



Latvia

Latvia adopted the UNECE Strategy for the Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (DESD) and has plans for a Latvian translation of the document. A coordinating group for the implementation of the DESD in Latvia has been formed, with representatives from the Latvian National Commission for UNESCO, the Ministry of Environment, the Ministry of Education and Science as well as the NGO sector.

Projects/Activities

Eco-Schools

In 2002, the Foundation for Environmental Education of Latvia began a programme for environmental management and certification, and sustainable development education for schools. Its holistic, participatory approach and combination of learning and action make it an ideal way for schools to embark on a meaningful path to improving the environments of schools and their local communities, and of influencing the lives of young people, school staff, families, local authorities, NGOs, etc. The Programme incorporates several elements that schools at any level can adopt as a methodology. These elements have been designed to be the core of the Eco-Schools process, yet the structure is flexible enough to be adopted in any country, and at any level of schools' previous environmental achievement. Pupil involvement throughout the process is an integral and essential factor. The participation of other stakeholders in the school and community in the decision-making process is an important step towards dialogue and cooperation, providing a good basis for citizenship education. This flexible system, with its pedagogic and practical elements, has made Eco-Schools a very successful programme with clear and tangible benefits to schools and communities, and of course to teachers and young people.

"Good Cooperation for Good Practice - Methodological Materials on ESD"

The initiative was undertaken by the Association of Environmental Educators in Latvia in 2005- 06, to explore possible solutions towards promoting ESD and creating a dialogue for better implementation of ESD between educators and institutions responsible. A special workshop helped stimulate the interaction and mutual cooperation among experts on forestry, biodiversity, protected territories, waste management and environmental education, representatives of the state institutions, local authorities and school administration and prepared the structure and design for methodological materials on ESD. The workshop results were discussed and accepted by the Annual General Meeting of Association of Environmental Educators of Latvia. Proposals, suggestions and ideas of methodology for ESD were created and modified by the participants. Methodological materials on ESD in CD format were distributed to schools and educational institutions.