

**“GOOD PRACTICE” IN EDUCATION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT  
IN THE UNECE REGION**

**"Good practices in ESD"** are initiatives closely related to Education for Sustainable Development, that demonstrate good practice, generate ideas and contribute to policy development. These good practices:

1. focus on the educational and learning dimensions of sustainable development.
2. are innovative. They develop new and creative solutions to common problems, such as:
  - ❖ ways to discover what the key local issues of sustainable development are
  - ❖ ways to adapt processes to relevant teaching and learning strategies
  - ❖ ways of fostering links between learning situations and the community
  - ❖ ways of integrating local knowledge and culture
  - ❖ curriculum development processes enabling content to be decided as locally relevant
  - ❖ starting points on how Education for Sustainable Development can best be put into effect.
3. make a difference. They demonstrate a positive and tangible impact on the living conditions, quality of life of the individuals, groups or communities concerned. They seek to bridge gaps between different societal actors/sectors and are inclusive, in order to allow new partners to join the implementing agents/bodies.
4. have a sustainable effect. They contribute to sustained improvement of living conditions. They must integrate economic, social, cultural and environmental components of sustainable development and reflect their interaction/interdependency in their design and implementation.
5. have the potential for replication. They provide effective methodologies for transdisciplinary and multi-sectoral co-operation. They serve as models for generating policies and initiatives elsewhere.
6. offer some elements of evaluation. They have been and can be evaluated in terms of the criteria of innovation, success and sustainability by both experts and the people concerned.

*If you submit more than one "good practice", please indicate the priority 1, 2 or 3.*

**1. NAME OF THE INITIATIVE CONSIDERED AS A GOOD PRACTICE<sup>1</sup>:**

National Network for Environmental Education

**2. RESPONSIBLE COUNTRY/ORGANIZATION:**

Name: The Association of Centres for Environmental Education "Pavučina"

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Telephone: +420 776 687 411

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E-mail: info@narodnisit.cz

Internet: http://narodnisit.cz/

**3. CONTACT PERSON (name and title):** Mr. Vaclav Broukal

**4. FOCUS OF THE INITIATIVE (check one or more box(es)):**

- |                                                              |                                                             |                                                                          |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Education/Learning       | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Environment             | <input type="checkbox"/> Peace, Human Rights & Security                  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Educators                | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Water                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Policy, Regulation, Governance                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Overcoming Poverty                  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Climate Change          | <input type="checkbox"/> Intercultural Understanding                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gender Equality                     | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Biodiversity            | <input type="checkbox"/> Cultural Diversity                              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Health Promotion                    | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Disaster Reduction      | <input type="checkbox"/> Indigenous knowledge                            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> HIV/AIDS                            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rural Development       | <input type="checkbox"/> Tools and materials (e.g. Media & ICTs)         |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sustainable Urbanization | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sustainable Consumption | <input type="checkbox"/> Research / Development                          |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Corporate Responsibility | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sustainable Tourism     | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Regional / international cooperation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Economy                             | <input type="checkbox"/> Citizenship                        | <input type="checkbox"/> other ( <i>please specify</i> )                 |

<sup>1</sup> Your response to this questionnaire should not exceed 2 pages. Font: Arial, size - 9; margins - 2 centimeters.

## 5. INITIATIVE DESCRIPTION *(provide brief description)*

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The Programme (complete title: National Network of Environmental Education Centres) was established in 1999 as a reaction on the need of systematic support of development of a network of these organisations on the territory of the Czech Republic. Via the participating NGOs, the Programme ensures a controlled EE and ESD standard, access to methodical help for the beginning NGOs, and access to further education for their workers, exchange of experience on the level of the Czech Republic as well as abroad, access to information, etc. „Thanks to the Programme, high-quality EE programmes are supported in all parts of the country“, says Jakub Kaspar, director of the Department of Public Relations of the Ministry of Environment. „For a majority of the NGOs, support from the Programme is the only really stable financial source“, says Vaclav Broukal, coordinator of the project.

- **Type (governmental, non-governmental, municipal, other):** non-governmental
- **Working language(s):** Czech
- **Setting / Target group(s) / Number of persons involved:** EE Centers, general public, office workers, teachers; about 400 executives workers on the project (100 EE Centers involved)
- **Starting year and Duration:** 1999 -
- **Budget and Funding Sources:** Ministry of Environment; 178,000,- EUR a year
- **Partner organisations involved (if any):** Czech Union for Nature Conservation, Ministry of Environment
- **Stakeholders involved (e.g. local community). Describe their involvement in this initiative and the kind of relationship you have with them.**

Ca 100 EE Centres which are active especially on the local and regional levels. Their main mission is environmental education of children, youth, as well as adults, a number of them are active in the field of environmental consultancy, and they participate also in practical protection of nature and the environment in their neighbourhood. Majority of the EE Centres cooperate with local schools, for pupils of which they are preparing environmentally focused education programmes, they cooperate with them on creation of various common projects, and they are trying to affect also other entities influencing the life of the local communities (public administration, business sector, other non-profit organisations, individual citizens, etc.).

