

Integrated course on Health and Safety as part of the Education for Sustainable Development project

CONTACT

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FOCUS

Education/Learning	Environment
Educators	Biodiversity
Health Promotion	Disaster Reduction
Sustainable Urbanization	Rural Development

DESCRIPTION

Type Governmental non-profit organization

Working language(s) Armenian

Target group(s) The project was carried out with the help of 25 schools (biology and geography teachers), five colleges and three higher education institutions (lecturers, postgraduates and undergraduates). Lecturers, teachers, college and higher education students and scientists. A total of 120 people participated in the project.

Starting year & duration 2005-2008: it was set up in 2005 in Yeveran, and the decision was taken to extend the programme to other areas of Armenia in 2007-2008

Budget & funding sources The budget for the project in 2005 was \$12,500. UNESCO sponsored the project, and the Centre for Ecological Noosphere Studies was the supporting organization.

Stakeholders The Ministry of Education and Science of Armenia, the Education Department of the Yerevan City Council, the National Institute of Education and educational institutions (schools, colleges and higher education institutions) were involved in the project. As part of informal education, a pupil-oriented course was held with the use of active teaching methods developed by us. Cooperation, consultation and communication were the foundations for social education; as a result, critical thinking was developed and the process was democratic. Teaching was based on a range of issues given in context and the concordance of theory with practice. Participants went away with syllabi, questionnaires, sample lesson plans, possible measures and recommendations, and applied them in their educational institutions. Subsequently, the project organizers monitored two schools and one higher education institution. Proposals by the teachers were further developed and incorporated into a teaching manual.



Проведение занятия по безопасности и жизнедеятельности. г.Ереван 2005г. эконоцентр НАН РА

OBJECTIVES The aim of the project was to teach the relevant knowledge and practices in the field of health and safety to the various sectors of society, so that they may protect themselves from the impact of negative natural and human-engendered factors. To achieve the above goals the following tasks were carried out: (a) review of international experience; (b) the establishment of a work plan and a syllabus; (c) the organization of training tutorials and use of active teaching methods; (d) production and printing of a course of lectures and instructional guidelines on health and safety.

METHODOLOGY Study models of individual cases, environmental monitoring methods and research on health and safety and emergency situations were used. The data was analysed by all the project's participants, after which all the materials for the teaching course were drawn up and presented to those present. Books, test materials, programmes of lectures and guidelines were used.

RESULTS & EVALUATION

Results The main results of the project are that the participants' knowledge of health and safety issues and emergency situations has been enhanced and the practice of passing on the experience gained from the lectures, training tutorials and the use of active methods has been fostered. As a result of the project, a group of lecturers, teachers and pupils has been formed who:

- have become familiar with information on health and safety and emergency situations;
- have adopted theoretical and practical practices regarding health and safety;
- are able to act in the proper way in difficult situations, make decisions and find solutions;
- can effectively monitor and check environmental health and safety;
- are able to reduce or eliminate negative effects, take the lead and provide the necessary help in emergency situations (natural, human-engendered and terrorist catastrophes);
- all the participants were given certificates for having completed the health and safety and emergency situations training course.

Strengths The following results were achieved as a result of the tasks of the project: according to the analysis of the data from the end-of-course questionnaires, the participants considered the strong points of the lectures and training sessions to be the high level of professionalism of the teachers, the active teaching methods used in the lessons, the variety of the syllabi (the choice of the essential safety themes).

Weaknesses & risks The weak points of the lessons were the insufficient number of days and hours devoted to practicals.

Problems encountered No modifications were made. There were a good number of candidates to participate in the programme; however, not everyone managed to finish the training, as the

project included no provisions for covering the expenses of the participants from other regions. Nevertheless, lecturers and postgraduates from the Vanadzor State Pedagogical Institute took part in the project. At the request of the teachers, a plan to continue the teaching in 2007-2008 was drawn up.

Conditions for successful replication

All the conditions have been met: the theme of the lectures and training sessions was established, there are qualified teaching staff and technical resources were provided. As a result of financial support starting in 2007, the project can continue.

Unresolved issues

So many themes were included in the course that there was not enough time; for this reason, not all the themes were covered. Some financial issues were not resolved.

Why do you consider this a good practice?

The originality of the project: (1) developing a specialized teaching course; (2) different social groups participating in the teaching; (3) introduction of new methods as part of the Education for Sustainable Development programme. The Ministry of Education and UNESCO, as well as all the project participants, rated the programme highly.
