Tirana's (urban) problems.

### ▪ Problems encountered: *(fill in if applicable)*

### ▪ Conditions for successful replication *(fill in if applicable)*

### ▪ Unresolved issues *(fill in if applicable)*

### ▪ Why do you consider this a good practice?

At last was prepared an environmental educational book to be used at schools as an extra curricula information source.

That practice linked the school programme and the environmental issues through supporting direct environmental education activities

That pilot programme supported the establishment of a pilot network of schools around the municipality area for experience and knowledge exchange in the environmental field and information on similar programs in country and regional level - Central and Eastern Europe.

Three training courses were organized and held in Tirana. More than 100 teachers from Tirana's school were trained with the new concepts of environmental education and were instructed on the most effective ways/means to hold especially the practical training courses.

***Please attach one relevant picture, as a separate file (max 1024 x 768 px /72 dpi/ jpg-format 80% quality/ up to 300KB)***

Please submit your "Good practice" (up to 3 "Good practices" per country/organisation) electronically by e-mail to: [esd@unece.org](mailto:esd@unece.org). In addition, you are invited to send us any relevant information you might think useful, including references to documents, publications and/or articles describing the initiative, as well as relevant links to websites.

*For further information, please send request to the same e-mail address or contact: Environment, Human Settlements and Land Management Division, Economic Commission for Europe Palais des Nations, 8-14 avenue de la Paix, 1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland. fax: 00 41 22 9170107 - web : <http://www.unece.org/env/esd/welcome.htm>*