



Poland

In Poland, sustainable development is recognized as an important element of citizenship education designed to develop a society that would participate in decision-making processes and be able to evaluate the state of environmental safety. The concept of sustainable development is addressed by the Constitution of the Republic of Poland and extensively addressed by regulations and documents concerning environmental protection, such as the **National Environmental Policy** for 2003-2005, the **Long-term Strategy for Sustained and Sustainable Development – Poland 2005** and the regulations on education. The **Act on Education** also provides that knowledge of the principles of sustainable development should be disseminated among children and youth and that attitudes contributing to their implementation at local, national and global levels should be created. The programming frameworks for all types of schools, beginning with kindergartens, include elements related to the environment or sustainable development. They are present in a wide range of subjects so as to ensure the provision of broad knowledge, and are not limited to fields such as biology or nature science only.

The institutional measures to implement Agenda 21 in its part related to environmental education began in 1995 when the Ministry of National Education and Sports and the Ministry of the Environment signed their agreement on co-operation in the field of environmental education. The main point of this agreement was the provision envisioning that they would draw up the National Environmental Education Strategy jointly. This Strategy was drawn up in 1997 and was adapted in 1999 to the new circumstances related to the implementation of successive reforms in Poland.

The main objective of the **National Environmental Education Strategy** is to disseminate the ideas of sustainable development in all the fields of life, and to extend permanent environmental education to all the residents of the Republic of Poland. The Strategy is a document that identifies and sets out a hierarchy of the major objectives of environmental education, indicating, at the same time, the capacity to implement them and establishing environmental education as one of the essential tasks of the State. The strategy emphasizes that education should create the ability to discern the correlations among the economic, social and environmental aspects of all activities.

Projects/Initiatives

The University Centre for Environmental Studies in 2000 started a project that emphasized the use of Information Technology (IT) and multimedia in education for sustainability in Poland. The objectives of the project include:

- Increase of access to educational materials, information about educational campaigns and advices from specialists through the Internet service
- Increase skills of teachers and educators in use of Internet resources and multimedia materials
- Development of innovative instruments (e.g. on-line games)

The project helped in teaching 200 teachers on EE/ ESD issues. A book "Use of Internet in education for sustainable development" was released as a part of the initiative.