



Georgia

Tbilisi 1.0

The first Intergovernmental Conference on Environmental Education convened by UNESCO was held in Tbilisi (the Georgia, then in USSR) from 14 to 26 October 1977. The Conference was organized by UNESCO in co-operation with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

The Conference had the following main points on its agenda:

- major environmental problems in contemporary society; role of education in facing the challenges of environmental problems;
- current efforts at the national and international levels for the development of environmental education; strategies for the development of environmental education at the national level;
- regional and international co-operation for the development of environmental education: needs and modalities.

In the recommendations of the Conference, the basic aim of Environment Education was to help develop a sense of responsibility and solidarity among countries and regions as the foundation for a new international order which will guarantee the conservation and improvement of the environment.

Projects/Initiatives

Establishment of the Educational Center for Sustainable Development (SD)

In 2006, the Regional Environment Centre (REC) Caucasus in cooperation with the Ministry of Education and Science, Ministry of Environmental Protection and Natural Resources and Ministry of Finance, started implementing a new programme. This was the establishment of the Educational Centre for SD. Georgia's Minister of Education came out in support of the REC Caucasus initiative aimed at improving the course of the reform and the implementation of the UNECE "Education for Sustainable Development" strategy and the Vilnius framework regarding setting up a special centre on the basis of the REC Caucasus for training and retraining of trainers and instructors in the sphere of education for sustainable development. The objectives of the programme are to:

- Promote SD through formal, non - formal and informal learning
- Strengthen cooperation on ESD at all levels within Georgia

In the process of elaboration of the programme, the REC Caucasus undertook a study of the current situation in the sphere of environmental education and education for sustainable development in Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia by collecting and processing the relevant data and by carrying out working meetings.

Introduction of the course in “Global Environmental Politics” and “Regional Environmental Politics” at Georgian Technical University

In 2001, the Georgia Technical University introduced the first ever Interdisciplinary Bachelors / Masters course in Environmental Science in Georgia with a social science focus on global environmental politics/policy analysis/development at the University level. Graduates of the Masters Program have been involved in environmental governance, creating a pool of local government officials who will help to achieve the objectives of economic and democratic governance, through improving environmental and resource management, which would ultimately lead to the reduction of social inequalities.