THE CYPRUS EXAMPLE: STRENGTHENING SYNERGIES WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS AND PROCESSES

Dr Aravella Zachariou
Coordinator of Environmental Education Unit
Cyprus Pedagogical Institute
aravella@cytanet.com.cy

http://www.schoo.ls.ac.cy/klimakio/Themata/vervllontiki_ekpaidefsi/index.html

11th meeting of UNECE ESD steering committee, Geneva 15-16 of February 2016
• The importance of ESD in Cyprus

• Why does Cyprus emphasize strengthening synergies at the National and International Levels?

• In which domains are those synergies developed?

• Which synergies have been developed at the national level? Examples of implementation

• Which synergies have been developed at the international level? Examples of implementation
The importance of ESD in Cyprus

• Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) has been set as a flagship for the Republic of Cyprus.

• It is a priority for the Cyprus government and it is considered as a vehicle for the development of the island.

Especially for the Ministry of Education and Culture, ESD has been set at the Centre of the schools.

The aim of the Cyprus Ministry of Education and Culture

All the schools must become sustainable until 2025
All the schools, through whole school approaches, must organize and implement their Sustainable Development and Environmental Policy (“ESD School Plans”)
What has been achieved for ESD in the Educational Context of Cyprus

SOME OF THE ACHIEVEMENTS

It has been decided that a permanent Unit for ESD/EE will be established at the Cyprus Ministry of Education and Culture for implementing, monitoring and revising the ESD National Strategy Actions.

ESD has become part of the schools /National Curriculum for EE/ESD at all educational levels. At the moment has been applied on an obligatory base in Primary Education since 2012. During the current year it is applied on a pilot base in Pre-primary Education and next year it will be applied on an obligatory base to all pre-primary schools.

The discussion on establishing ESD as an mandatory part of ESD in Secondary Education is currently under development.

Formal and non-formal education are supported and combined through the governmental network of Centers for Non-formal Education for the Environment and Sustainable Development.

A pedagogical team has been established for ESD, which is responsible for the NC implementation and for preparing educational tools in cooperation with various bodies and organizations.

Teachers’ professional development in ESD (obligatory and optional):

- Special emphasis is given on the training of Inspectorates, Counselors and Principles for promoting ESD as an intrinsic part of the schools. Obligatory courses based at the school units are offered to these target groups.

The social aspect of sustainability has been set as a priority task for schools during the current school year, in “Creating a culture of respect, solidarity and equity amongst people”.
Why Cyprus is placing special emphasis on national and international synergies

National and International cooperation with organizations and other processes is considered crucial for implementing successfully the UNECE ESD Strategy tasks

Why?
- It enhances mutual understanding on ESD,
- It supports and extends the concept and content of ESD widely to the Civil Society nationally and internationally,
- It provides opportunities for sharing and exchanging good practices in various fields and levels of education,
- It strengthens trust,
- It develops respect for cultural values,
- It builds friendly relations between peoples and nations and contributes to peace and wellbeing.
Why Cyprus is giving emphasis in National and International Synergies

National Synergies

• They support the schools in other attempts to promote sustainable actions in schools and communities.

• They can contribute to the attainment of the sustainable school.

• They can operate as complimentary structures (organizations, institutions, agencies, centers etc.) in order to support the Ministry’s aims for ESD.

• They can operate as facilitators, supporters and disseminators for ESD in the Cyprus society.

• They can facilitate and enhance the school and community collaboration in the long term, through innovative and joint practices and actions in local communities.
Why Cyprus is giving emphasis in National and International Synergies;

International Synergies

• Exchange of ideas, practices joint work for joint tasks in ESD.

• Elimination of discriminations and promotion of mutual understanding that our Planet, “Our Oikos”, is one and unified - all of us independently wherever we are, have responsibility for creating a more sustainable world.

• Working together in common environmental and sustainable Development issues, building bridges of synergies in all levels and across various fields of education.

• Enhance the capacity building and experiences in ESD through exchange of good practices, expertise and new ideas.
In which domains are those synergies developed?

