

“New project on Education for Sustainable Development in the Republic of Kazakhstan”

In April 2006 CAREC, in cooperation and with support of the OSCE Centre in Almaty, has started implementation of a new project named **“Promotion of education for sustainable development in formal and informal education of Kazakhstan”**, devoted to fulfilling commitments of Kazakhstan according to the adopted UNECE Strategy on Education for Sustainable Development.

Presentation of the project and Round Table “Promotion of education for sustainable development in formal and informal education of the Republic of Kazakhstan” was conducted on May 30th, in UN Resource Centre.

The meeting included presentation of the project, highlighting of its goals, aims, participants, beneficiaries of the project outputs and expected outcomes. Deputies of the Mazhilis of the Parliament of the Republic of Kazakhstan, heads of the Ministry of Environmental Protection, Ministry of Education and Science, non-governmental, scientific and business organizations, as well as pedagogic society took part in the meeting. Coordination, interaction and close cooperation of all interested parties are the essential conditions for successful implementation of the project.

The Strategy on Education for Sustainable Development and Vilnius Frameworks of its implementation were adopted at the Vilnius High Level Meeting of Ministers of Environment and Education of the UNECE countries in March 2005. Taking into consideration that the Strategy is responsibility of the states, and UNECE countries have to try their best in order to implement it successfully, it is necessary to mobilize resources for implementation of the Strategy on ESD as well as provision with financial support from state budgets for implementation of the Strategy. On the first stage of implementation, the countries have to provide with translation of the Strategy into national languages, to create necessary coordination bodies, to appoint national coordinators in countries on implementation of the Strategy and to develop National Action Plans on the Strategy. **Therefore, the project “Promotion of Education for Sustainable Development” is devoted to solve these issues in particular.**

Currently, Kazakhstan legislation is lacking on environmental education issues (EE) and the modern aspect of ESD are poorly reflected, which cover rather wider number of issues comparing to EE, such as improvement of elementary education; re-orientation of education to SD sphere; increase of mass awareness level; increase of level of professional training; systematic, critical, creative thinking; personally oriented education; organic inclusion of SD issues into the educational programme in all levels, including professional training; trainings of teachers and special trainings for experts and heads; balance between global and local interests and priorities; as well as multilateral cooperation and partnership.

Organizers of the project believe that *during implementation of the project under support of partners, i.e. Parliament of the Republic of Kazakhstan, Ministry of Environment Protection, Ministry of Education and Science, scientific and public organizations to achieve the following outcomes:*

1. The UNECE Strategy on ESD is translated into state language, published and disseminated among interested parties through web sites of UNECE, Ministry of Environment Protection, Ministry of Education and Science, CAREC and OSCE, email networks and in hard version through seminars and trainings.
2. Conducting Comparative Legal Analysis on correspondence between the UNECE Strategy on ESD and the Kazakhstani legislation on education.
3. Conducted of Comparative Legal Analysis on correspondence between UNECE Strategy on ESD and Kazakhstan legislation, devoted to improvement and harmonization of Kazakhstan legislation, introduction elements of sustainable development in order to have it in accordance with international documents and laws from one side and reflect national character, priorities and needs of Kazakhstan from another.
4. Elaborated proposals and recommendations addressed to state bodies on enforcing Kazakhstan legislation and educational policy on ESD sphere.
5. Developed draft of the National Action Plan of the UNECE Strategy on ESD implementation in the Republic of Kazakhstan and proposed to state bodies (Ministry of Environment Protection, Ministry of Education and Science, Council on SD of RK) for further promotion on Government level.

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