



United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Strategy for Education for Sustainable Development

Call for participation: groups of expertise on priority action areas of implementation phase III

The secretariat of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) Strategy for Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) is seeking expertise of the members and observers of the UNECE Steering Committee for ESD to work virtually on recommendations for specific actions to advance the current priority action areas.

Background

At its seventh meeting, the Steering Committee of the UNECE Strategy for ESD adopted three priority action areas for implementing ESD in the region.

While member States stressed their dedication to continue working on implementing all aspects of the Strategy for ESD in the third phase of implementation, they decided on the following three priority action areas: (a) to ensure that there was an ESD school plan in every school by 2015; (b) to promote the introduction of ESD into teacher education; and (c) to reorient technical and vocational education and training (TVET) in support of sustainable development and the transition to a green economy.

At the meeting it was underlined that the three major priority action areas were not intended to replace other, additional actions supportive of and consistent with the expectations of phase III. With a view to promoting the three adopted priority action areas, the following means of implementation were emphasized: promotion of cooperation between relevant governmental departments, promotion of capacity-building activities and strengthening of cooperation between the formal and informal sectors.

The Committee moreover requested the secretariat to draft a short concept paper on the areas of emphasis and areas of priority actions and mandated the secretariat to draw on the expertise of Steering Committee members and observers by forming small groups of expertise on the three priority action areas (ECE/CEP/AC.13/2012/2 para. 53).

Groups of expertise on priority action areas

Three sub-groups of expertise (ESD school plans; ESD in teacher education; reorienting TVET) will be organized to make recommendations for specific actions to be taken to support member states in promoting the priority action areas on regional level. The groups of expertise will meet virtually (via email, telephone and possibly video conference) from **November 2012 to March 2013** to produce a draft outline of recommendations, which will be presented for discussion at the eighth Steering Committee meeting which is preliminarily scheduled for **21 and 22 March 2013**.

Specific questions that the working groups will address include:

- What relevant activities are being carried out/ what relevant resources have been produced that member states could immediately draw on when working on advancing the priority action areas?
- What additional activities (e.g. resources, capacity building activities, tools) beyond those already available in the region are vitally needed to advance the priority action areas?
- Among those needed activities, which ones could and should – against the background of resource limitations - be supported on regional level by the UNECE Steering Committee and what specific resources would be needed to implement those activities?

Criteria and responsibilities of the groups of expertise

The Secretariat will provide the logistical support for the virtual meetings as well as facilitate the drafting process of the recommendations. Participation in the groups of expertise will be open to members and observers of the UNECE Steering Committee for ESD. Members of the sub-groups will convene virtually to develop a set of recommendations to inform the discussions on which activities should be implemented in the framework of the three priority action areas at the eighth Steering Committee meeting. There will be no travel required for participation in the groups of expertise and participation is voluntary – there will be no payment for participation.

If you are a member or observer of the UNECE Steering Committee for ESD and if you would like to participate in one or more groups of expertise please email an expression of interest to [esd \[at\] unece.org](mailto:esd@unece.org). Expressions of interest will be accepted on a rolling basis through **1 November 2012**.

Subgroups are as follows:

- ESD school plans;
- ESD in teacher education; and
- Reorienting TVET.

In your expression of interest, please indicate the subgroup(s) that best fits your expertise and interest as well as your level of proficiency in spoken and written English. If you have any questions on the groups of expertise, please contact Simone Hofner ([simone.hofner\[at\]unece.org](mailto:simone.hofner@unece.org) / Phone: +41 (0)22 917 3268).