

## **Proposed topics for reporting on progress in the implementation of the UNECE Strategy for Education for Sustainable Development under agenda item 2 (Armenia)**

1. In 9 November 2011 “Education for sustainable development” National workshop/seminar was organized in Yerevan by the efforts of the representatives of State, Scientific and Public sector of Armenia, UNDP, UNESCO Moscow Cluster Office, RA Ministry of Education and Science, RA Ministry of Nature Protection, universities, NGOs and as well as invited international experts.

Armenia has also its own Sustainable Development Program and is now preparing the National Report of Sustainable Development for the Rio+20, the most important part of which is the ESD. The workshop was held to support the development of the vision of the ideology of the Education for Sustainable Development in Armenia. The representatives of UNESCO and UN Development Program, representatives of scientific and education sector and also experts together discussed the main directions and aspects of Education for Sustainable Development, as well held several presentations.

UN Resident Coordinator in Armenia Ms. Dafina Gercheva mentioned that UNDP, in partnership with the Ministry of Education and Science and other development actors, has been supporting a bold and ambitious reform in the educational sector, aiming at improving the performance, efficiency and effectiveness of the sector, ensuring high quality and equal access to education services to all, and improving transparency and accountability across the sector. In addition, as part of the non-formal education, since 2007 UNDP has been supporting the delivery of training sessions on SD targeting senior representatives of the 3 branches of power: executive, legislative and judiciary. Armenia successfully cooperates with institutions in charge of the promotion of the Education for Sustainable Development.

The main decision of the workshop was to create an efficient project on ESD. As was mentioned by A. Umarov (UNESCO Moscow Cluster Office), among all the 15 or 17 programs around the European countries only Armenia was included as one of priorities. UNESCO Moscow Cluster Office decided to come to certain pilot countries, and one of the countries is Armenia, to draft model project to show how this nice expertise can be applied into one national curriculum. **In this national project on ESD the recommendations of Expert Group on Competences will be included.**

2. Besides, the representatives of State, Scientific and Public sector of Armenia actively participate in the conferences, seminars, workshops, on-line activities organized in the frames of “Education for Sustainable Development”, which includes the following:

In higher educational institutions in Armenia there are many courses, textbooks; Chairs have been set up. Armenian Universities are well equipped to teach SD and since 1996 SD has been mainstreamed and integrated in the curricula of several Universities, including: Yerevan State University, State Pedagogical University, Armenian-Russian University, European Regional Academy, as well as other educational entities.

In 2011 UNESCO headquarters has confirmed the suggestion of establishing the “UNESCO Chair of Education for Sustainable Development” on the basis of the Center for Ecological-Noosphere Studies of the RA National Academy of Sciences. This is not only educational Chair that has a direct connection with the program of Education for Sustainable Development. The main purposes of UNESCO Chair are preparation of specialists in the field “Environmental protection and natural resources use”, as well integration of scientific and educational processes and upbringing protection outlook and active participation of individuals in the settlement of ecological, economic and social problems. In 2011 UNESCO Chair “Education for Sustainable Development” was supported the realization of several projects:

**1. Summer School on “Capacity Building on Food Safety (CABUFOSE)”**

Duration – 18 July–5 August, 2011

Beneficiaries – 25 scientists, researchers, students

The major tasks for implementation of the project are raising the awareness of the population in Food Safety issues, training young specialists and providing appropriate teaching and methodical material.

**2. “Water: a Chemical Solution” Global experiment organized within the framework of the program “The International Year of Chemistry 2011” by UNESCO and IUPAC was coordinated in the Center for Ecological-Noosphere Studies since February 2011.**

- The Call for participation has been launched on the websites of the Ministry of Education and Science RA and the Center for Ecological-Noosphere Studies. Meetings have taken place with the directors and teachers of Yerevan and regional schools. Five schools have been selected and chemical laboratories have been provided free of charge. By agreement chemical kits are expected to arrive. The experiment is anticipated to run by two phases: preliminary and basic. The first one was conducted in schools 20-30 September 2011, the second 25-28 October 2011.

- In 2011 from 12 to 20 September in Germany (Lüneburg) on the basis of Leuphana university was organized an International Summer School “Implementation of Sustainability into Research and Teaching of Higher Education Institutions in Eastern Europe”. 4 representatives in the higher education sector from Armenia participated in this Summer School. The aims of this initiative were to encourage the implementation of sustainability into research and teaching of East European Universities – both in terms of higher education policy frameworks and transformation of higher education institutions. The German Federal Foundation for the Environment (Deutsche Bundesstiftung Umwelt, DBU) was providing financial support to organize these International Summer School. As part of the agenda, participants was to attend the “4th International Conference of the UNESCO Chair ‘Higher Education for Sustainable Development”, also was taking place in Lüneburg from 14 to 16 September 2011.
- After the UNESCO Chair conference there has been created the Email List of the Working Group of UNESCO Chairs for ESD with the aim of creating joint communication platform/ collection of interest for cooperation among the ESD Chairs.
- Armenia doesn't have any particular visible result in vocational schools, professional colleges.
- A secondary or primary school curricula – there are several textbook on environmental education, some textbooks on energy, and some others for regional application.
- From 5 till 8 October 2010 “Yerevan Science Festival-2010” in the frames of Education for sustainable development was organized an held. The credo of the Festival was **“To Green Economy”**. In the frames of YSF-2010 there was organized an exhibition, a conference “Towards Green Economy”, visits to museums, meetings with renowned scientists, discussions, including those on the topic “Alternative Energy”, round - table meetings, presentation of scientific achievements and artworks that comprised an impressive amount of pieces of art made of waste stuff.
- In 2011 the project “Armenian Adolescents for Ecology” was started by the financial assistance of HSBC Bank Armenia CJSC. The objective of the project is “Raising the awareness of ecological problems through teenagers, hence engaging their families, schools and communities”. For more details see the attached file.

The draft of the **Action Plan in ESD of Armenia**, which was approved by the Inter-Ministerial Coordination Commission, coordinating

the strategy implementation of the “Education for Sustainable Development”, which will be presented you later.

Meanwhile I would like to mention that in 2010 by the RA Government decision No 1551-N “Program on 2011-2015 Activities for implementation of Concept on creation of comprehensive and integrated national system of ecological education and awareness raising” was adopted, where the principles and main topics of SD are included, which run as follow:

- (a) Development of new methodology for environmental education proper to the up-to-date social-economic state of the country, taking into consideration the importance of environmental practical trainings as well as the subject of ESD strategy.
  - (b) Inclusion of key topics of ESD strategy into the environmental education handouts in Armenian for all education levels.
  - (c) Development and insertion of training programs (proper to ESD principles) for all the specialists giving environmental education.
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