



**EUROPEAN ECO-FORUM
PREPARATORY CONFERENCE PRIOR
TO THE UNECE HIGH LEVEL MEETING
OF MINISTRIES OF ENVIRONMENT
AND MINISTRIES OF EDUCATION ON
EDUCATION FOR SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT**

**NGO PARTICIPATION IN THE HIGH
LEVEL MEETING ON ESD**

**VILNIUS, LITHUANIA,
16-17 MARCH 2005**

REPORT

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1. Background

The UNECE Strategy on Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) is a pioneer example of a region-wide strategic approach ESD. The Strategy has been developed in a very open, transparent and inclusive manner, with the full involvement of all interested stakeholders and in particular NGOs. The decision to develop it was made by the Environmental Ministers of the UNECE region at their 5th Environment for Europe Conference in Kiev-2003.

The European ECO-Forum – Pan-European Coalition of Environmental Citizens Organisations, working in the UNECE region and focusing on environment and sustainable development - was lobbying for and supporting the Strategy from the very beginning, starting at the stage of preparation to the Kiev-2003 Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference. The ESD issue is one of the highest priorities for environmental NGOs in the region. In the process of the UNECE ESD Strategy development ECO-Forum organised electronic NGO consultations on the draft text of the document. It also represented environmental NGO community views at the meetings of the UNECE Task Force on ESD. ECO-Forum experts worked in the Drafting Group on developing the draft text of the UNECE Strategy on ESD.

After the decision of the UNECE Committee on Environmental Policy (October 2004) to present the Strategy for adoption to the High Level Meeting of Ministries of Environment and Ministries of Education of the UNECE region, European ECO-Forum continued its active involvement in preparations and lobbying for the adoption and implementation of the Strategy.

Great interest of NGOs from the region to actively participate in the High Level Meeting and to contribute to the discussions on the ways for further effective Strategy implementation as well as to present some interesting case studies of NGOs experience on ESD in different UNECE member states was expressed via European ECO-Forum electronic listserves.

Therefore European ECO-Forum Issue Group on Education organised NGO preparatory conference, facilitated NGO participation and contribution to the High Level Meeting of Ministries of Environment and Ministries of Education on Education for Sustainable Development and organised a side event “Sharing Good practices on ESD in Support to the UNECE ESD Strategy Implementation” in Vilnius, Lithuania, during 16-18 March 2005.

2. Activities

To ensure better and coordinated input of environmental and educational NGOs of the region to the High Level Meeting of Ministers of Environment and Ministers of Education (17-18 March 2005, Vilnius, Lithuania) as well as to agree on concrete actions for effective Strategy implementation European ECO-Forum organised NGO Preparatory Meeting on ESD on 16 March 2005 (afternoon) -17 March 2005 (morning), prior to the official High Level meeting in hotel Reval, Vilnius, Lithuania (official meeting place) and a side event on Strategy implementation during the High Level in the morning of 18 March 2005.

2.1 Aims

The program of work within the project aimed at

- raising awareness on UNECE ESD Strategy among different stakeholders (NGOs, academia, educators, business, different other actors working on ESD issues), creating possibilities for their more active involvement in the process;

and

- developing and providing stakeholders input into the discussions at the High Level meeting, in particular on:
 - Strategy implementation and needs for the effective process;
 - Involving different stakeholders in the implementation process and building partnerships;
 - Ensuring better links between the UNECE Strategy on ESD and other processes in the region;
 - Monitoring of the Strategy implementation;
 - Sharing good practices on ESD.

2.2 Coordination

Overall coordination of the project was made by the Centre for Environment and Sustainable Development “ECO-Accord” (Russia) (<http://accord.cis.lead.org>), which also hosts the ECO-Forum Coordination Unit and Information Centre as well as coordinates the ECO-Forum Issue Group on Education. ECO-Accord took responsibility for the project management under the supervision of the ECO-Forum Coordination Board.

All logistical arrangements and coordination in Lithuania were performed by the Centre for Environmental Policy (Lithuania) (<http://www.aapc.lt>), the local ECO-Forum Conference organiser.

2.3 Activities in course of the project

2.3.1 Information Dissemination and Communication

Information about the UNECE Strategy on ESD and the Vilnius High Level meeting was disseminated widely via the European ECO-Forum News Digest, Education Issue Group listserv and ECO-Accord news service “ECO-Accord informs”. Following the on-going discussion on the Strategy, consultation on NGO events in Vilnius started in December 2004 and was continued until the event and beyond (on the results and further work).

Special additional listserv for participants of the Vilnius meeting was additionally established in February 2005 for documents dissemination and discussions on the preparations to the meeting.

The results and materials of the NGO Conference and the Side event are available at the ECO-Accord and ECO-Forum websites <http://accord.cis.lead.org> and www.eco-forum.org

2.3.2. ECO-Forum Preparatory Conference in Vilnius 16.03.2005 (afternoon) – 17.03.2005 (morning) on Preparation the High Level Meeting

ECO-Forum NGO Conference in Vilnius was organised as a preparatory event where NGO representatives from UNECE countries discussed the views and priorities of NGO community in light of the UNECE Strategy on ESD implementation and further cooperation in this area. It took place prior to the Ministerial meeting (16.03.05 in the afternoon and 17.03.05 in the morning) in hotel Reval, Vilnius.

