



Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
16 January 2023

Original: English

Economic Commission for Europe

Committee on Environmental Policy

United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Steering Committee on Education for Sustainable Development

Special session

Nicosia, 4 October 2022

Report of the Steering Committee on Education for Sustainable Development on its special session

I. Introduction

1. The special session of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) Steering Committee on Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) was held on 4 October 2022, in Nicosia.

A. Attendance

2. Delegations from the following eleven ECE member States attended the meeting: Armenia, Austria, Cyprus, Georgia, Greece, Hungary, Netherlands, Romania, Slovakia, Switzerland and Ukraine.

3. The representative of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) participated in the meeting.

4. The representative of the Regional Environmental Centre for Central Asia participated in the meeting.

5. Representatives of the following non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and educational institutions attended the meeting: European ECO-Forum, Planet'ERE (France), the Mediterranean Information Office for Environment, Culture and Sustainable Development (Greece), Partnership Network "Education for Sustainable Development in Ukraine" (Ukraine), youpaN (Germany), the University of Gloucestershire (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland) and the Hungarian Research Teachers' Association.

B. Adoption of the agenda

6. The Steering Committee adopted the agenda for its special session (ECE/CEP/AC.13/S/2022/1).



II. Third High-level Meeting of Education and Environment Ministries

7. The Chair of the Steering Committee briefed the participants on the process of preparation, expected outcomes and agenda of the Third High-level Meeting of Education and Environment Ministries (Nicosia, 5 October 2022).

A. Official documents and outcome of the Third High-level Meeting of Education and Environment Ministries – Draft Ministerial Statement

8. The Chair informed the Steering Committee about the two official documents to be presented for consideration at the Third High-level Meeting of Education and Environment Ministries – the Framework for the implementation of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Strategy for Education for Sustainable Development from 2021 to 2030 (ECE/CEP/AC.13/2022/3, ECE/NICOSIA.CONF/2022/10) and the draft Nicosia Ministerial Statement on Education for Sustainable Development (ECE/CEP/AC.13/2022/7, ECE/NICOSIA.CONF/2022/11). The Steering Committee was also informed about other documents prepared by the Steering Committee and submitted as information documents for the Ninth Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference (Nicosia, 5–7 October 2022), including the Fourth evaluation report of the ECE Strategy for Education for Sustainable Development (ECE/NICOSIA.CONF/2022/INF/7), which had also laid the foundations for the publication *Implementation of the UNECE Strategy for ESD across the ECE Region (2015–2018)*,¹ prepared by the Steering Committee and published in 2022.

9. The Chair briefed the Steering Committee on the process of drafting the two official documents. The Framework for the implementation of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Strategy for Education for Sustainable Development from 2021 to 2030 (Implementation Framework) had been elaborated by the Ad Hoc Group on Strategic Planning, made up of interested Steering Committee members, during a series of in-person and online meetings organized from 2018 to 2021, when the Group had discussed all existing critical issues of concern and the new challenges faced by the global education for sustainable development community in the current circumstances to be taken into consideration in the new Implementation Framework. At its seventeenth meeting (Geneva (hybrid), 30–31 May 2022) the ECE Steering Committee on Education for Sustainable Development had approved the Implementation Framework for submission to the Third High-level Meeting of Education and Environment Ministries for subsequent adoption.²

10. The Draft Nicosia Ministerial Statement on Education for Sustainable Development had been elaborated by a drafting group made up of the Steering Committee's interested members, established by the decision of its fifteenth meeting (Geneva (hybrid), 19–20 October 2020).³ The Steering Committee had considered the final draft Ministerial Statement at its seventeenth meeting.⁴ After the deadline for possible comments of 20 June 2022 had passed, the draft Ministerial Statement was submitted to the Third High-level Meeting of Education and Environment Ministries in the framework of the Ninth Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference.

