



Sustainable development is seeking to meet the needs of the present without compromising those of future generations. We have to learn our way out of current social and environmental problems and learn to live sustainably.

Sustainable development is a vision of development that encompasses populations, animal and plant species, ecosystems, natural resources and that integrates concerns such as the fight against poverty, gender equality, human rights, education for all, health, human security, intercultural dialogue, etc.

Education for sustainable development aims to help people to develop the attitudes, skills and knowledge to make informed decisions for the benefit of themselves and others, now and in the future, and to act upon these decisions.

The **United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (2005-2014)**, for which UNESCO is the lead agency, seeks to integrate the principles, values, and practices of sustainable development into all aspects of education and learning, in order to address the social, economic, cultural and environmental problems we face in the 21st century. UNESCO Strategy for the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (DESD) might be found at www.unesco.org

The 2009 DESD Monitoring & Evaluation Progress report entitled “Learning for a Sustainable World: Review of Contexts and Structures for Education for Sustainable Development” reviews the progress achieved and challenges encountered during the first five years in establishing provisions, strategies, mechanisms and contexts that support the development and implementation of Education for Sustainable Development (ESD). It also indicates the ways forward for the remaining half of the Decade.

The report was presented at the World Conference on Education for Sustainable Development, 31 March-2 April 2009, in Bonn, Germany, that marked the mid-point of the Decade.

Working Group of UNESCO Chairs for Education for Sustainable Development

Research and Innovation form part of the seven strategies recommended in the International Implementation Scheme for the UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (DESD). Research is also an essential component of the Global Monitoring and Evaluation Framework for the Decade. The Working Group of UNESCO Chairs for Education for Sustainable Development was established in November 2009 in order to reenergize and further engage the UNESCO Chairs in the second half of the Decade.

The objectives of the Working Group is to create synergies among the UNESCO ESD Chairs and to involve their networks to work with UNESCO on providing knowledge, data, case studies or research for the second half of the Decade and the Second phase of the Monitoring and Evaluation Process.

The following UNESCO chairs have been established:

UNESCO Chair in Reorienting Teacher Education towards Sustainability - York University, Canada

UNESCO Chair in Early Childhood Education - Goteborg University, Sweden

UNESCO Chair in Environmental Education and Sustainable Development - National University of Distance Education, Spain

UNESCO Chair on the Sciences of Education - Herzen State Pedagogical University of Russia, St.Petersburg, Russian Federation

UNESCO Chair "Learning Society and Social Sustainable Development" , Russian Federation

UNESCO Chair Social Learning and Sustainable Development, Wageningen University, The Netherlands

UNESCO Chair in Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) in Education for Sustainable Development University of Crete, Greece

UNESCO Chair in Research and Education for Sustainable Development Okayama University, Japan

Recently the network of Regional Centers of Excellency in Sustainable Development has been created. In preparing the application and application summary, please follow the guidelines at: http://www.ias.unu.edu/sub_page.aspx?catID=108&ddlID=258 and make sure that all the required information is clearly stated in both the application and application summary. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the Global RCE Service Centre
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The problems of DESD are being discussed by the Standing Conference of European Ministers of Teachers. Under the heading “Education for Sustainable Democratic Societies: the Role of Teachers”, the 23rd session of the Standing Conference of European Ministers of Education was held in Ljubljana, Slovenia, on June 4-5, 2010. It was an opportunity to discuss these issues and consider the role of education and, more specifically, teachers, in finding common, viable and effective solutions to the challenges facing European societies at present, such as the increasing diversity of our societies. The details might be found at www.unesco.org

As far as Russia is concerned, President D.Medvedev recommended that starting from September 2010, the subject “Ecology and Sustainable Development” must become a compulsory subject at high school. I expect now a rapid progress in this direction.

Natalia Tarasova

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Moscow, July 24, 2010.

The morning temperature is 34C. Dear colleagues, we should at least triple our efforts in ESD, before the change becomes irreversible!