2.3.2.1 Participants

Representatives of 28 NGOs from UNECE region took part in the meeting. Some of them also represented academic and educational sectors. The official working language at the meeting was English, however consequent translation to Russian was organised for those who had some difficulties in fluency in English. This was very helpful in order to have in-depth discussions on the issues both in plenary and in the small groups.

List of participants is available in ANNEX 1.

2.3.2.2 Agenda and Main Focus of Discussions

Discussions at the meeting were focussed at

- Overview of the UNECE Strategy on ESD content and process
- ESD as a priority at different levels (from local to regional), needs and challenges for ESD in different subregions of the UNECE (EECCA, Western Europe and the EU, SEE)
- NGO priorities and support for implementation of UNECE Strategy on ESD
- Building and developing Partnerships for ESD in the region
- Sharing good practices on ESD as a step towards the Strategy implementation
- ECO-Forum interventions content at the High Level meeting
- Ideas and plans for future work.

2.3.2.3 NGO Conference Agenda

16.03.05 / Afternoon

14.00-14.30 Meeting of the participants, get together

14.30 Welcoming remarks

by Eco-Accord on behalf of the European ECO-Forum and Centre for Environmental Policy, Lithuania, local organiser

Organisation of work

14.40 Overview of the UNECE Strategy on ESD process and NGO/ ECO-Forum role and involvement (*Victoria Elias, ECO-Accord, Russia*)

14.50 UNECE Strategy on ESD – new framework for policy and practice on ESD across the region. NGO point of view and proposals (*Michael Scoullas, MIO-ESCDE, Greece*)

Background official document for preparation:

Draft Strategy <http://www.unece.org/env/documents/2005/cep/ac.13/cep.ac.13.2005.3.e.pdf>

15.05 Discussion (*questions, answers on the 2 presentations, comments, discussion*)

15.30 Ways, needs and proposed Draft Framework of the Strategy implementation (*Paul Vare, Learning South-West, UK*)

Background official document for preparation:

Draft Framework for Implementation

<http://www.unece.org/env/documents/2005/cep/ac.13/cep.ac.13.2005.4.e.pdf>

15.45 Discussion (*questions, answers on the 2 presentations, comments, discussion*)

16.15 NGO position at the High Level meeting.

Process of the NGO Statement elaboration.

Appointing drafting group

16.30 Small groups discussions, ideas and proposals for the Statement

- UNECE Strategy on ESD and Policy implications / opportunities / possible indicators
- Implications and challenges for formal education
- ESD Strategy and informal/non-formal education

(Groups are encouraged to discuss all above mentioned areas, however, if there will be a specific interest group on a particular issue – it can use this time to focus on its area of interest)

17.30 Reporting back from the small groups

Summary of the day

Evening: Conference dinner, informal discussions

Meeting of the Drafting group - work on the Draft Statement

17.03.2005 / MORNING

10.00 General discussion:

NGO priorities and support to implementation of the UNECE Strategy on ESD, needs and challenges for ESD in different subregions of the UNECE (EECCA, Western Europe and the EU, SEE) and at different levels

(Presentation by Vadim Kalinin, ASECO, Russia, discussion in small groups, report back and discussion in the plenary)

Issues in focus:

- Building and developing partnerships for ESD in the region;
- Promotion and sharing of good practices on ESD as a step towards the Strategy implementation;
- Other ideas
- Proposals on future work and cooperation

11.15-11.30 Coffee break

11.30 – 11.40 Draft NGO Statement presentation by the drafting group

11.40 – 12.30 Discussion and adoption of the NGO Statement

12.30 -12.45 Briefing on the organization of work for the High Level meeting.

Agreements on interventions at the High Level Meeting

and NGO side event on 18.03.2005

12.45 – 13.45 Joint session with REC-CEE and OSCE on Green Pack as an example of the partnership for ESD (*High Level Meeting Delegates invited*). *Presentation by Kliment Mindjov, REC-CEE*

Discussion

2.3.2.4 Minutes of Discussions 16 -17 March 2005

DAY 1, 16 March 2005, afternoon, plenary

The meeting was opened by Victoria Elias (ECO-Accord/ Chair of the European ECO-Forum Coordination Board and Coordinator of the Education Issue Group). She welcomed participants and wished all to have a successful and fruitful work during the next days. She also informed participants that the meeting is possible because of the support of the governments of UK, Sweden, the Netherlands, Italy, Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe and UNECE Secretariat as well as cooperation and logistical support of Lithuanian Ministry for Education and Science and expressed sincere gratitude for the support.

On behalf of the local organiser, Centre for Environmental Policy of Lithuania, Ruta Bubniene (AAPC, Lithuania) welcomed participants and wished them successful and fruitful discussions. She also gave a brief logistical information for the meeting.

