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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

UNECE Steering Committee on Education for Sustainable Development

Fourth meeting
Geneva, 19–20 February 2009
Item 3(b) of the provisional agenda

GOOD PRACTICES IN EDUCATION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Note by the secretariat¹

1. Good practices offer a wealth of experience and could be a key tool for promoting education for sustainable development (ESD) in the region and worldwide, thereby supporting countries efforts to implement ESD. The first collection² of good practices in ESD in the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) region was carried out jointly by UNECE and United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and resulted in a publication of a compendium of good practices in formal, non-formal and informal education that was presented at the Sixth Ministerial Conference “Environment for Europe (Belgrade, 10–12 October 2007). Since the successful outcome of this joint endeavour, the collection of good practices has continued through a dedicated website (<http://www.unece.org/env/esd/GoodPractices/index.html>).
2. A selection of good practices was used in preparing the first regional progress report³ of the implementation of the UNECE Strategy for ESD. During the revision of the reporting format and the set of indicators, the UNECE Expert Group on Indicators for ESD recommended that the

¹ This document was submitted on the above date to allow for consultation with the Bureau.

² Good practices in education for sustainable development in the UNECE region (ECE/BELGRADE.CONF/INF/9; <http://www.unece.org/env/documents/2007/ece/ece.belgrade.conf.2007.inf.9.e.pdf>)

³ Learning from each other: achievement, challenges and the way forward. Report on progress in implementation of the UNECE Strategy for ESD (ECE/BELGRADE.CONF/INF/3 - ECE/CEP/AC.13/2007/2).

template for good practices be revised with a view to adapting it to the reporting format. This would allow for better use of the ongoing and future collections of good practices for illustrating the progress in ESD during the preparation of the second and third regional progress reports, in 2010 and 2015, respectively.

3. Pursuant to the mandate given by the Steering Committee on ESD at its third meeting (ECE/CEP/AC.13/2008/2, para.22), the Expert Group on Indicators for ESD, jointly with UNESCO, revised the template (see annex). This revision will also make possible the development of a database and a more user-friendly interface for the provision of collected good practices through the Internet (e.g. by allowing for searches not only by country and organization, but also by each objective of the Strategy). These additional features could be developed, provided that funds are made available for this purpose.

4. A thematic collection of good practices in ESD could be undertaken jointly by UNECE and UNESCO as a contribution to the 2010–2011 cycle of the multi-year programme of work for the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development. For instance, the issues of sustainable consumption and production and of sustainable transportation are among the thematic clusters for the next cycle; good practices could focus on addressing these two issues through ESD. This collection could be produced in time for the fourth UNECE regional implementation meeting on sustainable development, scheduled to be held in November 2009⁴, and could serve as a background document facilitating discussions at the meeting. Another thematic collection could be envisaged for 2010, which would focus on addressing, through ESD, climate change, the use of indigenous and traditional knowledge, sustainable urbanization and other topics.

5. The Steering Committee is invited to consider undertaking the suggested collections of good practices in ESD.

⁴ Subject to approval by the Economic Commission for Europe at its sixty-third session (Geneva, 30 March–1 April 2009). The deadline for preparing the compilation of good practices will be the end of August 2009. The deadline for countries to submit the good practices to the secretariat will be 1 June 2009.

Annex**TEMPLATE:****GOOD PRACTICES IN EDUCATION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

Good practices in ESD are initiatives closely related to education for sustainable development that demonstrate good practice, generate ideas and contribute to policy development. ESD good practices:

- ❖ Focus on the educational and learning dimensions of sustainable development
- ❖ Offer new and creative solutions to common problems
- ❖ Make a difference and demonstrate a positive and tangible impact
- ❖ Contribute to sustained improvement of living conditions
- ❖ Can be used as models to generate policies and initiatives elsewhere
- ❖ Can be evaluated for innovation, success and sustainability by experts and users

1. NAME OF THE INITIATIVE CONSIDERED AS A GOOD PRACTICE⁵:**2. RESPONSIBLE COUNTRY/ORGANIZATION:**

Name

Mailing address:

Country:

Telephone:

Fax:

E-mail:

Internet:

3. CONTACT PERSON (*name and title*):**4. GENERAL FOCUS OF THE INITIATIVE** (*check one or more boxes*):

- Policy, regulation, governance
- Learning for sustainability in formal, non-formal and informal settings
- Education of educators
- Tools and materials
- Research and development
- Regional/international cooperation
- Indigenous knowledge

5. THEMES (*check one or more boxes*):

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Overcoming poverty | <input type="checkbox"/> Environment | <input type="checkbox"/> Corporate responsibility |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gender equality | <input type="checkbox"/> Climate change | <input type="checkbox"/> Economy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Health promotion | <input type="checkbox"/> Water | <input type="checkbox"/> Sustainable production and consumption |
| <input type="checkbox"/> HIV and AIDS | <input type="checkbox"/> Biodiversity | <input type="checkbox"/> Sustainable urbanization |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ethics | <input type="checkbox"/> Natural resource management | <input type="checkbox"/> Sustainable tourism |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Intercultural understanding | <input type="checkbox"/> Disaster reduction | <input type="checkbox"/> Rural development |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cultural diversity | <input type="checkbox"/> Democracy | <input type="checkbox"/> Responsibility in local and global contexts |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Citizenship | <input type="checkbox"/> Governance | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (<i>please specify</i>) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Peace, human rights and security | <input type="checkbox"/> Justice | |

⁵ Your response to this questionnaire should not exceed four pages. Font: Arial, size - 9; margins - 2 cm.

6. INITIATIVE DESCRIPTION *(provide brief description):*

Who?

- Type of organization managing the initiative:
 - Governmental
 - Non-governmental
 - Private sector
 - International
 - Local authority
 - Academia
 - Other *(please specify)*

- Partners/stakeholders involved *(if any)*:
 - Government (State/provincial/district)
 - Higher education institutions
 - Private sector
 - Local authorities
 - Research institutions
 - Media
 - Pre-school institutions
 - Non-governmental organizations
 - Intergovernmental, international institutions
 - Schools
 - Community organizations
 - other *(please specify)*
 - Vocational education institutions

- Please name key stakeholders and describe their involvement in this initiative and the kind of relationship you have with them:

- Who do you consider to be the learners in this initiative *(number of persons involved)*:

WHEN?

- Starting year and duration:

WHERE?

- Geographical setting:
 - Local
Please specify: _____
 - Subnational
Please specify: _____
 - National
Please specify: _____
 - Regional
Please specify: _____
 - International
Please specify: _____
 - Other *(please specify)*
Please specify: _____

WHAT?

- Educational / learning setting and level:
 - Formal:**
 - Early childhood
 - Primary education
 - Secondary education
 - Further and higher education
 - Teacher education
 - Professional education
 - Other *(please specify)*
 - Non-formal**
Please specify: _____
 - Informal**
Please specify: _____

- Main objectives of the initiative (*provide brief description*):
- How does this initiative relate to your country's national priorities?

How?

- Methods/approaches used for this initiative (*list key background materials that were used; if necessary, use a separate sheet*):
- Working language(s):
- Budget and funding sources:

7. EVALUATION OF THE INITIATIVE (*provide brief description and assessment*):

Important! *This subsection is the most valuable in terms of learning from your initiative. Please share details as fully as possible.*

- Has your initiative been evaluated? (*if yes, please provide a short description*):
- Results:
- Strengths:
- Weaknesses and risks:
- Problems encountered:(*if applicable*):
- Unresolved issues (*if applicable*) :
- Conditions for successful replication (*if applicable*) :
- Why do you consider this a good practice?

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