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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

UNECE Steering Committee on Education for Sustainable Development

First meeting

Geneva, 13-14 December 2005

**Draft work plan for the implementation of the UNECE Strategy for Education for
Sustainable Development, 2005-2007**
for adoption by the Steering Committee

Introduction

1. This document was prepared by the UNECE secretariat on the basis of the Vilnius Framework for the Implementation of the UNECE Strategy for Education for Sustainable Development, adopted by the High-level Meeting of Environment and Education Ministries (Vilnius, 2005).
2. The implementation of the work plan is overseen by the Steering Committee, which operates under the authority of the High-level Meeting of Education and Environment Ministries.
3. The document presents activities that aim at facilitating the start of the implementation of phase I. It outlines a number of concrete priority activities that are focused on: (a) coordination; (b) capacity building and sharing of experiences, and (c) review of implementation. The draft work plan also contains a tentative budget.
4. The UNECE secretariat will, resources permitting, facilitate implementation of the draft work plan. Countries and groups of countries together with relevant international organizations are encouraged to undertake a lead role for the implementation of particular items in the work plan. Partnerships involving governments, local authorities, the business community, academia, media, NGOs and other interested stakeholders are encouraged for implementation of the activities.

I. Priority Activities

1.1. Coordination at national/state and international levels

5. The High-level Meeting decided that, in order to guarantee efficient governance and communication, the following initial steps were necessary at the UNECE regional level: (a) establishment of the Steering Committee to oversee the implementation of the Strategy; and (b) use of the “Environment for Europe” process as a platform for regional high-level promotion of the implementation of the Strategy. Another crucial task of member States is establishing a network of national focal points. The objective of this network is to facilitate contacts and coordination between countries in the region and the relevant stakeholders involved. The focal points will be responsible for the follow-up to the implementation of the Strategy within their respective countries and organizations, as well as for dissemination of information to all the relevant stakeholders. The focal points should also ensure coordination of the positions of their respective countries and organizations in the Steering Committee.

6. At national/state level the key elements are: (a) development of national implementation plans; and (b) establishment of a consultative mechanism for implementation and (c) translation of the Strategy into official and other relevant languages. These tasks have to be completed by 2007.

1.2. Capacity building and sharing of experiences

7. Activities aimed at capacity building and sharing of experience include:

(a) Workshops

Sub-regional and/or thematic workshops would make it possible to address specific needs of a given subregion and would contribute to strengthening subregional cooperation. Two major initiatives in this area have already emerged in the Mediterranean and EU subregions, and a proposal has been put forward to organise three workshops for EECCA, South-East Europe and North America by 2007.

Target subregion	Date	Title
Mediterranean	November 2005	Workshop on the implementation of the UNECE Strategy for ESD back to back with the official launching of the DESD in the Mediterranean region
European Union	March 2006	Conference on Education for Sustainable Development
EECCA	November 2006	To be proposed
South-East Europe	May 2007	To be proposed
North America	November 2007	To be proposed

(b) Compilation of national good practices

Governments¹ could provide the secretariat with examples of their good practices in education for sustainable development. This information will be submitted to the Secretariat electronically in English, in Word format. Member States are encouraged to provide the text in the two other official languages of the UNECE, namely French and Russian. Resources permitting, the received texts will be translated, as required, into English, French and Russian. A compilation will be

¹ Countries with federal structure will submit one consolidated text based on the sub-national/state inputs

prepared (about 120 pages: up to 2 pages per country) and published electronically (CD-Rom) and in print. Alternatively, this compilation could contain the documents in the original languages, in electronic format only and be posted on the UNECE web site. This activity would constitute an input for the Belgrade Conference.

(c) Use of electronic tools

Following the call of the High-level Meeting, UNESCO offered to use jointly with UNECE a section of its web portal on DESD (www.unesco.org/education/desd).

A web portal would be an important tool to facilitate the sharing of good practices, innovative approaches, experience, projects and other information. Information on the use of the web portal will be posted on the UNECE web site. UNECE will regularly update its web site on ESD. Focal points are encouraged to keep the secretariat informed about relevant ESD initiatives in their region.

(d) Case studies

This could be a valuable tool for illustrating in a practical way achievements and challenges in the implementation of the Strategy. For instance, two countries from different subregions might volunteer to cooperate with a research/academic institution or non-governmental organisation to carry out a study on how the Strategy has been implemented, using indicators developed by the expert group. This would also be a valuable and substantive contribution to the high-level event expected to take place in conjunction with the Belgrade Conference. UNECE could coordinate this exercise.