All the participants presented themselves and briefly explained why and how are their organisations involved in ESD and in particular in the Strategy process.

Victoria Elias made an overview of the UNECE Strategy on ESD process and NGO/ Eco-Forum role and involvement. (See presentation in ANNEX 3). After presentation of the main milestones she invited NGO delegates to consider the main direction for further lobbying for the Strategy:

- To request the permanent participation if the NGO representative at the work of Steering Committee.
- To look at the point where Eco-Forum could contribute during meeting in Vilnius, and
- To lobby for implementation of the Strategy

Further to that, Michael Scoullos, President of MIO-ESCDE, Greece, made a review of the Draft UNECE Strategy on ESD – new framework for policy and practice on ESD across the region. He analyzed the document and explained what was the ECO-Forum NGO position during the Strategy elaboration process and how it was delivered. He also highlighted the need to start implementation of the Strategy immediately after the adoption.

Referring to the new developments on the implementation of the Strategy in Mediterranean, M.Scoullos informed participants that the ESD Strategy is taken as a part of the Strategy on Sustainable Development in the region. It is an example of important political initiative, - he said – and can be seen as an example of good practice on ESD implementation. There is support from UNECE and from Greece and Italian Government, but still needs support from the Arab League. M.Scoullos supported the proposal to lobby for ECO-Forum representative to be included in the ESD Steering Committee and proposed to lobby for more important role of NGOs in the Steering committee. He also mentioned that NGO can play an important role in all three phases included in the evaluation. He concluded that ESD strategy is an important document which reflects aspirations of NGOs and is a practical tool for continuous changes.

The chair invited participants to provide their comments and ask questions.

Vera Mustafina, Centre on Environmental Education and Career Development, Kazakhstan, expressed support to the Strategy and to the approach taken. She mentioned that it is an important document also for private-public partnership. V.Mustafina emphasized the importance of the formal and informal education and mass media.

Natalia Tarasova, Committee on Chemistry Education, International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry, Russia: suggested that NGOs should comment in their statement that NGOs can also play a role of a translator of scientific knowledge to the more clear language

“Many NGOs are coming from academic background, understand the needs of grassroots people and are able to transform scientific concepts to practical and simple words. It doesn't mean that we do not recognize the role of academia itself,” - stressed M.Scoullos.

Olena Paschenko, All-Ukrainian Childrens Union 'Ecological Guard', Ukraine, raised a question: “What are the structures at the national level and how they can be created?”

Fikret Jafarov, Society for sustainable development, Azerbaijan mentioned that there are no documents that include a note that this Strategy should change the whole structure of existing educational system. “We need revising basic concepts and basic subjects. And this need is not taken in to account in this Strategy”.

This was commented by several people in the way that the need of the revision is real and even required in the Strategy, but may be it is not clear. One aspect is included - evaluation of the character of education. M.Scoullos said, that it is not something what will happen in one year. It requires time depending on the conditions in the countries. The changes will take place but in different speed. Therefore we included the evaluation systems at all stages. At the first phase there will be a review, and during this process all the players in each of the countries should be involved. It is a bit hidden. We have already been criticized that it is too prescriptive. “This Strategy was only possible because it is very flexible and provides a framework which should be further translated to national conditions for implementation”, - said V.Elias.

Paul Vare, Learning South West, UK, made a presentation on the Draft Framework for the Implementation of the UNECE ESD Strategy. He presented the content of the document that was prepared by the UNECE Secretariat for the High Level Meeting and highlighted the main challenges, importance of sub-regional implementation of the Strategy, involvement of different international organisations, necessity to link the implementation process to other regional and sub-regional processes, stages of implementation and activities planned. Special attention was given to NGO involvement and need of our active participation and contribution to the implementation process. See also the presentation in ANNEX 4 and Notes on ESD Implementation (sent to participants as preparatory material) in ANNEX 5.

F.Jafarov thanked P.Vare for the very interesting and concrete presentation and suggested to explore a possibility for NGOs to develop a handbook on ESD for beginners, that can be useful to decision makers. He stressed that NGOs should contribute their knowledge and experience to the capacity building of decision makers in the area of ESD.

P.Vare said that it would be nice to have such a handbook, however it should be done together with decision makers or by them. NGOs be facilitator or an expert.

Vadim Kalinin, ASEKO, Russia informed participants that about 3 years ago ASEKO published Local Agenda 21 for local authorities. They presented it at the workshop at Kiev Ministerial Conference in May 2003. Local Authorities were asked to provide their definition of the SD. It was interesting experience that could be used if the work on such project would be further developed.

In further discussion on the proposal on collection of good practices on ESD N.Tarasova raised a question: “What is a good practice for ESD”? P.Vare said that there is a need in criteria for that, not only a definition. M.Scoullos said that in each science there are 2 approaches. 1) find out yourself, 2) study what is already there. We are talking about searching not accepting. There are clear tendencies, which in common sense can be designed in a good practice way. Common Sense approaches, that the alternative is better from what you have. But it is better and this is a safe step. When we sometimes say you define yourself, people can be scared. You can not expect to make criteria in a moment. There is a step by step process. There is a part what is given and there is a part of the research. However the important moment is that the ESD Strategy is not imposed but encourages.

