REPORT BY ROMANIA

-progress in implementation since the date of submission of the first national report (February 2007)-

1. National policy documents to support the promotion of ESD

1.1. A Government Decision regarding elaboration of a new National Strategy for Sustainable Development was adopted in October 2007; the previous strategy will be revised according to the Renewed EU Sustainable Development Strategy. The Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Country Office Romania – National Centre for Sustainable Development are coordinating the strategy elaboration process. The inter-ministerial working group includes the ministry of education also, “Education and training for sustainable development” and “Scientific research and innovation” being cross cutting themes in the strategy.

1.2. Sustainable development is stipulated as horizontal objective in the National Development Plan for 2007-2013, measures for achieving this objective are to be implemented for each national development priority. Specific measures for education for sustainable development are included and addressed to the national priority “Human resources development, employment and social inclusion promotion and strengthening the administrative capacity”, as follows: designing and implementation of sustainable development training programmes for teachers, development of specific tools and materials for students, development of national/international partnerships, promoting democratic citizenship and environmental protection education.

1.3. Sustainable development principles are integrated/ taken into consideration in Human Resources Development Sectorial Operational Plan for 2007-2013, in all major intervention areas, in general, and into intervention areas which envisage educational system improvement, in particular. According to this, projects regarding themes like social inclusion and equal opportunities, teacher training on sustainability, awareness campaigns on environmental protection and health education etc. will be supported through European Structural Funds.

1.4. A Memorandum regarding the approval, by a future government decision, of the financial support for the UNECE Strategy on Education for Sustainable Development implementation was promoted by the Ministry of Education, Research and Youth, the document is on the way of endorsement by the involved ministries.
2. Measures taken to promote SD through formal, non-formal and informal learning

2.1. Although the key themes of sustainable development are included/integrated in the disciplines/modules in core curriculum or in the school based curriculum for all pre-university education levels (primary education, secondary education, tertiary non-university education), including vocational education and training, some progress was made in this area: a new interdisciplinary subject “Sciences” was introduced for students in upper secondary education (11-12th grades).

2.2. New subjects referring to sustainable development key themes were elaborated and implemented at national level, as follows:

- optional subject “Ecological and environmental protection education” for pre-primary, primary and gymnasium – as part of the lower secondary education; educational materials for pupils, students and teachers were also elaborated, in Romanian and Hungarian language;

- optional subject “Create your own environment” for children in 3 – 7th grade;

2.3. Promoting international educational instruments/materials related to SD in order to be used in pre-university education, through:

- posting the „Earth Charter” on the Ministry of Education, Research and Youth website (www.edu.ro) and recommendation for county school inspectorates and schools to organise extracurricular/extra-school activities at county/school level, based on the „Earth Charter’s” principles and to develop school based curriculum „Earth Charter”;

- posting the ENSI brochure “Tools for ESD Schools – Reflective Methods for School Partnerships on Education for Sustainable Development” on Ministry of Education, Research and Youth website (www.edu.ro) and recommendation for county school inspectorates to disseminate it to staff members with institutional development responsibilities.

2.4. National programs like Access to education for disadvantaged groups, Second chance for primary and secondary education, Education for Democratic Citizenship, Education for Health in Romanian Schools, Eco-kindergarten are continued to be developed.

2.5. Public awareness campaigns addressed to SD issues (like waste management) were initiated and coordinated by the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development. Thus, leaflets and posters were elaborated & disseminated at county level, specific spots were available for radio and television programs.

2.6. The National Action Plan regarding sustainable management of the forests continued to be implemented through joint activities of the agencies subordinated to the Ministry of Agriculture, Forests and Rural Development and county school inspectorates and schools.