



ОРГАНИЗАЦИЯ ОБЪЕДИНЕННЫХ НАЦИЙ
ЕВРОПЕЙСКАЯ ЭКОНОМИЧЕСКАЯ
КОМИССИЯ



МОСКОВСКИЙ ГОСУДАРСТВЕННЫЙ
УНИВЕРСИТЕТ

REPORT OF THE SUBREGIONAL WORKSHOP ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE UNECE STRATEGY FOR EDUCATION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

8-9 November 2006, Moscow, Russian Federation

1. The Workshop on the Implementation of the UNECE (United Nations Economic Commission for Europe) Strategy for Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) for the Subregion of Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia (EECCA) took place in Moscow on 8-9 November 2006. It was organized by the UNECE, the Ministry of Education and Science of the Russian Federation and the Faculty of Geography of the Lomonosov Moscow State University.
2. National ESD coordinators - representatives of education ministries and environment ministries (or similar governmental agencies), representatives of universities and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) from Azerbaijan, Armenia, Belarus, Kyrgyzstan, the Russian Federation, Tajikistan, Ukraine and Uzbekistan, and regional environmental centers (RECs) Caucasus, Central Asia (CAREC), Moldova and Russian Federation as well as of UNECE attended the Workshop. They discussed successes, challenges, specifics, trends and priorities in the implementation of UNECE Strategy for ESD in EECCA countries and cooperation needs on the subject in the subregion.
3. Professor Nikolay S. Kasimov, Dean, Faculty of Geography, Lomonosov Moscow State University chaired the Workshop.
4. Representatives of the Ministry of Education and Science of the Russian Federation, and of the Lomonosov Moscow State University made opening statements.
5. An expert from the Faculty of Geography of the Lomonosov Moscow State University made a presentation on Education for Sustainable Development: Content and Macrostructure. It was followed by presentations by the Chair and participants on recent developments in their countries and in specific parts of the subregion with regard to the implementation of the Strategy. Progress was made in such areas as the designation of national coordinator on the Strategy, establishment of interdepartmental coordinating boards and/or scientific and methodological councils on ESD in some countries, development of teaching manuals on SD and introduction of SD in students' curriculums in some universities. Various weaknesses and barriers to the promotion of ESD were mentioned.
6. An invited international expert from Lithuania made a presentation on Development of indicators to measure the effectiveness of the implementation of the Strategy. During the ensuing

discussion it was stressed that the interpretation of indicators was problematic due to the specific circumstances and conditions in the EECCA region. Particularly, the problem of the interrelationship between the environmental education (EE) and ESD was essential for all EECCA countries participating in the Workshop.

7. A CAREC representative informed the Workshop about the pilot review of ESD activities according to the set of the UNECE indicators that had been carried out in Central Asia (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan) at the initiative and under the coordination of the CAREC in cooperation and with support of the OSCE Centre in Almaty. The conclusions of this pilot review of particular importance to the Workshop were as follows:

- The concept of ESD is comparatively new in all Central Asian countries, the difference between EE and ESD is not clear. Traditional EE activities are often presented in national reviews as ESD. At the same time, citizenship education, health education, global education, etc. are not considered as components/preconditions of ESD;
- The interpretation of indicators/sub-indicators depends substantially upon the national education systems, experience, traditions, etc. In this respect “good practice” could be helpful and some quality criteria of “good practice” are needed, particularly, as a correspondence to one or another indicator. Examples of “good practice” then could be collected according to relevant indicators/sub-indicators. The added value of this approach is that the examples will demonstrate how ESD principles could be implemented within specific contexts;
- ESD activities corresponding to some ESD indicators (e.g. 2.2.Strategies to implement ESD; 2.5.ESD methods and instruments for non-formal and informal learning; 4.3. Teaching tools and materials) are not numerous at the moment. However, in the future, when there will be much more activities, it might be difficult to include into review all of them. Particularly, it will be a problem in countries where a centralized system for information collection doesn't exist. It might be possible to use examples of “good practice” instead.

8. Workshop participants proposed to adapt “Guidance for reporting” (prepared by the Chairperson of the UNECE Expert Group) to the conditions of the EECCA region in order to support an assessment of ESD according to the system of indicators. They agreed that clear criteria were necessary for collecting and disseminating examples of “good practice” as well as their approval by experts to prevent misunderstanding of the ESD concept and principles.

9. An invited international expert from the European ECO-Forum made, thereafter, a presentation on Specificity of the EECCA subregion with regard to the ESD implementation: success stories, challenges, needs and opportunities.

10. When discussing priority areas effective mechanisms for cooperation on ESD in the EECCA subregion, Workshop participants proposed to prepare a subregional report to review the implementation of the UNECE Strategy for ESD in EECCA countries to cover opportunities, tasks, needs and perspectives for ESD in this subregion. The report would be presented at the high-level

segment on ESD during the 6th Conference of Ministers "Environment for Europe" (Belgrade, 10-12 October 2007). This report would be supplementary to the general review of implementation of the UNECE Strategy on ESD in UNECE region. The participants requested the Lomonosov Moscow State University and the Eco-Accord Center (Russia) to coordinate the preparation of the report.

11. The Workshop also proposed to organize similar subregional meetings for national ESD coordinators and partner organizations (representatives of educational institutions, science, NGOs, private sector) on the annual basis to exchange experience and enhance coordination and mutual support in the process of implementation of ESD in the EECCA subregion. The participants put forward several proposals addressed to the UNECE Steering Committee on ESD in relation to support of ESD development in EECCA region.

12. The Workshop adopted a Resolution (annexed to this report) addressing major successes and challenges, as well as immediate priorities for the development of ESD in EECCA countries.

13. Participants expressed their gratitude to the Faculty of Geography of the Lomonosov Moscow State University for the excellent organization of the Workshop and cordial hospitality offered to all.

Presentations and documents of the Workshop are available at the UNECE web site www.unece.org/env/esd/WorkshEECCA.htm.
