



## Turkey

The Turkish National Education System has considered the importance of Environment Education (EE) and Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) in formal education. In accordance with the article 56 of *the 1982 Turkish Constitution*, which underlines that “*Protection of environmental health, prevention of environmental pollutions and development of the environment are the State's and every citizen's duty*”, new courses on “environment” have been implemented at different levels of the educational system. The Ministry of Environment worked with the Ministry of National Education to develop the materials to be used and provided in-service education to teachers. Moreover, the Ministry of National Education signed an agreement with UNESCO on a project for Environmental Education in 1990.

### Projects/Initiatives

The Ministry has prepared a handbook for primary school teachers. Topics covered at primary and high schools include major environmental problems and protection of soil, water, air; solutions to pollution; ways of giving guarantees for living without risks; conservation of natural resources. The Ministry of Environment provides schools with pamphlets, brochures, pictures, books, films, slides and conducts seminars. Furthermore, students participate in tree planting activities organized by schools and the Ministry of Forestry.

Universities in Turkey are also adapting themselves to respond to the environmental challenge. Today, many universities have environmental engineering departments and research centers. There are more than 2,000 environmental engineers in Turkey. In addition, some departments also deal with environmental sciences, conservation planning, and threshold analysis, while other departments such as architecture, landscape design, chemistry, construction engineering, physics and medicine offer environmental courses.