

NEWSLETTER #2

ESD Workshop Central Asia

2012

UNECE Strategy for Education for Sustainable Development

www.unece.org/env/esd

Subregional workshop on Education for Sustainable Development in Central Asia: Empowering educators for a sustainable future

28–30 June 2012, Almaty, Kazakhstan

The United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) Strategy for Education for Sustainable Development hosted a subregional workshop in Almaty, Kazakhstan, from 28 to 30 June 2012, together with the Regional Environmental Centre for Central Asia and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe Centres in Bishkek and Astana. The workshop sought to build capacity among countries of the region to ensure educator competences for education for sustainable development (ESD) and strengthen coordination on ESD. Moreover, delegations were able to take stock of the current state of strategy implementation in their countries and to



discuss the steps needed to finalize their National Action Plans.

Drawing on the work of the UNECE Expert Group on Competences for ESD, participants worked on “localizing” the recommendations and competences developed by the Expert Group, i.e., assessing their relevance for the subregion, adapting them to local contexts and making them more specific. The workshop built on training materials developed by the Expert Group in

March 2012, which were piloted for the first time at the subregional workshop in Almaty.

During the workshop, national delegations carried out a stakeholder analysis, in order to identify how to optimize coordination for ESD at the national level. The group of participants was composed of a diverse range of stakeholders, including

UNECE Strategy for ESD

policymakers from environment and education ministries, representatives of teacher education institutions, non-governmental organizations and the business sector. The stakeholder and coordination analysis revealed that tight and diverse coordination networks have emerged during implementation phase I and II of the Strategy (2005–2010). In relation to steps to strengthen coordination on ESD, national delegations recognized in particular the need to involve a broader range of stakeholder groups, especially with respect to marginalized groups, such as persons with disabilities and socially disadvantaged groups. Concrete steps on how to strengthen the coordination were identified.

The workshop was facilitated by members of the Expert Group which ensured direct feedback from practitioners in the sub-region to Expert Group. Country delegations underscored the need to replicate the subregional workshop on the national level, in particular with a view to training trainers for educator competences in ESD.