## 6. MAIN OBJECTIVES OF THE INITIATIVE *(provide brief description)*

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To support development of the network of environmentally oriented NGOs as a part of the „EE and public awareness„ system in the Czech Republic, and, via activity of these organisations, to influence attitude of the society to the environment and principles of the sustainable development. The purposes of the Programme are as follows:

- To stabilise development of the existing EE Centres, and to instigate establishment of new ones;
- To support development of EE and ESD programmes for various target groups (growth of both supply and quality);
- To provide methodical and advisory help to these EE Centres, to ensure accessible education for them;
- To support awareness and cooperation of state and non-state institutions and organisations on local, regional, as well as national levels;
- To instigate international cooperation with EE Centres within the European Union;
- To support preparation of the action plan for implementation of the UNECE Strategy for Education for Sustainable Development.

## 7. METHODOLOGY *(provide brief description)*

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Methods/approach for this initiative *(list key background materials that were used; If necessary, use a separate sheet)*

Coordination and administration is ensured by umbrella NGOs The Association of Centres for Environmental Education „Pavučina“ and Czech Union for Nature Conservation, financial part of the Programme is ensured by the Ministry of Environment. Assistant role is further played by bigger EE Centres within the individual NUTS III regions. Actual carrying out of the education programmes is ensured by ca 100 EE Centres. This concerns the following activities:

- Environmental education programmes for pupils of nursery, elementary and secondary schools;
- Education of students of higher professional schools and universities in the field of EE and public awareness;
- Education of professional public in the environmental field (especially of educational workers and public administration workers);
- Education of the general public in the environmental field.

Further, the coordinator ensures methodical help, advisory service, and programmes of further education for the participating EE Centres. These activities contribute to ensuring comparable level of services offered by the participating organisations to the target groups.

## 8. RESULTS AND EVALUATION OF THE INITIATIVE *(provide brief description and assessment)*

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### ▪ Results

Growing participation of organisations in the Programme (at the present time, ca 100 EE Centres; in 2003, ca 50 EE Centres)

Annually, organisations participating in the Programme carry out education actions approximately 30,000 hours long, for 400,000 persons.

### ▪ Strengths

- Stable funding from the Ministry of Environment, based on the approved State Environmental Education Programme;
- The Programme is open. Continuously, new organisations may begin to participate;
- Low administrative requirements on the participating organisations in comparison with other programmes and projects (an advantage, especially, for small and beginning organisations)

### ▪ Weaknesses and risks

- Change of government policy and priorities, and reduction of support of the Programme connected with that;
- Change of administrator of the programme (once in three years, a call for tender for the administering organisation is issued), and change of the existing system of administration and management of the programme connected with that.

### ▪ Problems encountered: *(fill in if applicable)*

- Increase of financial means available for the Programme has not corresponded with the growth rate of the number of organisations participating in the Programme, and of the volume of activities, which has been also growing very quickly. Consequently, the amount of financial support per an organisation, and a unit of financial payment for the carried out actions, respectively, have been decreasing each year.
- After all, different quality of services offered by the individual EE Centres, caused by the different time period for which they have been active, different level of support of environmental education from local and regional public administration, etc.

### ▪ Conditions for successful replication *(fill in if applicable)*

- Organisation able to ensure coordination and administration of the Programme;
- Stable source of financial means;
- Sufficiency of high-quality partners carrying out the services on local and regional levels.

### ▪ Unresolved issues *(fill in if applicable)*

### ▪ Why do you consider this a good practice?

The National Network of Environmental Education Centres Programme is a good example of cooperation of state administration and non-state entities on development of environmental education and promotion of sustainable development principles on the territory of the whole state. The central public administration body ensures financial stability of the programme, and the participating NGOs ensure concrete activities based on knowledge of the local conditions in the individual regions. The fact that the National Network of Environmental Education Centres Programme has been implemented for eight years already, confirms mutual advantageousness of this partnership, at least in the conditions of the Czech Republic.

**Please attach one relevant picture, as a separate file** (max 1024 x 768 px /72 dpi/ jpg-format 80% quality/ up to 300KB)

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Please submit your "Good practice" (up to 3 "Good practices" per country/organisation) electronically by e-mail to: [esd@unece.org](mailto:esd@unece.org). In addition, you are invited to send us any relevant information you might think useful, including references to documents, publications and/or articles describing the initiative, as well as relevant links to websites.

*For further information, please send request to the same e-mail address or contact: Environment, Human Settlements and Land Management Division, Economic Commission for Europe Palais des Nations, 8-14 avenue de la Paix, 1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland. fax: 00 41 22 9170107 - web : <http://www.unece.org/env/esd/welcome.htm>*