



## Czech Republic

Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) in the Czech Republic was so far realized mainly through Environmental Education and Public Awareness (EEPA), a long-term developing instrument for environmental policy in the Czech Republic. ESD is separately defined only in recent years. The already established EEPA scheme in the Czech Republic largely responds to ESD requirements and is considered an adequate platform for broader implementation of ESD. The Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Education departments, Ministry of the Interior and Ministry for Regional Development especially address promoting ESD (and its general principles) to newly emerging strategic documents and programme scopes. The following documents support ESD:

- Sustainable Development Strategy of Czech Republic (2004)
- Economic Development Strategy of Czech Republic (2005)
- National Development Plan (2006)
- Scope of Sustainable Consumption and Production Programmes of Czech Republic (2005)

The Czech Republic approved the **Right to Information on the Environment Act** in 1998. The **State program of Environmental Education and Public Awareness in the Czech Republic** was approved in a Government Resolution in 2000 together with the **Action Plan for 2001- 2003**.

The continuation of the **Action Plan for 2004-2006** was approved in 2003, introducing complex approaches to education and public awareness in the interest of sustainable development .

A circular reform was introduced in 2004 by adopting a new **Educational Act**. It has established the **Framework of Education Programs** as a form of education content decentralization. Based on that, primary schools create an individual school education plan in which they include environmental issues as a cross-sectional theme. The reform now accepts importance of key competencies in accordance to ESD principles. **The Strategy of Sustainable Development** was accepted as a state document in the end of 2004. One of its priorities is care of human resources and Education for Sustainable Development.

In the framework of implementation of the UNECE Strategy, Government Council for Sustainable Development, in August 2005 established an **interdepartmental Working Group** to prepare the **National Strategy for Education on Sustainable Development**. The objective of the working group was to elaborate a draft SWOT analysis for a given issue, creating a National Strategy for Education on Sustainable Development (by 2007) and draft an operational plan for its realization.

ESD is reflected in National Policy Documents such as in a programme, **Education for Competitiveness-framework for funding from ESF in 2007-2013**, and it has also been implemented in the New Action plan of State Program for Environmental Education and Public Awareness in the Czech Republic for 2007- 2009.

### Projects/Initiatives

#### Sustainable Offices:

The Czech Eco Counseling Network (STEP) initiated the development of "Sustainable Offices" in 2003. The project, which ended in 2005, aimed to introduce an approach of green and sustainable public

procurement and a way of operation to the Czech Republic, to provide education and methodological support for eco-counselors and offices of public institutions starting with green public procurement (GPP) and sustainable consumption activities. The impact of the initiative was an increase in people interested in environmental concerns.

## **Networks**

### **National Network for Environment Education**

The National Network for Environment Education was established in 1999 by The Association of Centres for Environmental Education “Pavučina”. The Programme was a reaction to the need for systematic support of developing a network of these organisations in the Czech Republic. Through the participating NGOs, the Programme ensures a controlled EE and ESD standard, access to methodical help for the beginning NGOs, and access to further education for their workers, exchange of experience on the level of the Czech Republic as well as abroad, access to information, etc.

*The main objectives of the initiative include supporting development of the network of environmentally-oriented NGOs as a part of the EE and public awareness system in the Czech Republic, and, via activity of these organizations, to influence the attitude of society to the environment and principles of sustainable development*