UNITED NATIONS
ECONOMIC COMMISSION
FOR EUROPE

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

19th meeting, 29, 30 and 31 May 2024

Information Paper No. 2

Outline of practical steps for implementing the workplan activities/outputs on strand 3 on digital education, information and communications technology and education for sustainable development"[1]

Item 10 of the provisional agenda:
Update on implementing the third strand on "Digital education, information and communications technology and education for sustainable development" of the implementation framework of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Strategy for Education for Sustainable Development from 2021 to 2030

Prepared by the UNECE Secretariat

---

[1] This information document was not formally edited

1.	The Steering Committee will be updated on the outline of practical steps for implementing the workplan activities/outputs on the third strand on digital education, information and communications technology and ESD of the implementation framework of the UNECE Strategy for ESD from 2021 to 2030 (information paper No. 2).

2.	Countries and other members and observers to the Steering Committee will be invited to present their programmes and/or initiatives aligned with the goals of the third strand.

Concept Note

for the

Outline of practical steps for implementing the workplan activities/outputs on strand 3 on digital education, information and communications technology and education for sustainable development

Contact: Daniel Burgos (daniel.burgos@unir.net)

Strand 3 on "Digital education, information and communications technology and education for sustainable development" operates according to the parameters of society that must be continuously updated. It is of special interest to analyse the use of social networks in the formats existing at any given time. For example, the emergence of short formats, either on TikTok or Youtube Shorts, to give two popular examples, or stories that provide a narrative as a succession of events of different elements, such as in Instagram stories. In this case, Strand 3 must carry out an observatory of these technologies to adapt in an agile way and provide a communication channel adapted to what the target users use. It is therefore essential to move with the rhythm of the times, trying to transcend traditional methods such as PDF files or emails.

Further, a second element to consider is the irruption of generative artificial intelligence in a popularized way. Although artificial intelligence has been around for 70 years and generative intelligence for two, it has recently become popular with the use of conversational virtual assistants that are easy to access and easy to use, point given that Strand 3 focuses on information and communication technologies for digital education, it should be noted that generative artificial intelligence is bringing about a revolution. Both for the generation of content and for its consumption, as well as for all the intangibles that this entails, such as copyright, attribution, possible plagiarism, replications, cloning of audio, video, or voice, etc. With this current context, Strand 3 will study a series of steps to adequately implement the vision it supports on education for sustainable development, and these steps are now provided in draft, although they will have to be discussed and endorsed in the workshop of the upcoming 19th meeting of UNECE Steering Committee on ESD to be held on 29 May 2024 in the Palais des Nations in Geneva, and where the participants will have the opportunity to contribute, discuss and decide together on an orderly, realistic, and ambitious strategy at the same time.

Suggested steps could include the following activities:

1.	Observatory of technologies with periodic online report on tools and resources present in the market that are the object of attention for Strand 3.

2.	Carrying out specific dissemination work on the application of technologies of interest for Strand 3 in specific target groups. This dissemination can include multiple formats and channels, such as forums, workshops, blogs, or etc.

3.	Production of a white paper with the vision of technology applicable to education for sustainable development of open dissemination. This white paper could evolve into an open-access indexed article in order to favour the outreach to educational communities of any level, researchers, and policy makers.

4.	Design of a short multi-language course in collaboration with universities, schools, and intergovernmental bodies to raise awareness, train and inform about sustainable development at the grassroots level; free but registered access, in such a way that a community of interested users could be nurtured.