

INFORMAL COUNTRY REPORT

UKRAINE

Summary record on the progress of Ukraine in implementing the UNECE Strategy for Education for Sustainable Development

Current conditions for implementation of ESD in Ukraine.

In Ukraine, education for sustainable development is being introduced by the efforts of state institutions and social movements and organizations, as well as, with the support of international donors. A significant contribution to this work is carried out by the Institute of Innovative Technologies and the Ministry of Education and Science, the Institute of Education of the National Academy of Pedagogical Sciences of Ukraine, the State Ecological Academy of Postgraduate Education and Management the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources of Ukraine, the National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy, Junior Academy of Sciences of Ukraine, community organizations supported by the Global Environment Facility (GEF), the Government of Sweden (SIDA), British Council in Ukraine, OSCE, etc.

As a result of this activity a diverse and rich material for the development and integration of education for sustainable development in the national education system has been accumulated.

In addition, strong support at the state level to promote education for sustainable development is National Action Plan for Environmental Protection for 2011-2015 (Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine of May 25, 2011 № 577-p) adopted in the 2011. The action plan aims to implement the Law of Ukraine “On the Basic Principles (Strategy), of the State Ecological Policy of Ukraine for the period until 2020” (was adopted in 2011). Thus Target A of the State Environmental Policy of Ukraine is to raise public environmental awareness. To achieve this goal, which creates favourable conditions for the development of education for sustainable development, the National Action Plan for Environmental Protection for 2011-2015 includes a number of activities, such as:

- The creation of ecological Internet portal “Web Education for Sustainable Development”;
- Implementation of a comprehensive, advertising and information, educating companies in order to create a favourable public awareness of the value of human life to the environment;
- Preparation and submission to the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine the draft Strategy for Environmental Education for Sustainable Development;
- Preparation and submission to the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine the draft of the act on the approval of the National Plan of Action on realization of Strategy of environmental education for sustainable development;
- Preparation and implementation specialized short-term course of “Fundamentals of sustainable development and environmental protection” into the system of professional training of officers of state and high-ranking local officials; and

- Other activities aimed at the development of education for sustainable development and introduction into economic activities environmental significant, energy-efficient and resource saving technologies.

Providing support to each school in Ukraine with ESD plans up to 2015.

At present the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine has approved and recommended for use methodological materials, which are aimed at implementing plans for education for sustainable development in schools in general educational institutions. While good experience of their use has been gained, it is not become systemic. And school leaders make their own decision regarding the implementation of ESD. Providing schools with appropriate teaching materials is especially supportive.

In order to promote each school with plans for ESD Institute of Innovative Technologies and Educational Content of the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine, and Institute of Educational Problems of National Academy of Pedagogical Sciences of Ukraine have developed a number of scientific-methodological guides to format environmental competence in pupils, learning packages and other materials that have been used successfully in schools.

Promotion of ESD in teacher education in Ukraine.

For teacher education refocusing to implement ESD in Ukraine is enhanced by:

- Preparation and defense of PhD and Doctor thesis on greening education and implementation of education for sustainable development (more than 20 protected dissertations);
- Introduction in the curriculum of higher education compulsory course “Principles of Sustainable Development” and development of appropriate textbooks, manuals and resource materials;
- Performance of scientific research on the content of education for sustainable development.

However the development and implementation of teacher education in the Integrated program of teacher training for education for sustainable development remains relevant.

Refocusing of personnel training in Ukraine to promote sustainable development and the transition to a green economy.

To promote sustainable development and the transition to a green economy is the following:

- National Agency for the Public Service in conjunction with the State Ecological Academy of Postgraduate Education and Management of the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources has developed and implemented the Integrated Program of professional environmental training of civil servants. Training under this program promotes environmental competence of civil servants regional and district authorities, officials of the local government, enhancement of social responsibility for environmental decision-making;
- State Ecological Academy of Postgraduate Education and Management of the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources has developed specialized short-term course “Principles of Sustainable Development and Environmental Protection” for civil servants and officials of local governments;
- Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources and the National Agency of Ukraine for the public service on the basis of the State Ecological Academy of Postgraduate

Education and Management of the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources has established Interdisciplinary Coordination Center for Environmental Education for Sustainable Development, whose task is a generalization of the existing foreign and domestic experience on education for sustainable development, the development of methodology and methods of education for sustainable development, the development and testing of educational materials and intersectoral synergetic programs for training in different economic sectors.

At present the Center in cooperation with Institute of Retraining and Further Training of teachers of The National Pedagogical Dragomanov University develops and implements specialized short-term training programs for civil servants, the methodological framework and methodologies for training teachers in the interests of sustainable development, and to train professionals in the agricultural sector.

Nearest perspectives of the implementation of education for sustainable development.

Significant progress in the implementation of education for sustainable development in Ukraine is expected in Ukraine after the adoption of Concept of State Policy on Education for Sustainable Development and Strategy of Education for Sustainable Development, the projects are designed on request of the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources by specialists of the State Ecological Academy of Postgraduate Education and Management of Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources, Institute of Innovative Technologies and Educational Content of the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine, Institute of Educational Problems of National Academy of Pedagogical Sciences of Ukraine, Odessa State Environmental University, etc.

It is assumed that after the final public discussion of these projects in April, on Ukrainian National Environmental Conference “Environment - 2013” these projects will be submitted to the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine.