

## UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development – The Contribution from Europe

An international conference organized by the Federal Ministry of Education and Research, the Senate Department for Economics, Technology and Women's Issues, Berlin, the Senate Department for Education, Science and Research, Berlin, and the German Commission for UNESCO/German National Committee for the UN Decade

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Conference information:  
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**Time.** 24-25 May 2007

**Place.** Berlin, City Hall; Rathausstr. 15, D-10178 Berlin

**Objectives of the conference.** The main objective of the conference is to identify the specific European contribution to the UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development and Europe's global responsibility within this endeavour. In particular, the conference intends

- to identify a common vision of education for sustainable development (ESD) within Europe on the basis of the many substantial ESD activities present in the region;
- to contribute to the understanding of ESD as a decisive element of the sustainability strategies of the European Union;
- to contribute to a better integration of ESD in European Union education programmes;
- to analyze strengths and challenges within the implementation of the UN Decade ESD so far.

In particular, the conference will develop elements of a work programme for the coming years of the UN Decade that can be handed on to the following EU Presidencies and that should also form the basis for the mid-term review of the Decade in 2009. In this sense, the conference also functions as a preparatory meeting for the mid-term review conference on the UN Decade in 2009, which Germany would be prepared to host.

**Format.** There will be plenary and workshop sessions. Each workshop should result in a work programme for the UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development up to 2009. This also entails identifying deficits in implementation and examples of good practice. Each workshop therefore should be designed and carried out along the following questions:



- What is the **current situation** of ESD in Europe? Which deficits do we encounter?
- Which examples of **good practice** can we identify?
- **What is to be done** in the context of the UN Decade until 2009?

Workshops will be organized and led jointly by a German expert and an expert from another EU country.

Two conference rapporteurs will be responsible for documenting the meeting. The documentation should present workshop results in such a way as to make the publication serve as a work programme for the implementation of the UN Decade at the European level in the coming years.

Conference languages are German and English. Simultaneous translation will be offered in the plenary sessions and in some workshops. Some workshops will be conducted only in English.

An accompanying exhibition in the conference venue will present best practice in ESD.

**Participants.** Up to 180 participants. Each EU Member State is asked to officially nominate three experts. Additional individual experts, representatives from international organizations, and representatives from other countries and world regions will also be invited. The spectrum of participants should reflect the nature of ESD as a multi-stakeholder endeavour.

## Programme

### Wednesday, 23 May 2007

Arrival of participants / Informal get-together in the evening

### Thursday, 24 May 2007

9.00 a.m. **Registration**

10.00 a.m. **Welcome by**

**Jürgen Zöllner**, Senator for Education, Science and Research, Berlin; President of the Standing Conference of the Ministers of Education and Cultural Affairs of the Länder

**Andreas Storm**, Parliamentary State-Secretary, Federal Ministry for Education and Research

**Ulla Burchardt**, MP, Chair of the Committee on Education, Research and Technology Assessment of the German Parliament

**Verena Metze-Mangold**, Vice-President of the German Commission for UNESCO

11.00 a.m. **Keynote presentations**

“Sustainable Development – A Global Challenge” **Tim Flannery**, Professor, Macquarie University, Australia, author of *The Weather Makers* (tbc)

“Education for Sustainable Development – Responding to a Global Challenge”

**Carl Lindberg**, UNESCO High-Level Panel for the Decade

Chair: tba

01.00 p.m. Lunch break

02.00 p.m. **Workshop session I**

The parallel workshops should (1) analyze the state of the art, including deficits, within ESD, (2) identify good practice, and (3) elaborate a concrete work programme for the UN Decade ESD.

### 1. ESD in Europe – what are our common foundations?

The workshop should discuss the shared ethical basis for ESD in Europe. It should also take into account questions related to sustainability as a guiding principle of the European Union and discuss, for example, the relation of the Lisbon Strategy and the renewed Strategy for Sustainable Development. A related question to consider is whether there is a specific European contribution to the concepts of sustainability and ESD.