Karine Danielian, Association for Sustainable Human Development, Armenia, said that she works in the University on the development of the ESD and they have a good partner – OSCE. OSCE asked the Association and the University to organise training in the Parliament. A round table was organised, the work continued with the Parliament Committee on SD and now an idea of introduction of SD to the constitutional law is being discussed.

In further discussion V.Elias stressed that there is a need to make a difference between a good a best practice. It is easier to discuss good practices, as many interesting activities are on the way. Best practice envisages assessment and comparative analysis, which requires much more complicated methodology.

Laima Galkute, REC-CCE, Lithuania, said that good practices collection can be based on process of collecting good information about what we are doing in our countries and this is a way to share our experiences.

Elena Veligosh, Global Action Plan International, Sweden, commented that the ESD Strategy is brilliant, however the implementation plan is rather weak. It does not reflect the innovative character of the Strategy. The Strategy should be implemented immediately and the first phase should be not only about creating national plans for implementation, but actually implementing it. Moreover, just to collect and publish good practices would not be sufficient as a benchmark for the policy development. The implementation strategy should foresee a mechanism for analysis of the best practices in order to identify patterns not to copy the best practices but accelerate learning from them. She gave an example of work done in cooperation by Swedish – Ukrainian colleagues.

Valdur Lahtvee, SEI-Tallinn, Estonia, stressed that if we make interventions at the High Level meeting, then we need to talk about the implementation at national level. There should be the country reporting mechanism, for instance as the reporting mechanism made by the Aarhus Convention. But if the format is not agreed, the mechanism will not work. Guidelines for the implementation should be provided to the countries.

Further discussion was continued in small groups and targeted at development of the NGO Statement to the High Level meeting. One group continued to work in English and the second one was in Russian. Such approach allowed all participants to have intensive in-depth discussion and agree on the key points for the Statement. Results were presented and discussed in the plenary and further taken by the Drafting Group for the Statement development.

Drafting Group for development of the NGO Statement was appointed prior to small groups' session. It was given a task to summarize outcomes of the small groups work and prepare a draft statement at the evening.

Outcomes of Groups Discussions in Small Groups

Group 1 (English speaking) – facilitator Paul Vare

- We congratulate the UN ECE on the Strategy and are pleased that the NGOs had a clear role in the process
- Stress importance of finding concrete ways of implementing the strategy at the national level - involving a wide range of stakeholders (state, business and voluntary sectors)
- We strongly support ESD being integrated into (addressed by) other international processes – not just UNECE process (see printed statement) – we welcome the adoption of the strategy as part of the Med SD strategy

- National standards identified for SD in the curriculum/campus/community of educational institutions at all levels
 - projects established to assist institutions to implement this
- Level of involvement of NGOs is a good indicator itself (indicator for this?)
- Partnership/cooperation between NGOs and formal education (indicator: development of joint programmes/materials)
- Each nation develops its own indicator set for ESD that measures outcomes/impact
- Basic process indicators (and guidance for reporting these):
 - translation of strategy into national language, etc...
- SD actively promoted through state-run media
- Engagement of corporations in working towards SD and promoting these aspects as part of their social/environmental responsibility
- Accelerate best practices
- Secure national ESD budgets
- This is for ALL UNECE Member States
- We also strongly encourage countries outside the region to accept the strategy and implementation plan

Group 2 (Russian speaking) – facilitator Victoria Elias

We support:

- ✓ ESD Strategy
- ✓ Establishment of the Steering Committee on ESD
- ✓ necessity to develop National Action plans

We suggest:

- ✓ Ministry of Education/Environment – Report back on governmental level on decisions of the High Level meeting

ESD Strategy should be approved, recognized and adopted at highest national level

- ✓ Address motivation for implementation in draft implementation frameworks
- ✓ Better coordination between IGOs is very important

Implementation process requires good coordination of international organizations, governmental and non-governmental organizations

- ✓ Call to Ministry of education:
 - Include ESD in formal education
 - Include SD issues to Educational standards and curricula
- ✓ Create ESD intersectoral commissions at national level
 - involve NCS (National Commissions on Sustainable Development), where they exist
 - organise Focal points

- Foresee Needs assessment at 1-st stage (Ministries of Education, Environment, NGO, experts)
- ✓ Start process on ESD indicators development ASAP as well as monitoring of implementation (at all levels)

Stress the need to finance the implementation process.

We are concerned (problems):

- Not to loose holistic approach (avoid narrow interpretations)
- Low priority to ESD in many EECCA and other countries
- Financing is not adequate

Very important:

- ✓ Commitment to support the implementation should be made
 - At national level
 - At international level
- ✓ Support to informal initiatives

Special attention and support is needed to EECCA (trainings, information, finance, experts).

Informal discussions were continued at the evening during the short bus tour of Vilnius and the conference dinner.

