

Eighth Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference
(8–10 June 2016, Batumi, Georgia, Sheraton Hotel)

High-level meeting of Education and Environment Ministries

Wednesday, 8 June 2016, 4.30–6 p.m.
Batumi, Georgia, Sheraton Hotel

Agenda item 3. Towards a new society: 10 years of education for sustainable development

INTERVENTION OF CYPRUS

Key Achievements of the 10-year Strategy Implementation

The adoption and implementation of the Strategy for Education for Sustainable Development by Cyprus, during the last 10 – years, has led to radical and holistic changes regarding ESD at the Cyprus national framework. These changes, which I have already addressed in my keynote speech, focus on policy, curricula, tools, cooperation, linking formal with non-formal and informal education, professional development, cooperation and synergies amongst interested parties and organizations at the national, regional and international levels.

Lessons learnt and challenges:

Promoting ESD in the educational system, and generally in all facets of life, is a long-term process. We must critically evaluate the challenges that we have faced so far in order for ESD to move from theory to practice. One of the main of these challenges is placing ESD high on the agenda of decision-making. Other challenges are the lack of implementation mechanisms for integrating ESD in national, regional and international level, the unfavorable financial climate prevailing in many countries, and the lack of coordinated mechanisms that will ensure synergies for ESD amongst stakeholders, interested parties and countries and will ensure the development and the establishment of effective and long-term policies for ESD.

The way forward (with reference to the Future Implementation Framework)

Cyprus strongly supports the implementation of the UNECE Strategy for ESD in the region beyond 2015, and we are committed to working at both national and international levels, so that ESD is integrated in all aspects of formal, non-formal and informal education. Cyprus will continue to strengthen and intensify its efforts for integrating the future implementation framework of the UNECE ESD Strategy, taking in consideration the Sustainable Development Goals and Global Action Plan.