

UNECE Steering Committee on Education for Sustainable Development
Third meeting
Geneva, 31 March – 1 April 2008

INTERVENTION BY CROATIA

ESD strategy in Croatia is implemented within the framework of coordination activities carried out by governmental ministries, state agencies and other stakeholders in order to achieve synergy and to disseminate knowledge on ESD and raise awareness for ESD within the general public. To this end the stakeholders in Croatia have decided to constitute a National Committee within the Ministry of Science, Education and Sports. A task force from the Education and Teacher Training Agency is making preparations and organizational arrangements for a meeting of the National Committee and is drafting a National Action Plan in accordance with the principles of DESD.

Considerations are underway to enlarge the National Committee with members from other state bodies, agencies and NGOs, such as the Ministry of Environmental Protection, Physical Planning and Construction, the Croatian Business Council for Sustainable Development, etc. The National Committee's objective is to create a coordinated partnership approach which would involve a representative range of political and civil stakeholders. In the meantime, activities concerning ESD were carried out on both national and international levels.

Various state authorities, agencies and other bodies have undertaken or have participated in the following activities in 2007, like:

- A regional conference on Sustainable development and the role of education and training was held in October 2007 in Montenegro with successful participation and presentation from Croatian representative from the Education and Teacher Training Agency and Ministry of Environmental Protection, Physical Planning and Construction
- The Ministry of Environmental Protection, Physical Planning and Construction has put up a web site dedicated to Environmental Impact Assessment – Guidelines and Training Projects (available in Croatian and in English) and web site on climate change, presenting a number of activities carried out on international and national level
- The Education and Teacher Training Agency and the Austrian agency KulturKontakt, organized a conference in December 2007 in Zagreb under the title “Education for Sustainable Development” with speakers from a wide range of government bodies, agencies and NGOs.
- The Ministry of Environmental Protection, Physical Planning and Construction implements an awareness rising campaigns aimed to the general public and targeted interests groups like school-children, special sections of the industry, etc.

Croatia continuously implements various ESD activities on different educational levels. An extracurricular program called Young environmentalists has been carried out for years. Over 100 schools in Croatia are involved in the program GLOBE and receive support by the Ministry of Science, Education and Sports and by the Ministry of Environmental Protection, Physical Planning and Construction. A national program for the promotion of human rights and responsible citizenship with an annual presentation of school projects is carried out. The

SEMEP programme focused on tradition, cultural and natural heritage protection and international cooperation is underway in 30 Croatian schools which are also involved in annual summer schools for students and teachers.

The NGO "Lijepa naša" is implementing the EE and ESD program "Eco schools". Some 193 schools are proudly flying the green flag i.e. they are developing a "green" school curriculum in areas of environmental management (energy and water saving, waste management, etc.). In order to present their achievements, the school will meet in an annual "Eco quiz", testing their multidisciplinary knowledge and presenting environmental school projects.

Teacher training on EE and ESD slowly finds its way into various teacher training curricula offered by various universities and institutions of higher education as well as by various NGOs offering text- and handbooks and further informal education on ESD.

The Ministry of Science, Education and Sports initiated a project on in-service teacher training on EE and ESD in partnership with different stakeholders. The three phased project focuses on sensitisation of school principals and teachers and shifts then its focus on development of knowledge and skills in EE & ESD and finally results in the development of EE & ESD school projects.

The forthcoming National Action Plan will build on various previously published documents such as the National Educational Standards, the National Curriculum in which EE and ESD are stressed as one of educational areas integrated into school work, the National Committee and last, but not least, Croatia's ENSI (Environment and School Initiatives) membership.