11. A representative of UNEP expressed appreciation for the work done by the drafting groups in elaborating the two official documents. He highlighted the accidental omission from the final draft of the Ministerial Statement of a reference to the two other main topics of the Ninth Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference – “sustainable infrastructure” and “sustainable tourism”. The above-mentioned reference should be included under paragraph 8 (d), which should consequently read: “Connecting ESD with economic and social development, addressing entrepreneurship, employment, business, financial and policy

¹ United Nations publication, ECE/CEP/196. *Note:* this publication was edited externally and the range of years contained in its title should read “2017–2019”.

² ECE/CEP/AC.13/2022/2, para. 75.

³ ECE/CEP/AC.13/2020/2, para. 52.

⁴ ECE/CEP/AC.13/2022/2, paras. 61–67.

areas that influence the sources of welfare and well-being by identifying functional approaches, guidelines, projects and organizations that support the required knowledge, values, attitudes, qualifications and skills for new jobs related to green and circular economy and green technologies, including in the infrastructure and tourism sectors, as well as contribute to the necessary green transformations and sustainable development”.

12. The second comment was that the text of the Ministerial Statement should include a reference to the Transforming Education Summit (New York, 16–17 and 19 September 2022), acknowledging its outcomes, which were relevant to and correlated with the priority areas of the new Implementation Framework. It had not been possible to include that reference before the deadline for final comments to the Ministerial Statement of 20 June 2022, since it had been issued after that date. Therefore, it was proposed to redraft the fourth preambular paragraph of the Ministerial Statement thus: “*Recalling* General Assembly resolution 76/209 on education for sustainable development in the framework of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (adopted on 17 December 2021),⁵ the Vision Statement of the Secretary-General on Transforming Education (issued on 19 October 2022) and previous resolutions on ESD,”.

13. The third comment referred to the relevance and timeliness of acknowledging the critical role of other components of target 4.7 of the Sustainable Development Goals in preventing and overcoming crises that threatened humanity’s collective future and in leading humanity to a more peaceful future. That point should be included in an additional paragraph, after the current twelfth preambular paragraph, and that additional paragraph should read thus: “*Acknowledging also* the central role of ESD in the promotion of a culture of peace and non-violence and global citizenship,”.

14. The representative of Austria also proposed inserting an additional paragraph before the current paragraph 5. The additional paragraph should read: “*Acknowledge* that the necessity for action should not be restricted to formal education, but that all areas of administration and society are obliged to make their contribution to education for sustainable development;”.

15. The representatives of Greece and the Netherlands proposed including in the Ministerial Statement references to alignment with important ongoing initiatives at the global and regional levels, such as the European Union Green Competences initiative and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Greening Education Partnership. The coordinator of the drafting group clarified that it had not been possible to include references to some of the global events and initiatives because they had taken place after the final deadline for commenting on the draft Ministerial Statement.

16. The representative of the European ECO-Forum stated that the new Implementation Framework should place more emphasis on certain topics, such as biodiversity loss, and that other topics were absent from the text, including “human values”, “climate justice”, “planetary limits” and the “‘Beyond GDP’ movement”.

17. The representative of Ukraine highlighted, among other things, the devastating impact of the invasion of Ukraine by the Russian Federation on the Ukrainian education system, the environment and ecosystems, and proposed including in the Ministerial Statement reference to the issue of European partners’ assistance in restoring and rebuilding the Ukrainian education system.

18. The representative of Switzerland proposed leaving the texts of the proposed Implementation Framework and the draft Ministerial Statement unchanged, given that they had been the subject of a lengthy process of consideration and that their value would not be lessened by the omission of references to the conclusions of the latest global events, unless indispensable issues were concerned.

19. The representative of the Netherlands pointed out that it was not possible to cover all topics and issues of concern in the text of the Implementation Framework, because most of them came under the umbrella issue of sustainable development. The Ministerial Statement

⁵ A/RES/76/209.

was a political document and any agreed amendments should be included therein, rather than in the Implementation Framework.

