



## Greece

The Hellenic Republic recognizes Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) as a powerful tool to achieve sustainable development, peace and stability within and among countries. The Government also believes that the role of ESD should be strengthened further at the international level, regarding both policy and implementation. To achieve this, synergies should be improved between processes and organizations such as the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) on one hand and the UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (DESD) and the UNECE Strategy for Education for Sustainable Development on the other hand, both at a regional and international level.

At the International level, Greece has nominated two representatives to the UNECE Steering Committee for DESD. Greek Republic has setup a **coordination body/ national committee** to coordinate the activities towards ESD. In the framework of the **National Action Plan "Environmental Activities- Activities for Life, Education towards Sustainability"** Greece appeals to its teachers, students and local communities to embrace all its actions implemented throughout the year, transmitting the message that *the school as the first module of human culture evolution takes a leading role in the moral initiative of the protection of the planet.*

### Consultations

Greece organized a Side Event on "Education for Sustainable Development" at the 12th UNCSD Meeting in New York, USA in April 2004.

In June 2006, an International Conference on "The role of local and regional authorities in the perspective of territorial partnership and territorial networking for the reinforcement of sustainable development and European governance in the framework of the cohesion policy of the European Union" was organized at Zakynthos , West Greece with sustainable management of water resources as one of the thematic areas of discussion.

### Projects/Initiatives

Greece also promotes the **Eco-Management and Audit Scheme (EMAS)**, which is an environmental tool for voluntary establishment of environmental management in the organizations (the scheme is established by European Community Regulations 836/93 and 761/2001). This scheme has been also applied in the sector of education, and more specifically in schools and Universities, intending to improve their environmental performance. The University of Makedonia, in Thessaloniki, is the first University in Greece that has implemented EMAS, with the active participation in the procedure of all the students who receive environmental education.