Chairs: **Michel Ricard**, Professor, Chairman French National Committee for the UN Decade and Chairman French Council of Sustainable Development / **Konrad Ott**, Professor at the University of Greifswald

## **2. Education activities and programmes of the European Union: How to increase the weight of ESD?**

On the basis of existing good-practice examples, this workshop aims at inciting concrete ESD activities in the context of the EU education programmes.

Chairs: **Maja Mihelic Debeljak**, Deputy Director, CMEPIUS (Centre of the Republic of Slovenia for Mobility and European Educational and Training Programmes) / **Ilse Brigitte Eitze-Schütz**, Head, German Educational Exchange Service

## **3. Higher Education for Sustainable Development and the Bologna Process**

The workshop should discuss how the importance of ESD can be increased within higher education in the context of the Bologna Process.

Chairs: **Rietje van Dam-Mieras**, Professor at the Open University of the Netherlands / **Gerd Michelsen**, Professor at the University of Lüneburg

## **4. National and regional networks for ESD. Comparing approaches to the implementation of the UN Decade ESD**

This workshop deals with all activities that bring together civil society and politics within one Member State, including activities by regions (like the German Länder). It will discuss which organizational structures and strategic priorities we work with when implementing the UN Decade.

Chairs: **Manuela Galhardo**, Secretary-General, Portuguese Commission for UNESCO / **Alexander Leicht**, German Commission for UNESCO

## **5. International cooperation within ESD**

This workshop will deal with all international networks for ESD, that is, all organizational arrangements that go beyond the borders of Member States. This includes activities by UNESCO, UNECE, etc.

Chairs: **Günther Pfaffenwimmer**, Federal Ministry for Education, Research and Culture, Austria / **Hannes Siege**, Standing Conference of the Ministers of Education and Cultural Affairs of the Länder in the Federal Republic of Germany

## 6. Research for ESD. Which priorities and foci are needed?

The workshop will in particular take into account theories of competencies for ESD and ESD indicators. It will also consider the development of indicators by UNECE.

Chairs: **Roel van Raaj**, Secretary of the Dutch Steering Committee Learning for Sustainable Development / **Inka Bormann**, Researcher, Free University Berlin

04.00 p.m. Coffee break

04.30 p.m. **Workshop session II**  
Continuation of the six workshops

06.30 p.m. End of workshop sessions

07.30 p.m. Evening Reception by Secretary of State **Volkmar Strauch**, Senate Department for Economics, Technology and Women's Issues, Berlin

### Friday, 25 May 2007

09.30 a.m. **Presentation of workshop results**

Discussion with workshop rapporteurs who present the work programmes that each workshop has developed.

Chair: tba

10.30 a.m. Coffee break

11.00 a.m. **Panel**

**“The UN Decade ESD – the contribution from Europe in a global perspective”**

**Astrid Klug**, Parliamentary State-Secretary, Federal Ministry for the Environment

**Mark Richmond**, Director of Division for the Coordination of UN Priorities in Education, UNESCO

**Maruja Gutierrez Diaz**, Head of Unit „Innovation and transversal policies“, Directorate-General Education and Culture, European Commission

**Barry Greig**, Sustainable Development & Biodiversity Division, Scottish Executive

**Douglas Bourn**, Director, Development Education Association (tbc)

**Ndidi Nnoli Edozien**, Nigeria, Think Tank 30 of the Club of Rome

Chair: **Gerhard de Haan**, Chairman of the German National Committee for the UN Decade ESD, Professor at the Free University Berlin

- 12.00 a.m. **Summary** by general rapporteurs  
**Talk** with following EU Presidencies on the work programme developed
- 01.00 p.m. **Closing** of conference on behalf of the organizers  
**Roland Bernecker**, Secretary-General, German Commission for UNESCO
- 01.15 p.m. Lunch

**Organizing Committee:**

Federal Ministry of Education and Research; Senate Department for Economics, Technology and Women's Issue, Berlin; Senate Department for Education, Science and Research, Berlin; German Commission for UNESCO; Federal Ministry for Development Cooperation; Federal Ministry for the Environment; Inka Bormann, Free University of Berlin; Gerd Michelsen, UNESCO Chair of Higher Education for Sustainable Development, University of Lüneburg; Association of Environment Education; Association of German Development Non-Governmental Organizations.