20. The Chair reflected on the comments and proposals for amendments put forward during the discussion. Regarding the statement by the representative of Ukraine, she highlighted that the Ministerial Statement was a political declaration of the ministers' commitments, which would serve as guidance for action on the implementation of ESD until the next high-level meeting. Should a reference to any ongoing conflict in a given country be included in the Ministerial Statement, then all other ongoing military conflicts would also have to be listed in the text. It would be better to include in the preamble a general statement against war, acknowledging, among other things, the special role of education in promoting peace and security for all. Regarding other proposed amendments to the text of the Ministerial Statement, she underlined that the document had been open for comments for all ECE member States until 20 June 2022 and that all those wishing to comment had done so on time. The final text was ready for submission to the Third High-level Meeting and could not be changed a few hours before that meeting, except for a few agreed important additions, such as the reference to the relevant outcomes of the Transforming Education Summit and to the two other main topics of the Ninth Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference – “sustainable infrastructure” and “sustainable tourism” – as well as the amendment proposed by the representative of Austria, which had been accidentally overlooked.

21. In summary, it was agreed that the amendments and additions proposed in the current meeting (see paras. 11–14 above) would be included in the draft Ministerial Statement.

22. Owing to the fact that the above-mentioned comments had been received less than 24 hours before the Third High-level Meeting of Education and Environment Ministries, and for procedural reasons, it was not possible to include them in the final text of the Ministerial Statement in the absence of negotiations at the ministerial level.

B. Agenda of the Third High-level Meeting of Education and Environment Ministries

23. The Chair of the Steering Committee briefed the meeting on the agenda⁶ of the Third High-level Meeting of Education and Environment Ministries, which would be co-chaired by the Minister for Education, Sport and Youth of Cyprus and the Minister for Agriculture, Rural Development and Environment of Cyprus. The meeting would start with the opening addresses of the Co-Chairs, followed by opening remarks and statements from the representatives of ECE, UNEP, UNESCO and the European Commission. There would then follow a session on ESD implementation in the ECE region with the presentation of the progress report and the Implementation Framework by the Chair of the UNECE Steering Committee on ESD and the plenary discussion with the statements of the high-level participants with their feedback on the new Implementation Framework. The meeting would then be invited to adopt the new Implementation Framework and after that would follow a panel discussion, moderated by the national focal point of the Netherlands and organized along the four priority strands of the new Implementation Framework, i.e.: (a) quality education and ESD; (b) whole institution approach/institutions as communities of transformational learning; (c) digital education, information and communications technology and ESD; and (d) entrepreneurship, employment, innovation and ESD. The discussion would be moderated in an interactive way, with the ministers being invited to reflect on leading questions proposed for each panel (related to each specific strand) in open discussions, sharing reflections about the policy measures, initiatives and future aims of their respective countries along each strand. At the end of the meeting, the ministers would be invited to express thoughts about and then to adopt the Ministerial Statement.

24. The Chair thanked the national focal point of Hungary, who had worked tirelessly during the preceding three months in cooperation with other Committee members on the

⁶ Available under the tabs “Wednesday, October 5th” and “The Ninth Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference: Provisional agenda Item 4. Third High-level Meeting of Education and Environment Ministries”, at <https://nicosiaefe.gov.cy/preliminary-agenda-3/>.

elaboration of the agenda of the Third High-level Meeting of Education and Environment Ministries, as well as the agenda of the High-level Meeting of the Ministers for Education on Education for Sustainable Development, to be discussed under item 3. The Chair also thanked all those Committee members who had coordinated interaction with and made interventions during the relevant agenda items of the high-level representatives of the respective Governments, and briefly went through the agenda of the Third High-level Meeting.⁷

25. The national focal point of Hungary thanked all members who had collaborated with her on elaborating the agenda, as well as on arranging and providing inputs of the respective high-level government representatives to the corresponding agenda items.

26. The national focal point of the Netherlands explained the structure and composition of the panels along the four strands of the new Implementation Framework and shared his plans regarding the moderation and summarization of the panel discussions. He also provided clarification on questions regarding the modalities for interventions by ministers.