1.3. Review of implementation

8. In order to carry out a comprehensive review of the implementation of the Strategy, a region wide reporting mechanism should be set up. The major elements of this exercise are:

(a) Set of indicators

An Expert Group set up by the High-level Meeting carries out this exercise. The timeframe the development of indicators is as follows:

- September 2005 – First meeting of the Expert group (EG) to prepare a first draft of indicators on the basis of the background paper prepared by the Secretariat in consultation with the Chairperson;
- October 2005 – first draft to be sent to national focal points and relevant stakeholders for comments
- November 2005 – Second meeting of the EG to prepare a third draft for submission to the UNECE Steering Committee on ESD for comments;
- December 2005 – UNECE Steering Committee on ESD to provide comments on the draft;
- March 2006 – Third meeting of the EG to prepare a fourth draft;
- April 2006 – Draft to be sent to national focal points and key stakeholders for comments;
- May 2006 – Fourth meeting of the EG to finalize the draft indicators;
- December 2006 - UNECE Steering Committee to endorse the indicators and agree to use them for assessing implementation of the Strategy.

(b) Format for reporting

Following the request of the High-level Meeting, reporting requirements would be streamlined by UNESCO and UNECE. Thus, UNECE member States will be able to submit a single report on

the implementation of the UNECE Strategy that would also serve as a report on the implementation of the Decade on ESD. A standard format for reporting would provide a useful structure for processing the information received and would facilitate a comparison between reports. Therefore, a template for reporting will be developed by UNECE in cooperation with UNESCO (see Annex III for the draft).

(c) Procedure for reporting

The main elements of the procedure are as follows:

- (i) UNECE member States should prepare reports² through a transparent consultative process involving all relevant stakeholders at national/state level;
- (ii) Member States could start reporting voluntarily by preparing reports for the Belgrade Conference. The first formal call for reporting would be for 2010. Thereafter, an updated version of the report can be prepared by the respective member States for 2015;
- (iii) Reports should be submitted to the Secretariat electronically in Word format. The text should be in English. Member States are also encouraged to provide the text in the two other official languages of the UNECE, namely French and Russian. Reports will be made available in the languages in which they are received. No editing will be provided;
- (iv) Deadlines for submission to the Secretariat will take into account UN document management procedures and will be communicated by the Secretariat in due course;
- (v) UNECE will upload the reports on its web site. It will also ensure the distribution of hard copies to the UNECE member States and key stakeholders. UNESCO would ensure visibility of the reports through its web site and will use them for its work;
- (vi) The UNECE Secretariat would prepare a synthesis report for 2010 and for 2015, highlighting the progress made, identifying challenges and drawing up recommendations;
- (vii) Key stakeholders are encouraged to provide the Secretariat with their reports on programmes or activities that provide support to the implementation of the Strategy;
- (viii) Meetings of the Steering Committee will be a forum for considering reports. The “Environment for Europe” Ministerial Conferences will be informed of progress as appropriate and will be encouraged to hold joint environment/education sessions as needed.

II. Financial arrangements

9. The High-level Meeting agreed that a sound financial basis is needed for an effective implementation of the Strategy. It will rely mainly on voluntary contributions from member States, international organizations, private sector and international financial institutions. An agreed voluntary scheme of contributions (for “big” donors contributing EUR 20,000 or more, for “medium” donors contributing EUR 2,000 or more, and for “small” donors contributing EUR 200 or more), in cash or in kind, by countries and other interested donors, could provide an effective and workable solution in the short and medium term (see Annex II for the updated budget). For long-term implementation, more stable and predictable funding should be considered.

² Countries with federal structure will submit one consolidated report based on the sub-national/state inputs

Annex I
Time line

Year	2005					2006												2007												
Month	8	9	10	11	12	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
Development of indicators		x ³		x				x		x																				
Workshops				x*				x*								x*						x*							x	
Good practices							x ⁴				x ⁵																			
Meetings of the Steering Committee					x												x													
High-level event (Belgrade Conference)																											x	x		
Reporting (voluntary)																						x ⁶								
Case studies																						x ⁷								

³ Meetings of the Expert Group

* Tentative dates

⁴ Invitation with an explanatory note is sent out to the governments

⁵ Deadline for submission of good practices to the secretariat

⁶ Deadline for submission of reports to the secretariat

⁷ Deadline for submission of case studies to the secretariat

Annex II**UNECE EDUCATION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME**

Tentative Budget

*(in United States dollars; calculations are based on the United Nations scale of assessments⁸)***I. REPORT ON THE USE OF FUNDS:****1.1. Contributions**

A.	Starting balance as of 1 January 2003 (Sweden)	15 000
B.	Received in December 2003 (Netherlands)	59 980
	Received in August 2003 (Sweden)	34 200
	Received in January 2004 (United Kingdom)	53 300
	Received in April 2004 (Italy)	24 674
	Received in August 2004 (United Kingdom)	18 002
	Received in November 2004 (Austria)	12 722
	Received in February 2005 (Netherlands)	37 254
	Received in April 2005 (United Kingdom)	94 161
	Subtotal contributions (A + B)	349 293
C.	Interest income	13 812
D.	Contributions in kind: Italy, Lithuania, Netherlands, United Kingdom and OSCE	
	<u>Total income (A+ B+C)</u>	<u>363 105</u>

