

**“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.*

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

EE Network in South Moravia Region

**2. RESPONSIBLE COUNTRY/ORGANIZATION:**

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**3. CONTACT PERSON** (*name and title*): Mr. Michal Medek

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

- |  |   |  |
|--|---|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Education/Learning | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Environment             | <input type="checkbox"/> Peace, Human Rights & Security                  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Educators          | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Water                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Policy, Regulation, Governance                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Overcoming Poverty            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Climate Change          | <input type="checkbox"/> Intercultural Understanding                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gender Equality               | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Biodiversity            | <input type="checkbox"/> Cultural Diversity                              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Health Promotion              | <input type="checkbox"/> Disaster Reduction                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Indigenous knowledge                            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> HIV/AIDS                      | <input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> Economy                       | <input type="checkbox"/> Citizenship                        | <input type="checkbox"/> other ( <i>please specify</i> )                 |

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

- **Type (governmental, non-governmental, municipal, other):** network of NGOs, regional institutions, municipalities and regional government)
- **Working language(s):** Czech
- **Setting / Target group(s) / Number of persons involved:** TG: general public, experts in building industry, mayors and community leaders, office workers, teachers, volunteers; about 40 executives work on the project

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

- **Starting year and Duration:** 2005 - 2008
- **Budget and Funding Sources:** 950,000,- EUR; European Social Fund, Ministry of Environment, South Moravia Regional Government
- **Partner organisations involved (if any):** Barvínek, Boskovice, Brontosaurus, Hnutí Duha – Friends of the Earth Czech Republic, Ekologický právní servis, Středisko volného času Hodonín, Zájmové sdružení obcí Hrušovansko, Jihomoravský kraj, Subdodavatel – Nesehnuti, Centrum ekologické výchovy Pálava, ČSOP Ponikva, Společnost Renata, Rezekvítek, Sdružení Tereza, Za Sebevědomé Tišnovsko, Veronica, Vzdělávací a informační středisko Bílé Karpaty, o.p.s.
- **Stakeholders involved (e.g. local community). Describe their involvement in this initiative and the kind of relationship you have with them.**
  - Ministry of Environment: the project is example of good practice: cooperation between NGOs and local government, the stakeholder is co-funding the initiative
  - Regional Government: the project helps the regional government to identify environmental problems in the region and gives it ideas and partners to solve them; regional government is partner of the project making its own part (education of mayors in waste management) as well as member of the steering committee
  - Public: in general is the recipient of the products of the project

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

Main aim of the initiative is to multiply the effect of education for sustainable development by identifying 5 key issues in the region (South Moravia, 7100 sq. km, 1,1 mil inhabitants) and setting up a network of NGOs and other key partners to solve the problems identified.

The key issues are:

1. Low capacity of NGOs for environmental counseling. No environmental counseling offered to public outside the regional capital. Solution: course for environmental counselors, network of experts, network of environmental counseling offices.
2. Low respect to conservation within general public due to strong lobby against it as “inhibitor of prosperity.” Solution: series of interpretative excursions throughout the region aimed at general public. Restoration and installation of information panels on specific sites. Involvement of volunteers into conservation work.
3. Low respect to environmental-friendly operation among institutions. Solution: a. nationwide implementation of the international Eco-school scheme, b. implementation of Eco-school program into basic schools in region given
4. No Local Agenda 21 implementation in rural regions. Solution: Implementation of Local Agenda 21 in chosen micro-regions
5. Low education of practitioners in environmental aspects of their fields. Solution: From many subjects energy-efficient building and waste management were chosen. Course for the practitioners was prepared.

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

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

The initiative is not innovative in its methodology. Innovative is the aspect of 16 partners coming together identifying regional problems and providing solutions to them. Every key activity mentioned above is coordinated by an NGO and every partner has got a list of tasks to complete in order to reach the regional goal. This is controlled by unique software. Identification of regional environmental problems is an ongoing process and is done by representatives of the partners and regional authorities (e.g. key issues for 2007 are broadening the above mentioned ones).

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

- **Results:** network of environmental counselors, interpretation of natural heritage as a normal service for public, implementation of Eco-school scheme, contest among offices in environmental friendly operation, green NGOs winning respect from local government, LA21 in two rural regions, hundreds of new volunteers in the field of conservation, hundreds of trained experts
- **Strengths:** good cooperation among partners involved in the initiative, strong management.
- **Weaknesses and risks:** the network is a living organism – there are organizations stepping in and out.
- **Problems encountered:(fill in if applicable)** Fluctuation of human resources is the biggest problem in such a “soft” project.
- **Conditions for successful replication (fill in if applicable):** Cooperation is crucial. Our experience is that cooperation needs good communication management, transparency and democracy.
- **Perspectives (fill in if applicable):** The network will continue to work in issue-based cooperation mode. We will continue to identify key environmental issues in the region, find solutions to them and make fundraising together. Regional government plays the key role planning regional targets in ESD (in close cooperation with the network).
- **Why do you consider this a good practice?**
  - Project systematically and with complexity provides EE, eco-counseling, raising awareness of sustainable development in region;
  - Takes into account specific conditions and problem topics of region;
  - Sets up very wide and workable network of NGOs a public administration in region (this network is an open system);
  - Effectively implements well-established international programs such as Eco-school, LA21;
  - Has positive impact on wide and difference target groups.