III. Agenda of the High-level Meeting of the Ministers for Education on Education for Sustainable Development

27. The Chair informed the Steering Committee in detail about the concept note and the agenda for the High-level Meeting of the Ministers for Education (Nicosia, 6 October 2022). She highlighted that the organization of the High-level Meeting of the Ministers for Education was the first initiative of that kind proposed by Cyprus, and had been approved by the seventeenth meeting of the Steering Committee.⁸ The Ninth Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference was a great opportunity to strengthen collaboration among countries, regional and international organizations, processes and mechanisms that put ESD at the core of every aspect of human life. The timing of the High-level Meeting of the Ministers for Education coincided with that of other ongoing international and regional initiatives on ESD. Additionally, it had special meaning and importance since it would provide education ministers with an opportunity to: reflect on the new Implementation Framework; develop networks and multilateral collaboration; discuss and share experiences on such key issues of ESD as the “whole institution” (or “whole school”) approach, monitoring and evaluation, innovation, the situation of youth and their active participation in decision-making; showcase achievements during in-depth discussions; and share the plans of work for the coming years, up to 2030.

28. The format of the High-level Meeting was based on three interactive panel discussions, each one moderated by a different member of the Steering Committee. The high-level officials and other participants would have the floor to intervene, express their views and positions and present any initiatives regarding a series of questions. Those questions were related to: the implementation of ESD in the region; the next steps and the future of ESD; the role of and the synergies amongst various mechanisms supporting ESD; and the engagement of youth in various regional and national processes on ESD. The new Implementation Framework reflected on international and regional strategies – such as the new UNESCO “ESD for 2030” global framework, the European Green Deal, the Council of the European Union Recommendation on learning for the green transition and sustainable development – and was intended to improve the transformation towards a more sustainable region. The High-level Meeting of the Ministers for Education on ESD aimed to provide an opportunity for an in-depth discussion on how the member States would apply the new Implementation Framework. In ECE countries, there were many initiatives on ESD, but more emphasis was needed on mainstreaming good practices and meaningful collaboration across countries. The High-level Meeting would draw attention to adaptable local practices that could be used to implement the UNECE Strategy for ESD and to focus on regional collaboration and learning for sustainability. The High-level Meeting created a bridge that made it possible to work together to mobilize processes for ESD as the key driver for the future of education. Ministers

⁷ Available at https://nicosiaefe.gov.cy/pdfs/3rd%20HLM%20Oct%205%20Agenda_FINAL_rev%20timing%2030ct.pdf.

⁸ ECE/CEP/AC.13/2022/2, para. 156 (d).

for education, high-level officials and other stakeholders from Europe, Asia, the Caucasus and the Mediterranean would meet in Cyprus, at the crossroads of three continents, to perform a common task – the transformation of the plans on ESD that would transform the planet.

29. The welcome message by the Chair of the High-level Meeting, the Minister for Education, Sport and Youth of Cyprus, and the two keynote addresses on “myths and truths” on ESD and on the role of educators in learning for sustainability would be followed by three panel discussions, moderated by the respective members of the Steering Committee. The first panel, on countries’ interventions on the implementation of the UNECE Strategy for ESD, would focus on the accomplishment of the new Implementation Framework, at which point the ministers for education would be given the opportunity to reflect on the existing obstacles, challenges and needs, as well as on the measures required in their regard. The second panel, on messages from international organizations, would focus on providing such organizations with an opportunity to express their views about the relevance of the new Implementation Framework to their processes, policies and plans to work together with ECE for the implementation of ESD in the region. The third panel discussion would be focused on needs, collaboration and youth involvement in and across countries concerning the accomplishment of the new Implementation Framework. The panel participants would be given the opportunity to reflect on the existing obstacles, challenges and needs, and on the measures to overcome them regarding the accomplishment of the new Implementation Framework.

30. In the ensuing discussion, the national focal point of Hungary, who had contributed to the preparation of the meeting’s agenda, expressed her gratitude to all the members of the Committee and government representatives who had collaborated on the preparation of the panel discussions. She asked the participants to support in particular the discussion during the third panel, which required the involvement not only of the high-level participants but also of experts from academia and any other practitioners in the field, who would be asked to formulate their needs, aspirations and plans in connection with the views expressed in the preceding two panels by the representatives of the Governments and the international organizations that would promote fruitful and meaningful cooperation of all actors on the implementation of ESD in the region.