Nationally and internationally

• Formal, non-formal and informal education,

• Professional Development in ESD,

• Production of ESD educational tools,

• Linking schools with the community and the wider society,

• Awareness and informative campaigns in various environmental and sustainable development issues,

• Research and Innovation,

• Advancing policies in ESD.
National synergies

• Non-Govermental Organizations

Indicative synergies

1. AKTH (Environmental Research Center)
2. Green-Dot (waste organization)
3. Cyprus Sustainable Tourism Initiative
4. Cyprus Energy Office
5. Terra Cypria (Environmental Organization)
6. Future World Center (NGO)

• Govermental Organizations

Indicative synergies

1. Ministry of Foreign Affairs
2. Department of Environment
3. Department of Forestry
4. Department of Energy
5. Water Department
6. Cyprus Tourism Organization
7. Marine Department

• Trades

Indicative synergies

• Gardening trades
• Biodiesel trades
• Reusable Trades
• Local trades

• Universities and research centers

Indicative synergies

• University of Cyprus
• Frederick University
• Nature Research Unit, Frederick University
• Photovoltaic Park, Cyprus University
• Mass Media
Indicative examples of synergies amongst organizations and processes at the National level

- Project funded by the European Union (UK, Poland, Bulgaria, Cyprus)
- Implemented in Cyprus with the cooperation of NGO FUTURE WORLD CENTER AND THE CYPRUS PEDAGOGICL INSITUTE

AIMS:
- To enable teachers and students in pre-primary education to understand the interrelation amongst local and global issues as a prerequisite for creating a sustainable world.
- To cultivate the values of sustainability (solidarity, equity, respect, justice) with simple and experiential learning methods
- To get familiar with various issues that are connected with sustainability (fair trade, local trades and products)
- To connect the school with the local community, indigenous people and a wide spectrum of stakeholders (farmers, local producers, NGOs, Scientists).
IMPLEMENTED ACTIONS:

Educational tool for children 3-8
Supporting tool for the teachers

Indicative examples at the National Level
IMPLEMENTED ACTIONS:

Indicative examples in National Level

Education and Training of Teachers of pre-primary Education for getting familiar with the:
- issues of Sustainable Development (Consumption and Production),
- values of Sustainable Development (solidarity, respect),
- pedagogical approaches and Techniques of ESD,
- interconnection between the local and the global
- use of the educational tool in their class also,

Exchange of ideas and good practices among them
Indicative examples at the National Level

CYINDEP
Cyprus Island Wide NGO Development Platform

Cyprus Pedagogical Institute

Ministry of Foreign Affairs

The project funded by the EU aiming to sensitize and increase the awareness of the Cyprus Civil Society for Sustainable Development Issues
Indicative examples at the National Level

Main activities that were implemented:

- Informational Campaigns
- Lectures
- Activities in Schools
- Photo exhibition for the public and for schools:

1) Photo album published based on photos of the particular Sustainable Development Issues
2) Educational tool based on photo exhibition, with activities that can applied in Schools.
Indicative examples and synergies with other organizations and processes at the National Level

Cooperation of the Cyprus Ministry of Education and Culture with:
- a) the Cyprus Parliament
- b) the Commissioner of the Rights of Children
- c) the Commissioner of the Environment

Youth for the environment and Sustainable Development
Youth parliament discuss with the Members of the Parliament for specific issues and decide upon particular problems at the national level

- a) Children as catalysts of change
- b) Voice to the Youth
- c) Joint actions amongst youth and the legislative body (Cyprus Parliament)
- d) Public rehearsal for environmental and SD issues
Indicative examples and synergies with other organizations and processes at the National Level

Ministry of Education and Culture
Cyprus Pedagogical Institute
Local Authorities
Council of Parents
Commissioner of the Environment

Annual Campaign title “Preserving the Environment of our Municipality”

Youth Council of the Environment in each municipality

Planning of joint strategies for Environment and Sustainable Development

Monitoring and implementation
Indicative examples and synergies with other organizations and processes at the International Level

A Rouneder Sense of Purpose: Integrating ESD educator competences into educator training

