



Russia

The Russian Federation supports the initiative of the UN Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) to develop the **Strategy for Education for Sustainable Development**, and participated actively in the process at all stages of discussion. In Oct 2003, the UNECE Committee on Environmental Policy (CEP) set up a task force on Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) to develop the UNECE Strategy. Sweden and the Russian Federation volunteers were to lead the process.

Projects/Initiatives

In 2000, the Centre for Environment and Sustainable Development, 'Eco Accord', was established by graduates of several faculties of the Moscow State University. Eco Accord pays specific attention to the development of ESD. It is a nongovernmental, not-for-profit organization. The Centre for Ecological Education and Sustainable Development of the Moscow Institute of Open Education conducted an Olympiad of school projects: Sustainable Human Settlements (economic and nature conservation aspects) in March 2005. The objective of the Olympiad was to:

- Move from a simple transfer of knowledge to increasing preparedness to act and live in rapidly changing circumstances
- Develop teamwork skills among the participants, whereby the success of the joint work depends on each individual
- Develop a conviction of the need for collective well-coordinated work in the achievement of the common goal – sustainable development of a region (ecological, economic and social aspects)
- Conduct an educational verification of all previously acquired knowledge (interdisciplinary aspect) and fill any gaps observed
- Show students how to actively seek out information, interpret it critically and use it in practice

The Olympiad involved making models of sustainable human settlements based on the principle of using all accessible information. The participants could use computers to look for information over the Internet, their own knowledge, sources of literature and consultations with team leaders such as the schoolteachers. The settlement models were made using the simulator game "Ecological Constructor" consisting of one large sheet for the playing field and a set of 18 smaller sheets with natural and human-made sites. The teams were given one set of the game and additional stationery items. The creation of projects and their concretization in the form of models is an inexpensive way of mastering interdisciplinary projects for the purposes of sustainable development. Higher education (HE) within Russia has developed a more structured implementation of ESD within HE disciplines and award processes.