31. The representative of the Mediterranean Information Office for Environment, Culture and Sustainable Development thanked the Government of Cyprus and the Chair of the Steering Committee for organizing, in the framework of the Ministerial Conference, the High-level Event of Education and Environment Ministers on the Mediterranean Strategy on Education for Sustainable Development and its Action Plan towards 2030 (6 October 2022) and for inviting the southern Mediterranean countries.

32. The Steering Committee adopted the agenda of the High-level Meeting of the Ministers for Education on Education for Sustainable Development as set out in the document entitled High-level Meeting of Ministers for Education on Education for Sustainable Development: Concept note and agenda.⁹

IV. Side events to be organized in the framework of the Ninth Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference

33. The Chair updated the Steering Committee about the side events to be organized in the framework of the Nicosia Ministerial Conference and expressed her appreciation regarding the number of requests received by the host country secretariat. The Chair expressed gratitude to the secretariat of the Mediterranean Information Office for Environment, Culture and Sustainable Development for coordinating the registration of side events and shared organizational details regarding timing, venue and transportation. She expressed her appreciation for the number of registered side events to be held on the subject of and related to ESD (see annex to present document), which confirmed the growing interest and priority directions of the ECE member States. The Chair thanked all organizers and co-

⁹ Available under tabs “Thursday, October 6th” and “High-level Meeting of the Ministers for Education on Education for Sustainable Development”, at <https://nicosiaefe.gov.cy/preliminary-agenda-3/>.

organizers for the efforts made in preparation of the side events, wishing them success in their implementation.

34. The Chair also informed the Committee that the host country provided participants with the opportunity to hold bilateral and/or multilateral meetings between Governments, international and regional organizations, which had to be applied for electronically. Although those meetings had to be agreed on directly by the participating parties, the host country secretariat was ready to assist with practical arrangements. Before the beginning of the Conference, there had been 53 requests for bilateral meetings registered from 21 countries and 13 international and/or intergovernmental organizations. The exact number of the meetings held would be known after the Conference.

35. The Chair spoke about the exhibitions to be held during the Conference at the venue, which had been organized, free of charge, for countries, organizations, companies or any interested parties wishing to showcase innovative green technologies, training materials, kits and any other material related to the three main orientations of the Conference. Altogether, 17 requests had been registered before the Conference.

V. Publications on education for sustainable development prepared and published by the Steering Committee in 2022

36. The Chair informed the Committee that two following planned publications elaborated by the Committee during the past three years had been published recently: *Implementation of the UNECE Strategy* (see para. 8 above) and *Engaging Young People in the Implementation of ESD in the UNECE Region: Good Practices in the Engagement of Youth in Education for Sustainable Development* (ECE/CEP/197). The Chair thanked all members and experts who had assisted in drafting and preparing the two publications, including the members of the UNECE ESD Youth Platform, and stated that hard copies of the two publications would be distributed to the delegates at the Filoxenia Conference Centre, Cyprus.

VI. Other business

37. The representative of the secretariat informed the Committee that it was necessary to finalize the forecast of the official documents to be submitted for the eighteenth session of the Steering Committee (Geneva, 25–26 May 2023). She recalled that, at its the seventeenth meeting, the Committee had agreed to elaborate the following two documents to be submitted for the next Committee meeting in 2023:

- Workplan for the implementation of the UNECE Strategy for ESD from 2021 to 2025
- Format for reporting on the implementation of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Strategy for Education for Sustainable Development (2021–2025)¹⁰

38. The representative of the secretariat invited the meeting participants to think about any other additional documents to be elaborated for consideration by and official submission to the eighteenth session of the Steering Committee.

39. After the ensuing discussion, the Committee came up with the following listing of four additional documents:

- Guidance for working with indicators
- Manifesto “Whole Institution Approach” – guidance on building capacity and compilation of good practices
- Proposal for developing capacity-building activities for implementing the whole institution/school approach

¹⁰ ECE/CEP/AC.13/2022/2, paras. 90 and 98.

