

ESTONIA

Good practices and success stories on mainstreaming gender equality in education and/or ESD

1. Name of country: **Estonia**

2. **Name of organization/project/programme:** Ministry of the Environment

3. **Good practice (title): measure** “Development of Environmental education infrastructure” was implemented in 2009-2015.

4. **Target group:** State institutions, local governments, universities and non-profit sector will benefit from the measure.

5. **Brief description of good practice:** Nature houses and environmental education centres will be established and renovated in all the 15 counties – 30 objects for 21.2 million euros total. New environmental education centres were established in the biggest towns - Tallinn, Tartu and Pärnu. Nature schools of the State Forest Management Centre and of the Environmental Board and study rooms of the visiting centres of protected areas with study expositions underwent a renovation. The Estonian Museum of Natural History in Tallinn and the Natural History Museum of University of Tartu updated their learning environment, thus enabling to improve the quality of learning, as well as to increase the number of the students in hobby groups and museum lessons. Modern training centres with exposition and laboratory facilities were also built on the biggest islands of Estonia - Saaremaa and Hiiumaa. The Environmental Board has also furnished the environmental education bus on which you can travel to the schools to carry out lessons and participate in trade fairs, fairs and other gatherings with playful and exciting activities introducing sustainable consumption. State institutions, local governments, universities and non-profit sector will benefit from the measure.

6. Useful links.

The map of built or renovated nature-schools and environmental education centres

<http://www.envir.ee/sites/default/files/infrastruktuur.pdf>.

Newly built environmental education centre in Pärnu

http://www.loodusjatehnika.ee/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=4&Itemid=2

Newly built environmental education centre in Tartu

<http://www.tartuloodusmaja.ee/EN/syndmused/uusloodusmaja/>

Newly built environmental education centre in North East Estonia

<http://www.keskkonnaamet.ee/iisaku-looduskeskus/> - the main study topic is resource-efficiency

Environment education buss

<http://www.keskkonnaamet.ee/uudised-ja-artiklid/uudne-keskkonnaharidusbuss-asub-teele-jarvamaalt/>

7. Useful contacts:

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8. Comments: The measure will be implemented co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), in the course of the EU programming period 2007-2013. Total funding from ERDF is 22 302 003 € and 10 % funding comes from the beneficiary. The activities related to the measure will be completed by the end of 2015.

There does not exist any unified website for the measure. Every beneficiary is obligated to market themselves and also has to manage in operating the facilities by themselves in future. State institutions, local governments, universities and non-profit sector are the beneficiaries from the measure.

Please do not hesitate to contact if there is needed additional information, photos ect. It is really big project, we are very proud of, and it is hard to tell shortly about it.