

France

General introduction into the school system of environmental education for sustainable development

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FOCUS	Education/Learning Educators	Citizenship	Tools and materials (e.g. Media & ICTs) Research / Development Regional / international cooperation
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DESCRIPTION

<i>Type</i>	Government project
<i>Working language(s)</i>	French
<i>Target group(s)</i>	All French schools
<i>Starting year & duration</i>	October 2005; duration : 3 years
<i>Budget & funding sources</i>	Difficult to state precisely since the project is to be developed nationally. Funding source: State
<i>Partner organisations</i>	State + local authorities + enterprises and civil society
<i>Stakeholders</i>	Local authorities are particularly involved in this project through regional partnership agreements for promoting sustainable development through education, training and information.

OBJECTIVES

Following experiments carried out in 84 schools over a one-year period, an overall system of environmental education for sustainable development was introduced in all French schools. The education provided, developed under the National Sustainable Development Strategy (Stratégie Nationale de Développement Durable – SNDD), embodies a number of requirements:

- it forms part of a national education policy for the general introduction of educational content and methods and of tools aimed at the gradual and coherent acquisition, from primary school through to the end of secondary education, of an environmental and sustainable development culture;
- it is developed on the basis of close partnership between schools, local authorities, social groups and the business community so as to enable future

citizens to develop appropriate behaviour at all levels of society and to enrich it throughout their lives;

- it is to be continuously evaluated and updated by the various educational partners in conjunction with local authorities and members of civil society, who will take account of programme content, skills acquisition and the resulting behaviour.

METHODOLOGY

The methodology involves four main thrusts:

- modification of school curricula to introduce sustainable development;
- teacher training and the development of suitable educational tools and approaches;
- setting up of committees in each educational region to monitor the introduction of the system;
- creation of regional partnerships.

RESULTS & EVALUATION***Results***

Over a period of two years, one can point to a number of results:

- Implementation of a genuine transdisciplinary approach;
- Gradual transition from environmental education for sustainable development (EESD) to education for sustainable development (ESD);
- Realization by all involved of the need to adopt a broader approach to the subject, both in and outside school.

Strengths

Extension of the approach to all schools