- Proposal for developing an outline of capacity-building activities for implementing the Framework for the Implementation of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Strategy for Education for Sustainable Development from 2021 to 2030

40. The secretariat thanked the Committee for collaboration and confirmed that the above-mentioned proposed titles of the pre-session documents would be added to the forecast of official documents to be submitted for the eighteenth session of the Steering Committee.

VII. Closure of the special session

41. Following some concluding remarks, the Chair officially closed the special session.

Annex

List of registered side events to be organized in the framework of the Ninth Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference

5 October 2022 (*Timing: 1.10–2.50 p.m.*)

- “ESD Expert Network in the Carpathian Region”¹¹ (Jean Monnet Room, Filoxenia Conference Centre), organized by LOGOS and the Framework Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians (Carpathian Convention) in cooperation with the Governments of Hungary, Poland and Serbia. The side event aims at introducing how and why the Education for Sustainable Development Expert Network of the Carpathian Convention was initiated. The Carpathian Convention, which acts as a mechanism and tool for mainstreaming international sustainable development policies, including strengthening and framing the role of ESD, instigated research on the operation of Convention-related networks, which resulted in expert recommendations that were considered when establishing the ESD Expert Network. Thus, the Carpathian Convention is unique in having a research-based approach to networking for ESD. Three countries, as consecutive holders of the presidency of the Convention, will highlight their past, current and envisioned future efforts in setting up the ESD Expert Network.
- “Launch of Publication: Engaging Young People to Implement ESD in the UNECE Region, Good Practices on the Engagement of Youth in Education for Sustainable Development”¹² (Elia Room, Filoxenia Conference Centre), organized by the UNECE ESD Youth Platform. The side event will provide the opportunity to officially launch the very first publication on ESD and Youth of the UNECE, hosting an interactive discussion session with the panellists, contributors to the publication and other conference participants.

5 October 2022 (*Timing: 6.15–8.15 p.m.*)

- “Higher Education towards Sustainable Development: Making Universities Lighthouses of Sustainability”¹³ (Room 4, NTL Building, Cyprus Institute), organized by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Chair on Sustainable Development Management and Education in the Mediterranean at the University of Athens in cooperation with the Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs of Greece, the Ministry of Education, Sport and Youth of Cyprus and the Mediterranean Universities Network for Sustainable Development with Emphasis on Education for Sustainable Development. In the last few years, interesting programmes and initiatives on applying “whole institution approach” tools and practices to higher education institutions have been undertaken by universities wishing to become “lighthouses” of sustainability. Greek universities have embraced sustainability since 2011 by adopting a “Sustainability Charter”. Recently there was a major revision of the Charter that offers potential inspiration for others. The side event will discuss the upscaling of such initiatives and how higher education institutions can be stimulated to embrace and implement a “whole institution approach” and will identify challenges and ways to overcome them concerning ESD in higher education institutions.

¹¹ See https://nicosiaefe.gov.cy/pdfs/side-events-agenda/07_Side%20Event_Agenda_Carpathian%20ESD%20Network_28.09.pdf.

¹² See https://nicosiaefe.gov.cy/pdfs/side-events-agenda/08_Side%20Event_Agenda%20UNECE_Youth%20Platform.pdf.

¹³ See https://nicosiaefe.gov.cy/pdfs/side-events-agenda/10_Side%20Event_%20Agenda_Higher%20Edu%20Institutes%20tw%20Sustainability.pdf.