1.2. Expenditures

A.	Travel of eligible delegates to two meetings of the Task Force and four meetings of the drafting group (2004)	34 420
B.	Travel of eligible delegates to a joint high-level Vilnius meeting (2005)	13 278
C.	Staff travel to the relevant meetings	9 859
D.	1 P3 staff salary (part-time, from February 2004 to July 2005 inclusive)	59 980
	1 P3 staff salary (full-time, from August 2005 to October 2006 inclusive) ⁹	177 700
	Subtotal (A+B+C+D):	295 237
E.	Programme support costs: 13% of US\$ 295 237	38 380
	<u>Total expenditures (A + B + C + D+E)</u>	<u>333 617</u>
1.3. Balance	(brought forward, as at 31 July 2005)	+ 29 488

⁸ Figures are rounded up. They might change in accordance with the UN administrative regulation⁹ Amount has been obligated. Amount covers salary and the related costs.

II. ESTIMATED EXPENDITURES FOR THE PERIOD AUGUST 2005 – OCTOBER 2007:

A.	Two meetings of the Steering Committee, 2005 and 2006 ¹⁰	60 000
B.	Expert Group on indicators ¹¹	40 000
C.	Workshops (EECCA and South-East Europe) ¹²	100 000
D.	Compilation of national good practices ¹³	25 000
E.	Process management	
	- 1 P3 staff salary (full-time from November 2006 to November 2007 inclusive)	136 500
	- Staff travel for August 2005 - November 2007 inclusive	15 000

Note: (a) expenditures for the high-level event that would be held back to back with the Belgrade Conference will be estimated at a later stage; (b) expenditures for the case studies would be estimated by the interested governments and organisations involved in the exercise; (c) expenditures for the workshops can alternatively be covered directly by host governments or/and interested organizations.

	<u>Subtotal (A+B+C+D+E):</u>	<u>376 500</u>
F.	Programme support costs: 13% of US\$ 376 500	48 945
	<u>Total (A + B + C + D+E+F)</u>	<u>425 445</u>
	Estimated required costs (425 445 – 29 488)	395 957

¹⁰ Funding will be provided to one person per eligible country to participate in the meeting.

¹¹ Funding will be provided to one person from up to five eligible countries and one NGO representative for four meetings.

¹² The total estimated funds should cover organizational expenses and travel of delegates from countries with economies in transition and NGOs to the subregional/thematic workshops.

¹³ The sum covers translation of the information received into English, French and Russian, and consultancy fees for formatting and designing the publication.

Annex III



United Nations
Economic Commission for Europe



**DRAFT FORMAT FOR THE REPORT ON IMPLEMENTATION OF THE UNECE
STRATEGY FOR EDUCATION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

Within the framework of the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (2005-2014)

The following report is submitted on behalf of the Government of in accordance with the decision of the UNECE Steering Committee on Education for Sustainable Development

Name of officer (national focal point) responsible for submitting the report:

Signature:

Date:

Full name of the institution:

Postal address:

Telephone:

Fax:

E-mail:

Web site:

Contact officer for national report (if different from above):

Introduction¹⁴

- A. Provide brief information on the process by which this report has been prepared, including information on which types of public authorities were consulted or contributed to its preparation, on how the stakeholders were consulted and how the outcome of this consultation was taken into account, and on the material used as a basis for the report (not more than half a page)
- B. Report any particular circumstances that would help clarify the context of the report, e.g. whether there is a federal and/or decentralized decision-making structure, or whether financial constraints are a significant obstacle to implementation (not more than half a page)

¹⁴ The report should not exceed 16 pages. Please use font type: Times New Roman; size: 12; margins: 2 cm. To facilitate reporting, this form will be accompanied by an explanatory note on the issues to be reported on, prepared by the Secretariat.

Issues for reporting

Issue 1: Policy, regulatory and operational measures that support ESD

- (a) *General description*
- (b) *Indicators (include some baseline data)*

Issue 2: Measures taken to promote SD through formal, non-formal and informal learning

- (a) *General description*
- (b) *Indicators (include some baseline data)*

Issue 3: Measures taken to equip educators with the competence to include SD in their teaching

- (a) *General description*
- (b) *Indicators (include some baseline data)*

Issue 4: Measures taken to promote research on and development of ESD

- (a) *General description*
- (b) *Indicators (include some baseline data)*

Issue 5: Measures taken to conserve, use and promote knowledge of indigenous people with respect to ESD

- (a) *General description*
- (b) *Indicators (include some baseline data)*

Issue 6: Measures taken to strengthen regional and international cooperation on ESD (e.g. participation in regional and subregional alliances and networks working on ESD)

- (a) *General description*
- (b) *Indicators (include some baseline data)*

Issue 7: Describe any challenges and obstacles encountered in the implementation of the Strategy

No more than 1 page

Issue 8: Describe any assistance needed to improve implementation

Please be as specific as possible