Drafting group met in Best Western Hotel and developed the first draft of the NGO statement, which was disseminated to participants in the morning of the second day, prior to the meeting.

DAY 2, 17 March 2005, morning, plenary and small groups

The first morning session was devoted to the discussion on NGO priorities for the Strategy implementation. Participants were requested in advance to prepare to the session using the list of questions (see ANNEX 6). Vadim Kalinin, ASEKO, Russia, made an introductory presentation on possible NGO priorities in the process of Strategy implementation. Further discussion was organized in 4 small groups using the “Merry-go-round” method. The whole process was facilitated by V. Kalinin.

Methodology

All participants were divided to 4 groups. Each group was given 1 question from the list. After 5-7 min discussion, each sheet of paper with the results goes to the next group. So, each group continues to contribute on questions, but does not repeat what was already said. The work is finished when each group has gone through all questions. This methodology allows working with a number of questions within a limited time frame.

Summary of the Discussion:

Question 1: What is your vision of specific results of the Strategy implementation in your country? What exactly should change by 2015?

- **In education (pre-school, school, higher education, vocational training, informal, non-formal)**

- **In society**
- **In business/economy**

Key points

1. Linking of leading-edge practitioners
2. Everyone cares about their community and its connection to other levels/places/generations
3. The strategy will be supported/adopted on high national level (governmental level)
4. The strategy will be translated into national languages
5. The strategy will be available for public
6. The strategy will be available for discussion
7. National plan of Strategy implementation is created and closely cooperated with civil society
8. The ESD aspects are included into educational standards and curricula
9. The content of education (within all or majority of subjects) is changed to teaching practical instruments and tools for SD
10. The interactive methods are used in educational system
11. There are certified teachers, trained to teach/think about SD
12. The effective cooperation between sectors of the society is under way
13. The government, business and civil society groups have defined their priorities in ESD. There is general consensus on ESD implementation
14. Formal educational tools (textbooks, etc) do exist in the country and are a part of the core curriculum at all educational levels
15. All institutions (or at least 10%) have local Agenda 21
16. SD and education should point on family and personal development in way of SD
17. Schools should look very different from today – schools part of the problem as they are today, as schools are too late to create nice human beings
18. Nobody thinks of SD anyway – it's just a way we do things – it's built-in to all quality control systems.

Comment: NGO is not equal to non personal organization – NGOs are personal.

Question 2: What evaluation methods and indicators for the implementation of ESD, in particular qualitative ones, may be used?

Indicators discussed:

- Number of publications in mass-media, in specific educational journals
- No articles on ESD in mass media
- Number of specialized printed sources on ESD - handbooks, magazines
- 10% of people can explain, what SD is!

- ESD is clearly identifiable in curricula
- ESD is included in national / regional strategies
- ESD are priorities for government
- Schools and students footprints are smaller in 2014
- ESD is not a dogma, it is a habit
- ESD (as a name of special education) does not exist!! It is so normal
- Training and retraining system include ESD as a common element
- Better quality of environment in communities
- There is a demand for ESD from schools, business etc.
- Equal access to information on ESD in all communities and people
- How has each country done what the strategy suggests
- Number of communities/schools/ local authorities/ etc. Put SD into their own development plans
- Countries, communities, schools, authorities, agencies, companies etc. X developed their own SD indicators
- Widely available text books, websites, handbooks, modules, materials and other educational and informational resources on ESD
- The number of NGOs, professional associations, working in the sphere of ESD, where university teachers can participate
- National resource center on ESD and Regional resource center on ESD (where it is possible to get information, material, training and use the library) are created

We need creation of questionnaire about vision of ESD

Question 3: Who are stakeholders in the process of the Strategy implementation in your country? How can they support/embarrass the process of the Strategy implementation? What methods of work with stakeholders will be helpful in the Strategy implementation?

Stakeholders, which can be active and not active:

- NGOs, including women organizations
- Mass media
- Children, young people and parents (family level)
- All ministries and parliament
- Schools
- Political parties
- National Commissions on Development/ SD (NCSD)
- Local communities/ local administrations
- Business – national and international
- Universities, including pedagogical universities

- Academies (institutes) of educations – on training and re-training teachers, making approval to new-developed courses etc.
- Research institutions
- International organizations/ international foundations
- Consumers groups - ?

How they can support Strategy implementation:

- Financial support (government, private sector, international foundations)
- Legal support (parliament, government)
- Methodical support and creation of curricula on ESD (Academies (institutes) of educations with involvement of schools, NGOs)
- Political support and promotion of ESD implementation at the national level (political parties, NGOs, NCSDs)
- Realization of ESD – formal education (schools, universities)
- Non-formal and informal education on ESD (NGOs)
- Monitoring and promotion of realization of ESD in schools (NGOs, parents, local communities, local administrations, NCSDs)
- Spreading of information among different groups of population about ESD (mass-media, NGOs, international organizations)
- Making researches in the sphere of ESD (national and international research institutions, NGOs, international organizations)
- Training and re-training of teachers on ESD (Pedagogical universities, Academies (institutes) of educations with involvement of NGOs and teachers, which had been trained before).