- “ESD and its role in facilitating regional platforms for greening economies of Central Asia and Caucasus”¹⁴ (Room 3/Gago Hall, Cyprus Institute), organized by the Regional Environmental Centre for Central Asia in cooperation with the Regional Environmental Centre for the Caucasus. The side event aims to demonstrate the role of ESD as an instrument to facilitate regional platforms for greening the economies of Central Asia and the Caucasus via the following instruments: the Central Asian Information Portal;¹⁵ the Central Asian Leadership Programme on Environment for Sustainable Development; the Water-Energy-Food-Ecosystems Nexus approach in Central Asia; the footprint of application of Nature-based Solutions and ESD for achieving Agenda 2030 in the South Caucasus.
- “Education for Sustainable Development: Case studies from the Region”¹⁶ (Room 5b, Fresnel Building, Cyprus Institute). Organizers: Egyptian Sustainable Development Forum in cooperation with the Ministry of Education, Sport and Youth of Cyprus. The event will present key achievements, lessons learned and opportunities for the replication and expansion of the partnership project between the Ministry of Education, Sport and Youth of Cyprus and the Egyptian Sustainable Development Forum launched in 2018. The event will discuss the means of mainstreaming such experience in Egypt, as well as of replicating it in other countries in the region.
- “Education for Sustainable Development: Policy and Practice”¹⁷ (Kyrenia Room, Filoxenia Conference Centre). Organizers: Centre for the Advancement of Research and Development in Educational Technology in cooperation with the Unit for Education for the Environment and Sustainable Development, Ministry of Education, Sport and Youth of Cyprus. The side event will bring together experts and practitioners in the field of ESD to discuss perspectives, practices and related educational policies, as well as to provide recommendations for action. The main issues in focus will be: the role of education in enabling the Sustainable Development Goals; steps and actions required to incorporate the Sustainable Development Goals into education; educators’ and learners’ competences for society in the twenty-first century and to achieve personal and societal transformation; and the role of stakeholders and partnerships in promoting ESD.

6 October 2022 (*Timing: 8.15–9.45 a.m.*)

- “Education for Climate... Towards COP27”¹⁸ (Room 5a, Fresnel Building, Cyprus Institute). Organizers: the Arab Network for Environment and Development, in cooperation with the Ministry of Education, Sport and Youth of Cyprus and the UNESCO Chair and Network on Sustainable Development Management and Education in the Mediterranean. The side event will present initiatives related to climate change education focusing to the experience of the Arab Network for Environment and Development through participation in the Task Force on Education and Outreach of the Eastern Mediterranean and Middle East Climate Change Initiative 2020–2021. The event will provide an opportunity to discuss how this experience and know-how can be shared and capitalized on in the build-up to the twenty-seventh session of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (Sharm El-Sheikh (Egypt), 6–20 November 2022).
- “Interministerial networking for more and better GCE & ESD”¹⁹ (Room 6, G.O. Building, Cyprus Institute). Organizers: Global Education Network Europe. The side event aims at establishing closer links between related education agendas and highlighting how policy learning at the European level can result in closer cooperation

¹⁴ See https://nicosiaefe.gov.cy/pdfs/side-events-agenda/12_Side%20Event_Agenda%20Template_CAREC%20and%20REC%20Caucasus_05.10.2022_FINAL.pdf.

¹⁵ See <https://ca-climate.org/eng/cacip.php>.

¹⁶ See https://nicosiaefe.gov.cy/pdfs/side-events-agenda/14_Side%20Event_Agenda_ESDF.pdf.

¹⁷ See https://nicosiaefe.gov.cy/pdfs/side-events-agenda/15_Side%20Event_Agenda_CARDET.pdf.

¹⁸ See https://nicosiaefe.gov.cy/pdfs/side-events-agenda/17_Side%20Event_Agenda_RAED.pdf.

¹⁹ See https://nicosiaefe.gov.cy/pdfs/side-events-agenda/19_Side%20Event%20agenda%20GENE%20.pdf.

between different actors and strengthening global education, global citizenship and ESD. Cooperation among ministries and agencies within a regional European network such as the Global Education Network Europe will be showcased for its role in embedding global issues and sustainability in formal and non-formal education. Moreover, the ongoing process to create a European Declaration on Global Education to 2050 will be presented.

6 October 2022 (*Timing: 1.10–2.50 p.m.*)

- “Educating with a Rounder Sense of Purpose: teacher competences for sustainability”²⁰ (Room 3, Gago Hall, Cyprus Institute). Organizers: the University of Gloucestershire (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland) in cooperation with Frederick University (Cyprus), the Hungarian Research Teachers’ Association, “Duurzame PABO” (Netherlands), the Universitat Oberta de Catalunya (Spain) and the Italian Association for Sustainability Science. The side event will highlight key features of the “Rounder Sense of Purpose” competence framework for ESD, its links with the Sustainable Development Goals and the impact of the application of the “Rounder Sense of Purpose” competence framework on the national and institutional settings in six ECE member States. The “Rounder Sense of Purpose” competence framework is made up of 12 competences for educators working in any educational setting, from pre-school to higher education, and has been developed based on ECE educator competences for the ESD framework.

