

## Preparing a course of lectures for universities on the theory and practice of sustainable development and publishing relevant textbooks

**CONTACT** Armenian Association for Sustainable Human Development and Yerevan State University  
ulitsa Khanjian 33/18, Yerevan, Armenia 375010 (the Association); Geography Faculty, Yerevan State University, ulitsa Alek Manukian, Yerevan, 375025 Armenia

Telephone: 37410 522327 (the Association), 571236 YSU Fax: 37410 522327  
E-mail: [kdanel@freenet.am](mailto:kdanel@freenet.am), [ashd@freenet.am](mailto:ashd@freenet.am)  
Internet: [users.freenet.am/~ashd](http://users.freenet.am/~ashd)

Ms Karine Danielian, President of the Association, Doctor of Geographical Sciences and lecturer in the Social and Economic Department of Yerevan State University

FOCUS	Education/Learning Educators Overcoming Poverty Gender Equality HIV/AIDS Sustainable Urbanization Corporate Responsibility Economy	Environment Water Climate Change Biodiversity Disaster Reduction Sustainable Consumption Sustainable Tourism Citizenship	Peace, Human Rights & Security Policy, Regulation, Governance Intercultural Understanding Cultural Diversity Indigenous knowledge Tools and materials (e.g. Media & ICTs) Regional / international cooperation
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### DESCRIPTION

<i>Type</i>	Governmental and non-governmental
<i>Working language(s)</i>	Russian and Armenian
<i>Target group(s)</i>	Lecturers and students of universities from Commonwealth of Independent States countries: around 300 students from Armenia alone each year, the remainder is difficult to calculate.
<i>Starting year &amp; duration</i>	September 1994-March 1996
<i>Budget &amp; funding sources</i>	\$3,500 from UNDP and payment in kind from the Yerevan State University
<i>Partner organisations</i>	UNDP, the USAID NGO Center, higher education institutions of Armenia, the Academy of Sciences and the Russian Council for Environmental Policy (observer), the Russian International Independent University of Environmental and Political Sciences (observer) and the International Academy of the Environment (observer).
<i>Stakeholders</i>	Students and professors from universities (higher education institutions). Ms Karine Danielian began to lecture to students of the geography and chemistry faculties on the theory and practice of sustainable development at Yerevan State University in 1994,

following her own programme. On the basis of the experience of 1994-1995, she wrote a textbook for universities (higher education institutions), which was published in 1996.

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- OBJECTIVES**
- (a) To develop a programme for a course on the theory and practice of sustainable development for universities;
  - (b) To test this course at Yerevan State University;
  - (c) To publish a textbook for universities based on the pilot series of lectures.

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- METHODOLOGY** Methods:
- (a) Gathering and analysing the necessary resources, testing the author's programme at Yerevan State University in lectures, seminars and practicals.
  - (b) Preparing the draft curriculum and presenting it to highly qualified, renowned specialists of Armenia, Georgia and the Russian Federation for comments.
  - (c) In the light of the comments made, the publication of a book (162 pages, and a print run of 500).
- Materials used: materials from the Rio Summit (Ms Danielian participated in the work of the Summit) and other United Nations documents, materials on international and local experience from the Yerevan and Moscow libraries and Internet resources (to a limited extent, as access to the Internet was still very limited in Armenia in 1994 and 1995).

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## RESULTS & EVALUATION

*Results* The author's series of lectures (with seminars and practical workshops) on the theory and practice of sustainable development was developed, which (with several updates) has been taught since 1994 to the present. In 1996, a textbook was published entitled *Guidelines for Sustainable Human Development: Theory and Practice*, which has been used ever since by the universities of Armenia and other countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States.

*Strengths* The author's course was drawn up and published using materials from the United Nations system and international experience, and taking into account local experience and problems.

*Weaknesses & risks* The textbook needs updating. Ms Danielian has since published several booklets and journals containing new material on this issue. They need to be consolidated and included in an updated textbook.

*Conditions for successful replication* The necessary funding

*Why do you consider this a good practice?* The textbook has been used for 12 years at Yerevan State University and other universities in Armenia and other countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States, as well as in the informal education sector.

- In 1997, the textbook was successfully presented at the International Conference on Sustainable Development of Countries with Economies in Transition as part of the Rio+5 Conference in Minsk (organized by UNECE, UNDP and the Belarus Government).
- Participants of the International Conference on the Earth Charter (Tashkent, Uzbekistan, 2000) requested that the Earth Council provide financial assistance so that a reprint of the textbook could be published for the countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States, which was done.
- In 2001, as part of the training for the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg, financial support was provided by UNDP with a view to publishing reprints of a range of books and booklets of the Association, including the textbook in question, for use in the countries of the Southern Caucasus.
- The basic ideas and theories laid out in the textbook have been expanded on and published in numerous publications of the Association in subsequent years.
- In 2004, as requested by UNDP, a writing team at Yerevan State University drafted and published a textbook for master's programmes entitled *The*

*Foundations for Human Development*. Ms Danielian wrote two chapters (and the appendix) on sustainable development.

- In September 2005, at the International Conference which took place in Lüneburg, Germany, on “Higher Education for Sustainability” (organized by UNESCO and the University of Lüneburg), Ms Danielian presented the series of lectures on sustainable development prepared on the basis of the 1996 programme and updated in the light of materials from the Millennium Forum, World Summit on Sustainable Development (in which Ms Danielian also took part), as well as international experience from recent years. At the request of conference participants, the hypotheses of the report were photocopied on the spot and distributed to all takers.