

**“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 or3.***

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

**2. RESPONSIBLE COUNTRY/ORGANIZATION:**

Name : The Czech Eco-Counselling Network (STEP)

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**3. CONTACT PERSON** (*name and title*): Mrs. Kamila Kanichová

**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 type="checkbox"/> Educators                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Water                              | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Policy, Regulation, Governance       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Overcoming Poverty            | <input type="checkbox"/> Climate Change                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Intercultural Understanding                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gender Equality               | <input type="checkbox"/> Biodiversity                       | <input type="checkbox"/> Cultural Diversity                              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Health Promotion              | <input type="checkbox"/> Disaster Reduction                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Indigenous knowledge                            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> HIV/AIDS                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Rural Development                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Tools and materials (e.g. Media & ICTs)         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sustainable Urbanization      | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sustainable Consumption | <input type="checkbox"/> Research / Development                          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Corporate Responsibility      | <input 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> )                 |

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

Public institutions play a role of one of the most important consumer and their effort can influence offer and accessibility of sustainable products and services (e.g. with national label for environmental friendly products and services and for products from organic farming, Energy Star, Group for efficient Appliances, TCO Development, Fair Trade, etc.). Another important aspect is that public institutions are perceived as example for public, for their visitors, suppliers, etc. In that way they play a role of educators. "Our project was one of the first steps which helped to explain and fulfil these roles of public institutions in the Czech Republic", says Yvonna Gailly, chair of STEP.

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

- **Type (governmental, non-governmental, municipal, other):** Initiative was carried out by NGOs in cooperation with governmental and municipal bodies.
- **Working language(s):** Czech
- **Setting / Target group(s) / Number of persons involved:** Czech Republic / National, regional and local authorities; Eco-counsellors / about 500
- **Starting year and Duration:** 2003-2005
- **Budget and Funding Sources:** Ministry of the Environment of the Czech Republic
- **Partner organisations involved (if any):** STEP's members – eco-counselling offices
- **Stakeholders involved (e.g. local community). Describe their involvement in this initiative and the kind of relationship you have with them**  
The Office of Ombudsman

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

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Also, in the Czech Republic, public institutions have started to become interested in the environments with which they provide their employees, visitors, and clients, in their operating conditions, their environmental impacts, sustainable context and also in how they are perceived in these matters.

The aim of the project was to introduce approach of green/sustainable public procurement and way of operation to the Czech Republic, to provide education and methodological support for eco-counsellors and offices of public institutions starting with green public procurement (GPP) and sustainable consumption activities. Important goal was also to strengthen their interest to start such projects in their offices.

## 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)*

To fulfil above mentioned objectives we prepared:

- Pilot project/implementation – measures in The Office of Ombudsman
- Education:
  - methodological handbook – which contains basic information about GPP, possible criteria and measures, experiences and examples of implementation from the CR and especially from other countries
  - workshops – mainly for eco-counsellors
- Quick national survey on GPP and sustainable practices and presentation of its results – we asked 35 institutions at national and regional levels to show their measures in the fields, like the use of environmentally friendly products, waste management, education for employees, internal directives, ...
- List of contact persons responsible for this issue in different offices – to promote cooperation
- Web pages

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

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### ▪ Results

Measures which have been taken in the Office of Ombudsman were related to wide range of different topics (waste management, cleaning, energy and water savings, catering, procurement, education and information for employees, PR) and played important role of a pilot project – to motivate and encourage following projects in other public institutions. Majority of the taken measures has organizational or operational nature, what meant very often low costs, but at the same time high involvement of the employees.

Informational and educational support for those who decided to follow such activities was provided by handbook (both electronic and printed version), workshops and webpages. Their content consisted of motivation part (why to do?), description of potential measures and good practice (what and how to do?) and sources of other information.

### ▪ Strengths

Increasing interest of public institutions for the topic.

Cooperation and partnership among NGO (implementation of the initiative), Ministry of the Environment (financial, informational and political support) and the Office of Ombudsman (pilot project and its presentation).

Implementation based on the examples and on the motivated individuals.

Utilization of the foreign trends and case studies.

### ▪ Weaknesses and risks

New approaches and changes (especially if they are connected with behaviour) are usually difficult to introduce (it needs time, explanation and patience).

Suspicious about proposed approaches and measures.

Lack of information for steps from “green” to “sustainable” public procurement.

Limited possibilities for application of foreign experience in the Czech national conditions.

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

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

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

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

This initiative showed how important is the role of the examples and pilot projects. Especially if they are implemented by generally respected and reputable institution like it was in case of the Office of Ombudsman.

