

REPORT BY SWEDEN

General observations

New curricula for upper secondary schools

New curriculum objectives for upper secondary schools took effect as of 1 July 2007. Sustainable development has been fully incorporated into the objectives.

Activities during 2007

National Agencies

Quality audit of teacher training in Sweden 2007-2008

In the quality audit of teacher training in Sweden 2007-2008, The National Agency for Higher Education has included one question about ESD. The Higher Education Institutions' (HEIs') replies were also used as the starting point for a more thorough investigation into ESD in nine teacher training programmes. Conclusions: Typically ESD is very diverse in the teaching and learning methods used, and in which aspects of SD that are included. Steering documents are important drivers, as are the commitment of individual teachers, HEI management and programme directors. Capacity-building for teachers is limited. International exchange programmes for students and teachers are used in ESD as well as new research on ESD in schools. NGOs make important contributions. In addition the National Agency for Higher Education has carried out a survey to identify the HEIs' needs for support from the Agency.

Swedish International Centre of Education for Sustainable Development

The Swedish government has decided to start a Swedish International Centre of Education for Sustainable Development (SWEDESD). Sida together with the University of Gotland have been given the task to establish the centre. The ambition is that SWEDESD should be a leading think tank in the international work of learning for sustainable development.

Education for sustainable development in Quality Conference

Education for sustainable development was one of the themes at the Quality Conference, organised by the National Agency for Higher Education and hosted by Umeå University, in October 2007.

A majority of the Swedish HEIs have policies for equity, diversity, sustainable development and internationalization and some have started to connect these with teaching and learning.

The National Sustainable School Award

The National Sustainable School Award is met by an increasing interest among pre-schools and schools which pedagogical work is influenced by education for sustainable development. The Swedish National Agency for School Improvement, which administers the Award, has also co-organised national and international conferences regarding the sustainable development and the pedagogical work.

ESD Theme for Annual Conference

The annual conference of the Swedish Research Association for Sustainable Development (in short VHU) has ESD as the theme in 2008.

National Networks

Three National Networks for Teachers on ESD

There are three well-established national networks for teachers and other staff in higher education committed to ESD. One runs a project on learning outcomes and SD (part of the national Bologna process).

The National Agency for Networks and Cooperation in Higher Education (NSHU), which has financed some activities and projects on ESD, will close in 2009.

Non Governmental Organisations

The Eco School

Activities carried out by NGOs regarding education for sustainable development are increasing in several areas. The Eco School (Green Flag) network offered by the Keep Sweden Tidy Foundation now consists of more than 1 500 pre-schools and schools. Approximately 50 % are active in the theme, Health and Lifestyle. During 2007 a lot of new members, especially from school sector, have attended Eco Schools that is one of the official indicators for sustainable development in Sweden presented by the SCB (Statistic Sweden).

One Planet Living

The WWF project “One Planet Living”, challenges and solutions for a sustainable development, targets a wide range of audiences; politicians, the corporate sector, universities and upper secondary schools. Several teacher trainings and other activities were arranged during 2007 engaging at least 900 teachers, 1 000 university students, and 2 000 upper secondary

students. An essay competition on innovative solutions for climate change was arranged for Swedish and Chinese students and entrepreneurs.

Training of University Teachers on ESD

To support universities in the implementation of the new law for higher education embracing SD, WWF has among others been partners in the arrangement of training of university teachers at Uppsala University. An inspiration material for university teachers is under production and also a joint website.

Service Training for Teachers on SD

With support from the Environmental Objectives Secretariat at the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency the NGO Keep Sweden Tidy Foundation continued offering in service training for teachers about learning for sustainable development based on the Swedish official environmental goals. During last year 55 courses were given in 43 municipalities with totally 1 639 participants.

Schools on a Sustainable Way

Schools on a Sustainable Way is a new initiative where WWF during 2007 started a cooperation with 10 so called model schools in the ambition to spearhead best practise in whole school approach in ESD.

Nature watchers

Nature watchers stimulates the use of the local environment as a tool for learning. Thousands of students leave their classrooms to do practical investigations in the local environment and society. New materials on how to sustainably meet human needs of food, water and energy has been launched during 2007 and also, *Learning Sustainable Ways*, on how WWF Sweden views ESD. A new web tool with activities and tasks now offers teachers the possibility to design their own material. 2 000 teachers were trained.

Naturewatch Baltic

Naturewatch Baltic is a network of organisations and teachers in Russia, Estonia, Finland, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland and Sweden, coordinated by WWF Sweden. Teachers get material and training, with the aim to involve students in local sustainable development.

Activities planned for 2008

A follow up of the international conference in Gothenburg

A follow up of the international conference held 2004 in Gothenburg is being prepared by Gothenburg University and Chalmers Technical University, in collaboration with the Ministry

of Education and Research and the Swedish National Commission for UNESCO. The international expert meeting is planned to be held Gothenburg in November 2008. In order to prepare for the meeting four intermediate international workshops have taken place in Gothenburg: one on higher education, one on ordinary schools, one on early childhood and one on informal learning. The latter two took place in 2007, and all four have been documented and may be downloaded as Unesco-reports.

International

National Agencies

Support to SADC-Regional Environmental Education Programme

Sida has given financial support to SADC-Regional Environmental Education Programme, which works with policy development, education, networks and research in Southern Africa.

Support to International Training Programme

Sida has also continued to finance an International Training Programme for education for sustainable development, where decision makers from Sida partner countries has developed their skills within the area.

Sida has also decided that education for sustainable development should be one of three focus areas for the education cooperation.

The Swedish National Commission for Unesco has been very active within the ESD area and been represented on several international conferences.

Non Governmental Organisations

Green Schools for Sustainable Development

Green Schools for Sustainable Development is run by WWF Mongolia with the support from Sida, Swedish experts and WWF Sweden. It has set up a national network of teams of trainers, developed nine pilot schools and documented best practise in “Cases”, a material to be nationally spread. As a result of all these activities the Ministry of Education, Science and Culture and the Ministry of Nature and Environment have initiated the “National Program of Education for Sustainable Development for All”, and it has also inspired a special curricula for ESD in-formal and non-formal education.