



Ukraine

Ukraine has shown significant positive developments in the field of ecological education, including formal and non-formal advancements.

Projects/Initiatives

Formal Ecological Education

The Ministry of Education of Ukraine ratified an Ecological Education Conception for Ukraine in December 2001, which was created by the country's leading specialists and educators. The Conception takes into account the most current approaches, principles, and criteria in educational development in order to promote sustainable development and the most recent decrees of the Ukrainian government regarding the development of the Ukrainian education system. The Conception is oriented towards the development of educational conscientiousness and a new, more environmentally-friendly way of life. A detailed Plan of Action by the Ministry of Education of Ukraine has been approved and is being carried out in respect to the Ecological Education Conception for Ukraine for 2002-2005.

In preparation for the International Conference "Environment for Europe" which took place in Kyiv in 2003, a work group determined the shortcomings of the present strategy of education's ability to address sustainable development. With the support of the Ministry of Education of Ukraine, educators of the main institutions of higher education of Ukraine prepared and published dozens of handbooks and manuals on various topics of ecology. Specifically, the following were published: "The Basics of Ecology" (for middle schools and institutions of higher education), "The Economics of Natural Resources," "Ecological Audit," "Environmental Policy," "Ecological Expertise," "The Basics of Hydrology," "The Basics of Radio ecology," "Ecological Monitoring," "The Eco-lization of Production," "The Basics of Ecology: Theory and Practice," and many others. In 2002 and 2003, the government standards for ecological education at the levels of Baccalaureate and Masters were created. Additionally, complex educational qualifying characteristics and programmes and a series of specialized and typical ecological programs on an experimental basis were created.

Informal Ecological Education

The NGO "All-Ukrainian Ecological League" (VEL) at the National Youth Eco-natural Center initiated and took the responsibility of running ecological seminars, conferences and competitions with the goal of development and improvement of ecological education in schools and higher education. They frequently publish interesting, useful, and popular educational magazines titled "Ecological News" and "Seedling" that publish articles by prominent ecologists.

The television studio "Eco-Dnipro" in the city of Dniproterovsk prepared around 50 educational films on video and CD-ROM for wide distribution in schools, establishments of higher learning, and scouts groups. The films are used as supplementary educational materials – in addition to ecology textbooks – for practical use. The films are entitled, "Ukrainian black soil," "The Ecology of Rivers of Ukraine," "Nature Reserve Fund," "The Problems of Urbanization," and others.

Significantly positive developments in understanding the state and dynamics of Ukrainian children's

ecological situation is addressed by the environmental NGO “Mama-86”.