

Batumi Initiative on Green Economy (BIG-E)
Actions by the UNECE Strategy for Education for Sustainable Development Secretariat

Organization: UNECE

Title:

Promoting the extension of education for sustainable development in technical and vocational education and training in support of sustainable development and the transition to a green economy in UNECE member States

Focus area 9: Promote public participation and education for sustainable development

Description of the action: Technical and vocational education and training provides promising opportunities to initiate and to foster the transition to a green, entrepreneurial and sustainable economy. In this respect, several concrete steps to prioritize could include: educating students about the importance of moving to a green economy and becoming ecologically literate; understanding the needs of industry to transition to a green economy, with an emphasis on sustainable production and consumption; and ensuring that policymakers' support for educators is sufficient to enable them to provide the requisite training for new skills.

One of the priority action areas for implementing the objectives of the UNECE Strategy for Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) outlined in the *Framework for the future implementation of the UNECE Strategy for Education for Sustainable Development* is focused on 'Strengthening technical and vocational education and training in support of sustainable development and the transition to a green economy'.

UNECE is committed to continue supporting its member States and in particular the countries of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia in their efforts to strengthening technical and vocational education and training in support of sustainable development and transition to a green economy by integrating education for sustainable development into national technical and vocational education and training policy.

Action's time frame/milestones, as appropriate: This is on-going initiative with concrete capacity building activities already undertaken in the Kyrgyz Republic and Belarus which will continue and last at least until 2019, that is the end of the first phase of the next post-2015 implementation period of the UNECE Strategy for ESD, and beyond, depending on the requests by the countries.

Type of action: These actions are related to legal, regulatory and policy instruments as well as to information, education-based, capacity-building and voluntary instruments.

Economic sectors: All economic sectors are relevant ("(a) – economy wide").

Reference instruments and sources, as appropriate: UNECE Strategy for Education for Sustainable Development

(<http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/env/documents/2005/cep/ac.13/cep.ac.13.2005.3.rev.1.e.pdf>)

Framework for the future implementation of the UNECE Strategy for Education for Sustainable Development

(<http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/env/documents/2016/ece/ece.batumi.conf.2016.11.e.pdf>)

Empowering educators for a sustainable future: Tools for policy and practice workshops on competences in education for sustainable development

(http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/env/esd/ESD_Publications/Empowering_Educators_for_a_Sustainable_Future_ENG.pdf)

Expected co-benefits and impact of the outcome:

- Reorienting the TVET system in support of sustainable development and the transition to a green economy in consultation and partnership with industry sectors and TVET institutions;
- Shifting economic thinking and promoting sustainable consumption and green skills;
- Raised awareness, public participation and sustainable consumption, as well as reskilling the labour force for green jobs;
- Building knowledge and awareness of sustainable development decision makers and all professionals, especially those with a role in planning and management;
- Promoting coordination between relevant stakeholders, including different governmental departments, in fostering the implementation of the UNECE Strategy for ESD;
- Strengthened national capacities for implementing UNECE Strategy for ESD as one of the tools for greening economies.

SDGs target(s) that the action may contribute to implement: The implementation of the UNECE Strategy for ESD will contribute directly to the achievement of Goal 4, but also to the attainment of all SDGs. The Strategy is a practical instrument to incorporate key themes of sustainable development into the region's education systems. It is a cross-cutting process that allows for a better understanding of and enhanced competences related to all aspects of sustainable development.

Implementation of Environmental Performance Review (EPR) recommendations, as appropriate:

Helps implementing EPR recommendations on integrating environmental education and education for sustainable development elements in national education system.

Objectively verifiable indicators, as appropriate:

- National reports on implementing the UNECE Strategy for ESD;
- Capacity-building workshop reports;
- Guidance documents, training and awareness raising material.

Partners: Ministries responsible for education and environment; partner inter-governmental organizations (UNESCO, OSCE, UNEP, OECD), IFIs, European Commission; regional environmental centres and other relevant networks, including those of civil society, academia and science, non-governmental organizations, business and enterprises.

Contact point:

UNECE Strategy for Education for Sustainable Development Secretariat

Programme Manager: Nona Iliukhina

Phone: +41 22 917 6079

E-mail: nona.iliukhina@unece.org

Website: <http://www.unece.org/env/esd.html>