

SIXTH MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE "ENVIRONMENT FOR EUROPE"

Plenary Session South-East European perspectives

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Discussion- Intervention from floor Republic of Macedonia

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Education on Sustainable Development

Designing an effective and comprehensive system for education for sustainable development (ESD) is a complicated and difficult task, even when the goals and objectives of a field are commonly agreed upon and accepted. But I'd like express my stance that the Strategy on ESD can serve as a means to tackle challenges in providing new curricula.

In general, similarly to the other countries in the region, we can group our problems into Policy and Program related issues. The experience from the Institute for Environment and Health (2006/7) have shown a lot of weaknesses and gaps, like:

- Education for and in the environment is neglected
- There are no explicit goals related to ESD
- "sustainable development" is not recognized in the educational curricula
- Students memorize facts rather than understand complexity and inter-relationships

What we need to do?

Development of National Strategy for Education for Sustainable development, according to the commitments which arise from the UNECE Strategy for Education for Sustainable Development can provide a basis for new curricula statements, and further integration of ESD in existing education system.

On the other hand we also should identify a decision making role. Given the number of individuals and groups who are stakeholders in ESD, a committee approach can be appropriate, composed of a core team and a support team. The core team to develop curriculum at all levels and sectors and to include content area.

In the process of the development of strategy we have to respond to number of questions and make a number of decisions, but the most

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important will be to identify possible links between school programs and initiatives undertaken by regional and local councils and by community agencies; decide how environmental education will be managed within the framework of the new curriculum and how to evaluate the progress.

Positive experiences in the Republic of Macedonia in the segment of Kyoto Protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

In observance of the provisions on common, but diversified responsibilities related to the efforts to cope with climate change, the Republic of Macedonia ratified the Kyoto Protocol to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change as early as in 2004, i.e. before its entry into force on global level, and it has become Party to the Convention in 1997.

At the same time, the Republic of Macedonia has recognized the opportunities for achievement of economic, social and sustainable development, as well as for poverty reduction, as well as the possibilities for knowledge and technology transfer and promotion of environmental investments through implementation of the Clean Development Mechanism under the Protocol. Its practical application will contribute to the general commitment of the Government of the Republic of Macedonia to attract investment, manifested in this case through environmental investments,

In this context, the Republic of Macedonia has focused its activities on several levels: institutional, strategic, legislative and technical levels.

Means of Decision of the Government, the Designated National Authority was appointed to coordinate all activities concerning the implementation of the Kyoto Protocol; the National Strategy for the first commitment period 2008-2012 under the Kyoto Protocol was adopted; the amended Law on Environment incorporates provisions on the Clean Development Mechanism.

In addition to this, part of the potential of the country for the implementation of projects under the Clean development Mechanism has been identified, and the first full Project Design Document (PDD) was received for approval.

In the past period, the Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning has signed Memoranda of Understanding with the Republic of Italy and the Republic of Slovenia, respectively, concerning the implementation of projects based on the Clean Development Mechanism under the Kyoto Protocol. With the Republic of Italy, through Annex to the Memorandum, the manner and the procedure of cooperation between the relevant Ministries of the two countries are finalized. Signing of the Memorandum of Understanding with UNDP concerning the cooperation with the Carbon Fund of the Millennium Development Goals.

Allow me to point out that the cooperation in the area of climate change in our Region is of exceptional importance and, based of the activities completed so far, the Republic of Macedonia can offer its experience and expertize in this area on justified grounds.