Methods of work with stakeholders:

- Organization of the dialog between different stakeholders through trainings, conferences, round tables
- Development of intersectoral cooperation in the sphere of ESD
- Creation of common language on ESD
- Establish mutual learning structures

Question 4: How co-operation between sectors for the Strategy implementation may be realized in your country?

1. Organization of ultra-sectorial commission (possible at the governmental level (local authority level)
2. Organization of the civil forum (with the function to the body, mentioned above, on the issues of ESD)
3. Strengthening of the cooperation and collaboration with business sector (social responsibility of business for ESD issues as a part of corporate responsibility)
4. Seeking of the joint interests (looking for fields of interests, which are good for all partners)

5. We should define “time of our expectations” (5,10, more... (years))
6. We need clear criteria for contracts in order to develop clear principles of partnership
7. Creation of cross-sectoral, cross-disciplinary laboratories for leading-edge practitioners, researchers
8. Pattern laboratory
9. Integrated strategies that demand that economic/skills/health/learning etc. strategies relate to each other to achieve agreed common goals
10. Establish local educational centers combining formal/non-formal/informal education and all sectors (including prefect areas/ research/etc.)
11. NGOs should work in a cross-sectoral way (e.g. environment/health, etc)
12. Cooperation between ministries (education, international affairs, financial, environment, etc.) in the sphere of ESD (there should be ESD coordinator in each ministry)
13. The mechanism of NGO participation in development of state program on ESD)
14. Creation of qualification requirements for specialists in the sphere of ESD as result of cooperation between private sector and educational institutions.

Question 5: What instruments for the Strategy implementation exist in your country?

1. There are institutions (Ministries, NGOs, schools, others), which could be involved in ESD strategy implementation
2. There are local educational authorities, that could become responsible for ESD strategy implementation
3. There is a magazine on Environmental education, that could be used for sharing of information on ESD and good practices in this sphere (Kazakhstan, Ukraine, Russia, Caucasian region)
4. Summer and winter schools for faculties (university teachers, students-?) in the sphere of ESD (Ukraine, Russia, Caucasian region, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan and other countries of Central Asia)
5. Newspapers on environmental education (Lithuania, Russia)
6. The program “Ecoschools” (Lithuania, Russia, Ukraine)
7. There are different recourse centers
8. There is Coordination board on ESD (Kyrgyzstan)
9. There is Conception on continuous environmental education (Kyrgyzstan)
10. There are Manuals for teachers, Textbooks, posters and other educational resources on ESD, but they need to be issued in mass edition (Kyrgyzstan)
11. Innovative technologies on ESD and developed training modules (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Ukraine, Russia, Caucasian region, Belarus, Lithuania)
12. National program on environmental education (Turkmenistan, Kazakhstan, Ukraine, Russia)
13. Trainings for specialists in the sphere of environment protection (prevention of pollutions, environmental security, social corporative responsibility, etc) ((Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Ukraine, Russia)

Question 6: What is a possible way of support to the Strategy implementation in your country?

1. To allocate resources
2. Capacity building
3. Encourage scientists
4. To lobby the strategy for ESD in Ministry of Education and Environment
5. To share information about ESD Strategy among NGOs and other stakeholders for support on national, sub-regional and international levels
6. Ask existing sub-regional comities/ institutions in Euro region to include ESD in their activity
7. Participation of NGOs in ESD centers
8. Regulation of ESD implementation on national level
9. Organization campaigns (media, etc.) on ESD
10. Development of national implementation plans on ESD with allocation of funds
11. Involvement of business communities
12. Family and community levels involvement
13. Use of local diasporas potential to financially support ESD
14. inclusion of ESD to Bologna Convention and other international agreements
15. Use of “ESD” indicators for the UN and UNESCO statistics.

Question 7: What are the major obstacles for implementation of the Strategy in your country? How do we tackle these obstacles?

- **By strengthening national instruments, networks, in-service training for educators etc**
- **By bi-lateral or sub-regional co-operation, international networking and partnerships**

Key points

1. Low national priority of intersectoral ESD
2. Low level of intersectoral cooperation
3. Least attitude of government to NGOs
4. Lack of knowledge about global issues and systems dynamics on the highest design-making level
5. Gaps in legislation
6. Lack of appropriate information
7. Lack of basic knowledge in physics, chemistry, mathematics of global problems among the population
8. Lack of allocated budget
9. Lack of adequate information in the society

10. Absence of mechanism of integrative management in the sphere of ESD – lack of cooperation between Ministry of education and Ministry of Environment in managing of ESD
 11. Absence of critical mass of educators, which are able to train other teachers and provide ESD in schools, universities, etc.
 12. Bureaucracy of educational system in some countries
- How to tackle: both suggested ways with focus on synthesis and learning acceleration.

Question 8: What is a specific NGO role / task / resources / instruments in the process of the Strategy implementation?

