

Eighth Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference
(8–10 June 2016, Batumi, Georgia, Sheraton Hotel)

High-level meeting of Education and Environment Ministries

Wednesday, 8 June 2016, 4.30–6 p.m.
Batumi, Georgia, Sheraton Hotel

Agenda item 3. Towards a new society: 10 years of education for sustainable development

INTERVENTION OF HUNGARY

By Dr István Nagy Minister of State of the Hungarian Ministry of Agriculture

Distinguished Chairperson, fellow ministers, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen,

It is a great honour for me to speak on behalf of Hungary at this high-level event on education for sustainable development.

This high level segment on education at an environmental ministerial conference is a clear message itself that environmental problems do not only belong to environmentalist but affect all people on the planet. Environmental – and more broadly sustainability - problems are caused by people. Every action begins in the mind. Education is the most effective way to raise people’s awareness and change people’s behaviour and actions. Consequently the co-operation of environmental and educational sector is inevitably needed for any progress towards a more sustainable society.

Hungary has realized this need more decades ago when established cooperation between the ministries of education and environment by signing the cooperation agreement in support of environmental education and later on education for sustainable development.

Hungary started to develop a system which offers professional support to all educational institutes in the country which adopt a whole-institute planning approach of education for sustainable development as promoted in the renewed UNECE implementation framework of ESD. Since attitudes and behaviour can be best shaped at the early childhood, one focus area of this support system is kindergarten.

A great number of kindergartens tackle environmental protection and natural conservation as a priority in their educational programmes. The Green Kindergarten Program is running since 2006 and there are 837 qualified institutions to date. Nowadays approximately one fourth of Kindergartens and Schools are accredited as Green Kindergartens or Eco-schools, providing ESD on a whole-institution basis; this proportion is growing year to year.

The Hungarian government supports the whole-institute approach in higher education too and encourages these institutions to develop and implement their sustainable development strategies.

ESD would be successful if it is integrated in the educational system and its implementation is professionally supported at all levels and in all forms of education. Therefore Hungary will operate a complex system from Green Kindergarten to sustainable development strategies of universities. We are open to share our experiences collected during the decade long operation of these systems.

Closing my contribution I am happy to announce that Hungary will continue to participate in the UNECE Steering Committee on Education for Sustainable Development and in this way actively contribute to the international realization of the renewed UNECE implementation framework of Education for sustainable development and will offer a commitment of 3000€ as a contribution to this international cooperation.

Thank you for your kind attention!