The Austrian initiative to develop a National Strategy for ESD

The process was initiated, financed and contracted both by the Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management and the Federal Minister for Education, Science and Culture. A large number of stakeholders were involved in a broad participatory process.

During 2007 the text of the Strategy was party reformulated in an agreement process on ministerial level, its governmental approval is pending.

Decade-Bureau in Austria

A Decade-Bureau has started in spring 2008 on the basis of two contracts of Ministries with NGOs. Its main task is to facilitate the communication and implementation process in Austria with a main focus on those stakeholder groups which were no so much involved yet (e.g. social groups).

UNECE-ESD Indicators

The yes/no-answering of the indicators was done and communicated to UNECE by the end of 2006.

The full answering of the UNECE-ESD Indicators will be performed in a broad participatory project from April 2008 to 2009 with two feedback loops included.

Project on competencies for Teacher Education

Based on the analysis of a number of training course for teacher trainers on ESD competencies were be defined and training possibilities described. This project was done in close collaboration with the EU-Project CSCT and finalised by autumn 2007. A publication will be available by mid 2008.

ESD in Teacher Education

Based on a previous successful course a four semester university course on ESD for teacher trainers is held in the years 2008 and 2009. (36 ECTS). Along with ESD the methodology of action research will be taught with the final aim to implement ESD in the teacher training institutions involved.

Sustainable Universities

- Sustainable Universities Award for higher education institutions in Austria. The first awards were provided in a ceremony Mid of March 2008.
- Participation and implementation of the European Project called AISHE 2.0, which objectives are to develop further the existing AISHE computer tool towards self-assessment and certification of sustainability and ESD at European universities.

- Regional Center of Excellence / UNU
  The University of Graz together with the Technical University started the project for application to become the first Regional Center of Excellence RCE / UNU for ESD in Austria.

_Austrian Donations_

The Ministry of Education, Science and Culture contributed € 2,000.— to the UNECE-ESD funds in December 2007. In addition the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management hosted the session of the indicators expert group in Vienna, in June 2007 and will pay € 2,000.— in 2008.

Austrian Federal Ministry of Education, the Arts and Culture
Subdept. V/11c, Environmental Education
Dr. Günther Franz Pfaffenwimmer
Minoritenplatz 5
A-1014 Wien
Austria
Phone: 0043 1 53120 2532
Fax: 0043 1 53120 259
e-mail: guenther.pfaffenwimmer@bmukk.gv.at