1. Informal links – connecting people, facilitating cross sectoral discussion
2. Access to information on the grass-root level
3. Intersectoral coverage
4. High intellectual and social potential
5. High economic efficiency – low costs – good results
6. Broad intercultural cooperation, inter confessional cooperation, gender involvement – penetration of good practices
7. Resource – “informal” educational tools
8. High lobbying potential
9. “Whistle” and alarming capability
10. No “bureaucratic” restrictions – freedom of choice
11. Capability to be educator (train people)
12. Use the media to high light of good and bad points of governmental actions
13. Show good examples of learning communities and processes
14. to be catalyst of Strategy implementation on national level
15. to provide services to government
16. NGOs know how to implement the Strategy in schools, ... (they have special methodology for each target group)
17. NGOs have experience to create coalitions, networks for effective lobbying campaigns
18. Lot’s of national looking for the resources
19. Methods and tools for participation and empowerment

Question 9: What are your specific suggestions/resources for co-operation, international networking and partnerships?

1. NGOs are main agents for transmitting foreign experience
2. We can bring innovation, creativity
3. We can do things in a different way and test it!
4. For business we work with image and publicity + PR
5. Visit web-site www.sei.se

6. Use ECO-Forum group to share thoughts and actions – feed ECO-Forum with this information – start a discussion about funded project
7. Transmit the information to the national stakeholders and to potential donors
8. Information must go to NGOs
9. Creation of joint textbooks, trainings, modules on SD
10. Creation of international training team for learning experts of ESD
11. Implement ESD aspects and principles to existing international network activity
12. Conducting of international conference on best practices exchange (including on-line conference)
13. Publishing international magazine on ESD issues, especially best practices in this sphere
14. Create web-site on ESD with a forum for discussions
15. Organize study visits for experience exchange
16. Resources can come from EU member states, major donors earmark
17. Framework dialogue

Question 10: When you will come back home, what would be your first step for the Strategy implementation? What is your own strategic plan for implementing the Strategy, keeping in mind:

- **co-operation between sectors;**
- **strengthening national instruments;**
- **bi-lateral or sub-regional co-operation.**

Key points:

1. Report for Ministry of Education and Environment – we have cross sector lobby role.
2. Publications – put on our web sites.
3. Inform other NGOs and other networks – e.g. universities/ education groups
4. Inform teachers
5. Alert regional / local authorities to this strategy
6. Include SD in projects of our organizations
7. Start the activity and don't wait for adopting the strategy, for example, to provide course on SD in some schools
8. Test subject of funding availability

The results of the discussions will be further used in course of implementation of the ESD Strategy and in process of planning of NGO work in this area. They can also be used during the discussion at the High Level meeting and in further projects development.

2.3.2.5 Discussion and Adoption of the NGO Statement to the High Level Meeting

This session was used to discuss the Draft of the NGO Statement, prepared by the Drafting Group. It was facilitated by Victoria Elias, who presented the Draft Statement to the participants

and also was appointed to speak at the High Level meeting and present the Statement to the delegates. Adopted NGO Statement is attached in ANNEX 2.

It was agreed that Paul Vare will make the intervention on the second day on the implementation of the Strategy and indicators. Special proposal on Indicators for ESD Strategy implementation (see ANNEX 7) was also approved.

2.3.2.6 Joint Session with the REC-CEE and OSCE: Green Pack Presentation

This session was specially organised to present the educational product on environmental and partly SD development issues entitled “Green Pack”. The Green Pack project was developed and implemented by the REC-CEE in a number of Central and Eastern European countries in cooperation with Ministries of Education and NGOs at national levels and with the support of the Toyota Foundation. Currently the project is being developed further and first stages are already on-going in Russia, Turkey and Azerbaijan. OSCE also joined this work and started its support of some national Green Pack projects.

NGOs and official delegates were invited to participate in the session.

Kilment Mindjov, Green Pack project coordinator, REC-CEE, made a presentation of the product in light of its contribution to the UNECE ESD Strategy implementation. (See ANNEX 8). Annica Carlsson spoke on behalf of the OSCE.

The presentation was followed by a discussion of Green Pack and its possible role for ESD.

Several NGOs expressed their interest to be involved in the project development in their countries.

2.3.3 ECO-Forum Side event at the High Level Meeting on ESD

Side event “**Sharing Good practices on ESD in Support to the UNECE ESD Strategy Implementation**” was organised by the ECO-Forum in the morning of the 2nd day of the High Level Meeting (18.03.05). Official delegates and NGOs were invited. Several examples of on-going ESD activities in different parts of the UNECE region were presented by NGOs. Those activities can be used as examples of good practices on ESD and contribute to the Strategy implementation as demonstration projects and processes.

The program of the side event is available in ANNEX 9.