7 October 2022 (*Timing: 8.15–9.45 a.m.*)

- “Ocean Literacy in the Mediterranean”²¹ (Elia Room, Filoxenia Conference Centre). Organizers: Mediterranean Information Office for Environment, Culture and Sustainable Development in cooperation with the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe (Venice Office, Italy), the Ministry of Education, Sport and Youth of Cyprus and the Hellenic Marine Environment Protection Association. The United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development, or Ocean Decade (2021–2030) acknowledges ocean literacy as one of its key components. The Mediterranean region has a long tradition of education and awareness-raising projects on the sea and marine topics, while its coastal and marine biosphere reserves and protected areas serve as “living laboratories” to apply and promote ocean literacy activities and ESD. The side event will discuss ocean literacy practices, opportunities and challenges in the region. It will serve as the opening session of the 2022 Hybrid University on Biosphere Reserves as Sites to Develop Ocean Literacy (Cyprus, 8–10 October 2022), which will be held for a limited number of selected participants immediately after the Ninth Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference (Nicosia, 5–7 October 2022).

7 October 2022 (*Timing: 1.10–2.40 p.m.*)

- “From the Whole School Approach (WSA) to Whole Institute Approach (WIA) as a tool to empower learners in facing today’s challenges”²² (Elia Room, Filoxenia Conference Centre). Organizers: The Mediterranean Education Initiative for Environment and Sustainability in cooperation with the Ministry of Education, Sport and Youth of Cyprus, the Ministry of Education, Lifelong Learning and Religious Affairs of Greece, the Ministry of Education of Malta, the Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality of the Netherlands and EkoSkola Malta. The side event aims to discuss experiences and prospects related to the “whole school approach” and its upscaling to the wider “whole institution approach”, which is recognized as a key component within major ESD policy frameworks (UNECE Strategy for ESD 2021–2030; Action Plan towards 2030 of the Mediterranean Strategy on Education for

²⁰ See https://nicosiaefe.gov.cy/pdfs/side-events-agenda/24_Side%20Event_Agenda%20RSP%20-%206th%20Oct%202022.pdf.

²¹ See https://nicosiaefe.gov.cy/pdfs/side-events-agenda/31_Side%20Event%20Agenda_Ocean_Literacy.pdf.

²² See https://nicosiaefe.gov.cy/pdfs/side-events-agenda/35_Side%20Events%20Agenda_WSA_to_WIA_Agenda.pdf.

Sustainable Development; UNESCO #ESDfor2030). The event will discuss and demonstrate how the “whole school approach” and the “whole institution approach” can empower learners of all ages in facing local and global challenges and in taking responsible action for the environment and society.

7 October 2022 (*Timing: 1.45–3.30 p.m.*)

- “Creating resilience through the power of education for sustainable development” (Zenon Room, Filoxenia Conference Centre). Co-organizers: UNECE Steering Committee on ESD, the United Nations Environment Programme and UNESCO. The side event will showcase the central role of ESD in building resilience in society. It will highlight the enormous potential of ESD as a lever for the entire sustainable development agenda. The event will bring together government officials, experts from the United Nations, academia, civil society, youth and teachers to discuss these challenges, and share policy recommendations on how ESD can be fully utilized for the transformation needed to respond to current and future challenges.

7 October 2022 (*Timing: 3.30–4.45 p.m.*)

- “Transforming Education and its ecosystems through Citizen Participation, Cleantech innovation and entrepreneurship” (Kyrenia Room, Filoxenia Conference Centre). Organizers: Cyprus University of Technology in cooperation with the European University of Technology and the European University Alliance. The side event aims to highlight the opportunities for ESD to be combined with innovation and entrepreneurship. In addition, local and European initiatives that embed innovation and entrepreneurship through citizen and ecosystem engagement will be showcased and discussed.