ERASMUS+

Key Action: Cooperation for innovation and the exchange of good practices

Field impacted: Strategic Partnerships for Higher Education

UNIVERSITY OF GLOUCESTERSHIRE, UK

FREDERICK UNIVERSITY, CYPRUS

KUTATO TANAROK ORSZAGOS SZOVETSEGE, HUNGARY

ITALIAN ASSOCIATION FOR SUSTAINABILITY SCIENCE, ITALY

HZ UNIVERSITY OF APPLIED SCIENCES, NETHERLANDS

TALLINN UNIVERSITY, ESTHONIA
Main objectives of the project:

To develop an accreditation model that teacher educators can use in any European context so that pre-service educators can demonstrate their competence in ESD through a recognised model of accreditation (endorsed by UNECE).

2. To develop and disseminate tools and guidelines to help teacher educators and others in non-formal contexts to work with the UNECE ESD competences in a concrete, measurable manner.

3. To enhance mainstream educator training programmes with a wider set of competences that will more accurately reflect the role of formal education in supporting smart, sustainable and inclusive economic development.
NETWORK OF MED UNIVERSITIES IN ESD
The role of Universities in Supporting UNESCO Designated Sites as Drivers for Sustainable Development at Local and Regional Levels
18-19 January 2016,
National and Kapodistrian University of Athens

CYPRUS IS PARTICIPATING WITH FREDERICK UNIVERSITY

38 experts from 9 European and Mediterranean countries debated on the role of universities as catalysts of sustainability and on supporting UNESCO Designated Sites in promoting Sustainable Development (SD) and Education for Sustainable Development (ESD), within recent global and regional frameworks.

The meeting included in an intensive Working Conference for a selected number of Professors, researchers and administrators, mostly from the “Mediterranean Universities Network on Sustainable Development and Education for Sustainable Development (MedUnNET)”, as well as managers from UNESCO designated and candidate sites hosting or being closely related to these universities.
Indicative examples and synergies with other organizations and processes at the International Level

**ENSI “ENVIRONMENT AND SCHOOL INITIATIVES”**


ENSI is an international network which has supported educational developments, environmental understanding, active approaches to teaching and learning, through research and the exchange of experiences internationally since 1986

Annual Meeting of ENSI 25th-26th of January,
Hosted by the Federal Ministry for Education, Arts and Culture of the Republic of Austria

- New developments of ENSI
- Strategic Planning for ENSI
- New European Projects
- New alliances and Synergies
- Dissemination of ENSI Educational tools

**CYPRUS IS PARTICIPATING TO ENSI THROUGH THE CYPRUS PEDAGOGICAL INSTITUTE**
Memorandum of Understanding amongst CYPRUS AND AUSTRIA, CYPRUS AND ITALY IN THE FIELD OF ESD

• Integration E.E. /E.S.D. in formal education,
• Development of common initiatives in the framework of the European Union, and programs aiming at enhancing E.E. /E.S.D. in the two States,
• Exchange of good practices, experience and expertise;
• Exchange of specialists, experts and scientists on E.E/E.S.D related issues,
• Exchange of ideas and practices, in the framework of the European Union, UNESCO, UNECE and other international organizations, related to the utilization of the European Programs and Resources, for implementing common programs and actions related to E.E. /E.S.D. in formal and non-formal education,
• Training of teachers of primary and secondary education and other education stakeholders on issues related to E.E/E.S.D.
Indicative examples and synergies with other organizations and processes in international Level

REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS

WILL HOST THE HIGH-LEVEL EDUCATION MEETING IN CYPRUS FOR THE ADAPTATION OF AN ACTION PLAN FOR ESD IN THE MEDITERRANEAN REGION

MED STRATEGY FOR ESD IS BASED IN UNECE ESD STRATEGY CYPRUS WITH ALL THE INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS HAD AN ACTIVE ROLE FOR ITS PREPARATION

All the Ministers of Education who are in the Union for the Mediterranean

Ministers of Education from the MED Region will be invited

Ministers of Education from all the member countries of the EU International Organizations (UNESCO, UNECE, UNEP, MIO)

The venue will take place in Nicosia in November 2016

Details will be announced later
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