The content of following presentations is available in ANNEXES:

- Good practices on ESD in support to the implementation of the UNECE Strategy. *By Paul Vare, Regional Developments Manager, Learning South West, UK* (ANNEX 10)
- Education for Sustainable Development Essentials. Model that Works". *By Vadim Kalinin, Diector, ASEKO - Association for Environmental Education, Russia* (ANNEX 11)
- ESD experience in the Baltic Sea Region: an example of regional cooperation". *By Laima Galkute, the ESD co-ordinator of REC CEE, Lithuania* (ANNEX 12)
- Education for sustainable development and non-formal tutoring: Ukrainian context". *By Olena Pashchenko, Coordinator, All-Ukrainian Children's Union “Ecological Guard”, Ukraine* (ANNEX 13)
- From eco-education to education for sustainable development: work with local communities on the territories of biosphere reserves in Ukraine. *By Iryna Vanda, Regional Agency for Sustainable Development, Ukraine* (ANNEX 14)

- NGO experience and practice in developing ESD projects. *By Camelia Zamfir, Education Projects Coordinator, Prietenii Pamantului, Galati, Romania (ANNEX 15)*
- Social Corporate Responsibilities of Business and ESD (translation from Russian). *By Vera Mustafina, Kazakhstan Business Association for Sustainable Development, Centre on Environmental Education and Career Development (ANNEX 16)*

2.3.4 NGO Participation in the High Level Meeting on ESD

All participants of the ECO-Forum preparatory meeting took part in the UNECE High Level Meeting of Ministries of Environment and Ministries of Education on Education for Sustainable Development 17-18 March 2005. NGOs highly welcomed the UNECE Strategy on ESD and expressed their commitment to actively participate in the Strategy implementation and promote the Strategy at all levels. Victoria Elias made an intervention at the first day and presented the NGO Statement adopted at the NGO Preparatory Conference. Paul Vare made an intervention on the second day of the High Level Meeting and highlighted NGO interest and readiness to work on development of ESD indicators and good practices collection. He also asked the delegations to support the ECO-Forum proposal for work on good practices and informed the delegations that the Proposal was a result of the Study prepared by the ECO-Forum on this issue in 2004 with the support of Defra, UK. (The report on the study is available at <http://accord.cis.lead.org/english/edu/Phase%201%20Final%20Report2.htm>)

Both NGO Statement (ANNEX 2) and Statement of Indicators (ANNEX 7) were disseminated to the delegations.

3. List of annexes

[ANNEX 1: List of participants](#)

[ANNEX 2: NGO STATEMENT to UNECE High-Level Meeting of Environment and Education Ministries adopted by the NGO Preparatory Meeting Vilnius, 17 March 2005](#)

[ANNEX 3: Overview of the UNECE Strategy on ESD process. By Victoria Elias, European ECO-Forum / ECO-Accord, Russia](#)

[ANNEX 4: Draft Framework for the Implementation of the UNECE ESD Strategy. By Paul Vare, Learning South West, UK](#)

[ANNEX 5: Implementation of the ESD Strategy: What's it for? By Paul Vare Learning South West, UK](#)

[ANNEX 6: QUESTIONS FOR PREPARATION TO THE NGO MEETING ON ESD Vilnius, Lithuania, 16–17 March 2005. By Vadim Kalinin ASEKO, Russia](#)

[ANNEX 7: NGO Statement on Indicators for Monitoring Implementation of the UN ECE Strategy for ESD. Presentation by ECO Forum Vilnius](#)

[ANNEX 8: The Green Pack and the UN/ECE Strategy on ESD. By Kliment Mindjov, REC-CEE](#)

[ANNEX 9: Sharing Good practices on ESD in Support to the UNECE ESD Strategy Implementation](#)

[ANNEX 10: Good practices on ESD in support to the implementation of the UNECE Strategy. By Paul Vare, Regional Developments Manager, Learning South West, UK](#)

[ANNEX 11: Education for Sustainable Development Essentials. Model that Works". By Vadim Kalinin, Diector, ASEKO - Association for Environmental Education, Russia](#)

[ANNEX 12: ESD experience in the Baltic Sea Region: an example of regional cooperation". By Laima Galkute, the ESD co-ordinator of REC CEE, Lithuania](#)

[ANNEX 13: Education for sustainable development and non-formal tutoring: Ukrainian context". By Olena Pashchenko, Coordinator, All-Ukrainian Children's Union "Ecological Guard", Ukraine](#)

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[ANNEX 15: NGO experience and practice in developing ESD projects. By Camelia Zamfir, Education Projects Coordinator, Prietenii Pamantului, Galati, Romania](#)

[ANNEX 16: Social Corporate Responsibilities of Business and ESD \(Available in Russian only\). By Vera Mustafina, Kazakhstan Business Association for Sustainable Development, Centre on Environmental Education and Career Development](#)

4. Gratitude for the support

European ECO-Forum expresses sincere gratitude to the Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs of United Kingdom (DEFRA), Ministry of Environment of Sweden, Ministry of Environment, Housing and Spatial Planning of the Netherlands (VROM), Ministry for the Environment and Territory of Italy, Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), United Nations Economic Commission for Europe for their support in preparation the organization of the NGO Preparatory Conference and participation of NGOs in the UNECE High Level Meeting of Environment and Education Ministries. We also express special thanks to the Ministry of Education and Science of Lithuania for their kind cooperation and support in organising visas for NGO participants.