

Dear members of the Steering Committee,

I want to highlight briefly some major changes that took place since 9th meeting.

In Georgia we tried to analyze the system of education, its strength and weaknesses in reaching ESD goals and the possibility of the educational and environmental institutions together with the involved stakeholders in this area. The research Assessment of Environmental Education in Georgia took place to analyze all the levels of education from primary level, up to HEI, also non-formal education achievements was conducted. It was initiated by Environmental Information and Education Centre, with involvement of the Ministry of Education and Science, with the support of GIZ.

Strategy on ESD will be developed for the period 2016-2019. Previous Strategy (2012-2014) focus was on non-formal education, new version will highlight in addition formal education, as it is important to have recognized framework for actions.

As it comes out, according to the research recommendations, we have some gaps in educational system. So we started to respond on them. The changes will take place in National Curriculum; it is compulsory for every school so it will ease process of implementation of ESD goals. This year third revision of the NC is ongoing, earlier developed outcomes and indicators were incorporated within some subjects and the cross curricula competence of eco-literacy that was stated in the introduction of the NC without further development was not implemented properly. Subjects with clear environmental profile mostly succeed in this direction. Research recommended developing of whole institutional approach on general education level to insure all the students are familiar with all dimensions of ESD.

Educational Information Center together with the Ministry of Education and Science, with the support of GIZ are elaborating cumulative outcomes, that will be overarching document and it will consist with recommendations for each subject teachers how to work with students to reach those outcomes.

Also it is worth to mention that limitation in resources in Georgian language was mentioned in a research as a hindering factor. Access to the information is very important; Environmental information Center web-page includes necessary resources and information as well as for teachers and for students. There are new editions in the area. In Biodiversity Georgia is having obligations (NBSAP) we developed the Black Sea toolkit that was piloted and from September the biodiversity of the region with the games and proper methodology will be available for the teachers of biology, geography and primary teachers, also material will be uploaded on a special portal for educators. Biodiversity guide is also elaborated in Georgian within the Comenius project ELENA, that aims to bring living animals into the classroom, thus students are becoming more aware of caring and protecting them, Georgia is involved in the project together with Germany, Hungary and Romania. In September teachers will be trained and material will be piloted, after it will be available for all teachers.

DRR is one of the main directions that we are improving, as Georgia is prone to different disasters and also children are considered as a vulnerable group. So the material guidebook is developed and training is ongoing for teachers. Also many competitions are taking place to promote the topic.

There is already well established net of Eco-clubs that are working individually and jointly. The problem with the clubs was that there was a possibility to quit their functioning after USAID and other donors will finish their projects. In February 2015 new “Teachers entry to the profession, teacher professional development and career growth scheme” was adopted by the government of Georgia. In September a nation scale piloting will be launched. Teachers should earn credits to promote in new system, there are mandatory and optional activities to be counted, so facilitating the work in clubs, different projects will bring to teachers credits. So it will be external motivation for them.

There are other achievements, international conference of HEI in Batumi on Environmental education was held. Also there are many courses on university level, projects, and fieldworks frequently taking place.

Thank you for your attention!