

UNECE Steering committee on Education for Sustainable Development

(Geneva, 20-21 April 2017)

Progress in implementing the ESD Strategy in Italy

2015 Guidelines for teachers

Guidelines for teachers on EE/ESD have been published in 2015, jointly elaborated by the Ministry of Environment and the Ministry for Education, and with the operative support of Formez (National Training Institute). They contain guidance material for teachers, covering a number of thematic issues (biodiversity, food, climate change, transport, water, cities..), and differentiated for each grade/level of school. On this basis, and following and agreement signed in 2016 by the Ministries for Environment and Education, teachers' training activities on EE/ESD will be conducted next year, covering the whole national territory. This teachers' training programme falls under the above mentioned (see answer n.2) National Operational Programme on School Education 2014-2020, funded by the EU (20 million euro have been dedicated to this activity).

<http://www.minambiente.it/pagina/linee-guida-educazione-ambientale>

2016 National Conference and National Charter on EE and ESD

Furthermore, a National Charter on ESD (“Rome Charter” has been signed in November 2016 by the two Ministers (Environment and Education) in order to integrate and advance the Guidelines. For each topic (mobility, biodiversity, sustainable development, climate change, water, health.), the Charter identifies Education principles and specific actions to be implemented in order to introduce ESD in school education and/or to advance ESD policy. The Charter has been elaborated during the national Conference on ESD (Nov. 2016) with the active contribution of more than a hundred of ESD experts, from various actors (civil society, private sector, institutions, academia..).

http://www.minambiente.it/sites/default/files/BANNER/carta_integrale.pdf

2017 Grants for school projects

In the framework of the National Operational Programme on School Education (“PON Scuola” 2014-2020), funded by the EU through the European Structural Funds, a call has been launched by the Ministry for Education in March 2017, aiming at granting financial contribution to projects presented by schools (also in partnership with NGOs or other local actors) on global citizenship education. 120 million euros are invested for this initiative, covering the whole national territory.

The projects must aim at developing student competencies in one or more of the following thematic areas:

1. Food and local land resources;
2. Wellbeing, correct lifestyles and sport;
3. Environmental Education;
4. Economic citizenship ;
5. Civic engagement and respect for diversities.

Another call for proposal, dedicated to natural and cultural landscape will be published soon.

http://www.istruzione.it/pon/avviso_cittadinanza-globale.html#sec_int

2017 Youth Forum on EE/ESD

In order to stimulate the debate on ESD among students and mobilise youth, an event, called “General States of Youth on Environment” has been organised in Rome, in the framework of the Earth Day celebrations (21-22 April 2017). More than one hundred of high-school students gathered in Villa Borghese (Major Park of Rome), in order to elaborate a youth Declaration in EE/ESD. The declaration will be presented to the World Political Leaders during the G7 Environment, to be held in Italy (Bologna) in June 2017, as well as in other high-level international events.

Regional activities

The initiatives indicated above only relate to some recent developments regarding the national level. A part from these, Italy benefits from a long and valuable tradition of initiatives and programmes on ESD at the regional and local level (mainly within programmes/schemes promoted by Regions), focusing especially on non-formal education (i.e. based on the collaboration between schools and others actors, such as NGOs, parks, environmental education centres, private sector academia...). In the initial phase, these regional systems/programmes/networks have been supported and facilitated by the Ministry for the Environment, in the framework of a single national scheme (INFEA). Among these regional and local activities, there is a significant variety of good and excellent practises on ESD, especially in some advanced Regions.
