

**"GOOD PRACTICE" IN EDUCATION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT  
IN THE UNECE REGION**

"Good practices in ESD" are initiatives closely related to Education for Sustainable Development, that demonstrate good practice, generate ideas and contribute to policy development. These good practices:

1. focus on the educational and learning dimensions of sustainable development.
2. are innovative. They develop new and creative solutions to common problems, such as:
  - ❖ ways to discover what the key local issues of sustainable development are
  - ❖ ways to adapt processes to relevant teaching and learning strategies
  - ❖ ways of fostering links between learning situations and the community
  - ❖ ways of integrating local knowledge and culture
  - ❖ curriculum development processes enabling content to be decided as locally relevant
  - ❖ starting points on how Education for Sustainable Development can best be put into effect.
3. make a difference. They demonstrate a positive and tangible impact on the living conditions, quality of life of the individuals, groups or communities concerned. They seek to bridge gaps between different societal actors/sectors and are inclusive, in order to allow new partners to join the implementing agents/bodies.
4. have a sustainable effect. They contribute to sustained improvement of living conditions. They must integrate economic, social, cultural and environmental components of sustainable development and reflect their interaction/interdependency in their design and implementation.
5. have the potential for replication. They provide effective methodologies for transdisciplinary and multi-sectoral co-operation. They serve as models for generating policies and initiatives elsewhere.
6. offer some elements of evaluation. They have been and can be evaluated in terms of the criteria of innovation, success and sustainability by both experts and the people concerned.

***If you submit more than one "good practice", please indicate the priority 1, 2 or 3.***

**Priority 3**

**1. NAME OF THE INITIATIVE CONSIDERED AS A GOOD PRACTICE<sup>1</sup>:**

**BETTER ENVIRONMENT FOR HEALTHIER CHILDREN**

**2. RESPONSIBLE COUNTRY/ORGANIZATION:**

Name: **REGIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER, ALBANIA**

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Internet : <http://albania.rec.org/>

**3. CONTACT PERSON (name and title):**

Mihallaq Qirjo

REC Country Office Director

**4. FOCUS OF THE INITIATIVE (check one or more box(es)):**

- |  |   |  |
|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Education/Learning          | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Environment             | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Peace, Human Rights & Security       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Educators                   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Water                   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Policy, Regulation, Governance       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Overcoming Poverty          | <input type="checkbox"/> Climate Change                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Intercultural Understanding                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gender Equality             | <input type="checkbox"/> Biodiversity                       | <input type="checkbox"/> Cultural Diversity                              |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Health Promotion | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Disaster Reduction      | <input type="checkbox"/> Indigenous knowledge                            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> HIV/AIDS                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Rural Development                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Tools and materials (e.g. Media & ICTs)         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sustainable Urbanization    | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sustainable Consumption | <input type="checkbox"/> Research / Development                          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Corporate Responsibility    | <input type="checkbox"/> Sustainable Tourism                | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Regional / international cooperation |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Economy          | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Citizenship             | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other etc )                          |

<sup>1</sup> Your response to this questionnaire should not exceed 2 pages. Font: Arial , size - 9; margins - 2 centimeters.

## 5. INITIATIVE DESCRIPTION *(provide brief description)*

- Type (governmental, non-governmental, municipal, other):

The proposed activities focused on information and capacity building of the target groups – to enable them for active participation and lobbying in decision making processes.

That programme aimed the concrete participation and lobbying on CEHAP – to ensure the wide contribution on the developing process of the CEHAP at both levels: European and national one, with an important stress to the coming implementation phase.

- Working language(s):

ALBANIAN / ENGLISH

- Setting / Target group(s) / Number of persons involved:

The project's target group:

- Children (age group 13-18), parents and teachers, and
- NGOs and other organisms responsible or that can be involved in health and environment protection, as well as protection of children rights.

Furthermore, the project expected to have a direct impact on the level of public participation on decision making processes related to the environment and health in Albania. The exchange of information encouraged with non-participating local schools, as well as other local players and partners outside the school system, such as municipal bodies, media, research institutions, environmental authorities, business, NGOs and children's families. Those activities ensured a multiplier effect for the results of the project, as well as had provided an opportunity for bigger input into the process and further active participation. These groups therefore were part of the "secondary" target group of the project.

