

FOURTH UNECE REGIONAL IMPLEMENTATION MEETING ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

GENEVA, 1-2 December 2009

Agenda item 10. Cross-cutting issues, interlinkages and implementation of CSD-17 decisions

Intervention by the Regional Centre of Expertise (Austria)¹

Working with sustainability actors and stakeholders around the world, especially in the framework of the RCE programme, the need for a common evaluation and assessment tool emerged to support the exchange and learning for sustainable development among the partners of RCEs and beyond. Discussion about philosophy and strategy for evaluation appropriate for ESD processes is carried by the RCE community. Among several suggestions there is a proposal for testing an evaluation model for sustainability processes that has been developed by the RCE Graz-Styria facilitated by the University of Graz in Austria. This model is based on five principles and is flexible to use in various kinds of processes no matter of culture, size or leadership structures. The model is based on are the following principles: (a) Leadership of the process and building up a shared vision, (b) involved social network to support the process by knowledge and/or financial resources, (c) participation of people affected by the process, (d) education and learning as well as (e) research integration to support innovation.

Evaluation of processes contributes to the understanding and learning of complex systems of partners working for sustainability is a challenging and ambitious task. There is a need to generate a body of knowledge that support development of the evaluation systems that provide an understanding of progress in sustainability processes while assisting development of multi-stakeholder initiatives. The exchange of learnings between various actor groups, stakeholders and researchers further supports the development of the sustainability implementation and contributes to innovation for sustainable development.

Therefore the international community of Regional Centres of Expertise (RCE) on Education for Sustainable Development supported by United Nations University calls for the promotion of evaluation of community, research and policy based processes within the further sessions of CSD.

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¹ Speaking Note on behalf of the international community of Regional Centres of Expertise (RCE) on Education for Sustainable Development supported by United Nations University. The text is presented as received from the author.