- Starting year and Duration:

8 month - 1 Nov. 2003 - 30 Jun. 2004

- Budget and Funding Sources:

Royal Netherlands Embassy

- Partner organisations involved *(if any)*:

Consortium of: **REC ALBANIA**  
**MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT**  
**MINISTRY OF HEALTH**

- Stakeholders involved (e.g. local community). *Describe their involvement in this initiative and the kind of relationship you have with them.*

Tirana (Elementary School "Jeronim De Rada, High school "Andon Zako Cajupi),  
Elbasan (Elementary School "Qamil Guranjaku". High school "Kostandin Kristoforidhi"),  
Shkodra (Elementary School "Ismail Qemali" High school "28 Nentori")  
Vlora (Elementary School "Lef Sallata" High school "Ali Demi")

Pogradeci (Elementary School "Koli Gusho" High school "Muharrem Çollaku")

Meetings in 10 schools of Albania (5 districts x 2 schools) involving 400-500 teenagers and 20 teachers. The selection of schools was based on the criteria of the existence and good performance of the youth senate.

Regarding the cooperation between environment and health sectors at local level in Albania and the concrete measures that were undertaken for the resolving of specific problems, were involved some representatives from local government, Regional Environmental Agency (REA), NGOs, and other interested people.

## 6. MAIN OBJECTIVES OF THE INITIATIVE *(provide brief description)*

- To ensure the active participation of children and other target groups in Public Discussion and Lobbying process on CEHAP (European and National)
- To enhance the capacities of these target groups for participation in decision making processes and contribution to the implementation of the CEHAP in the future.

## 7. METHODOLOGY *(provide brief description)*

Methods/approach for this initiative (*list key background materials that were used; If necessary, use a separate sheet*)

The proposed project lasted about 8 months and consisted on two phases:

- a) Introduction of CEHAP through information dissemination, meetings and media campaign;
- b) Ensuring the active participation of target groups in the process, through inputs from target groups (meetings, questionnaires, lobbying campaign, etc.) and capacity building activities.

## **8. RESULTS AND EVALUATION OF THE INITIATIVE** (*provide brief description and assessment*)

### ▪ Results

- increased transparency and the participation on the process of CEHAP in european and national level (10 local meetings involving ~500 students and 20 teachers; two meetings of ~ 40 children and teachers with members of Albanian delegation at the Budapest Ministerial Conference; national conference "Better environment for healthier children"; meetings of children with representatives of local authorities; etc.)
- 10 thematic meetings in ten schools of five districts, promoting the CEHAP process and involvement of children in this specific process as well as in environmental issues in general;
- increased visibility of local authorities in children community at local level through direct meetings (10 local meetings initiated by REC, 5 meetings initiated by children themselves);
- First meetings of children with high officials (deputy ministers) of Ministry of Health and Ministry of Environment
- Increased capacities of selected groups of children (~50 children from 5 districts) through two training sessions;
- Thematic publications: 4 different postcards, two different posters; National Conference proceedings brochure;
- A TV spot was produced
- Public awareness activities were organized in two environmental days: world Environmental Day, June 5, and European "Clean up the cities" Day – September 22, involving approx. 5000 children, teachers, 5 environmental NGOs
- Supporting the cooperation among institutions and experts responsible and involved on environmental and health issues (National Conference "Better environment for healthier children")

### ▪ Strengths

The Project Strategy envisages the introduction of concepts of participation in decision making processes and the support for the concrete participation and lobbying in the drafting process of European and Albanian CEHAP.

- Weaknesses and risks
- Problems encountered: (*fill in if applicable*)
- Conditions for successful replication (*fill in if applicable*)
- Unresolved issues (*fill in if applicable*)
- Why do you consider this a good practice?

The designed activities were foreseen to contribute to built up a movement in Albania, ensuring the participation of children and wider public in the drafting process of the Albanian CEHAP, as well as organizing a public discussion and lobbying the 4th Ministerial Conference (Budapest, June 23-25, 2004)

The activities that had been organized enforced:

- The right of children for safe living environment;
- The right of children for cleans air in in-door and out-door living environment;
- The right of children for clean and safe water and environment;
- The right of children to be protected from hazardous substances and other physic agents;

**Please attach one relevant picture, as a separate file** (*max 1024 x 768 px /72 dpi/ jpg-format 80% quality/ up to 300KB*)

Please submit your "Good practice" (up to 3 "Good practices" per country/organisation) electronically by e-mail to: [esd@unece.org](mailto:esd@unece.org). In addition, you are invited to send us any relevant information you might think useful, including references to documents, publications and/or articles describing the initiative, as well as relevant links to websites.

*For further information, please send request to the same e-mail address or contact: Environment, Human Settlements and Land Management Division, Economic Commission for Europe Palais des Nations, 8-14 avenue de la Paix, 1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland. fax: 00 41 22 9170107 - web : <http://www.unece.org/env/esd/welcome.htm>*