

**Environmental Education according to the
EECCA Environmental Strategy:
problems, achievements and perspectives.**

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION PROBLEMS

- *Environmental education (EE) materials are not developed and disseminated;*
- *Capacity of higher education and research facilities is not used adequately;*
- *Shortage of skilled educators at all education levels;*
- *Systemic environmental awareness raising is almost non-existent.*

PLANNED ACTIONS IN THE ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION FIELD

- *Establish a network of environmental education information and methodological centers, easily accessible databases to maintain regular exchange of information and experience pertaining to EE.*
- *Develop and implement system of environmental training for governmental officials, decision-makers and other target groups.*
- *Develop partnership and cooperation between public authorities and NGOs in the area of environmental education.*
- *Develop national system for environmental public information and awareness raising, including the use of social service advertising;*
- *Introduction of education for sustainable development (ESD) in all types and levels of education.*

CA ACTIVITIES IN THE FIELD OF ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION (1)

- *The Central Asian Countries many times exposed their common sub regional position in regard of EE and ESD – during the 5th Pan-European Ministerial Conference in Kiev, 2003; during the High Level Meeting on Education for Sustainable Development in Vilnius, March, 2005 and during the 13th session of the UN ECE Environmental Policy Committee in Geneva. Also during all these events the due countries confirmed that:*
 - *EE and ESD are important in achieving the goals of sustainable development and also are necessary conditions in realizing the sub regional and national sustainable development programmes,*

CA ACTIVITIES IN THE FIELD OF ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION (2)

- *In 2004 CA REC, with the support of the OSCE Centre in Almaty, implemented the project "Assistance in developing Environmental Education in the middle schools of Kazakhstan Republic". The project consisted of:*
 - An educational module on EE for the middle schools teachers (teachers of chemistry, biology, geography, etc.).
 - Kazakhstan Republic (KR) Legislation development in the field of EE. Proposals on introducing EE in the KR formal educational system are presented to the Ministry of Education and Science and to the Ministry of Environment.
 - Ensuring the free access of the general public to the resources on EE and ESD gathered by the CA REC library and video-library.
- In 2004 in Almaty the "III Sub regional Conference on EE and ESD from Central Asia" took place.

CA ACTIVITIES IN THE FIELD OF ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION (3)

During 2003 – 2005 CA REC developed two analytical assessments on EE and ESD from CA:

- *«Current situation and ways of development of EE in CA countries» which consists of data on the EE legislation, concepts and programmes in CA countries, also the assessment of the current situation, and some recommendations for strengthening the inter-relations and future development of the EE system*
- *“Analysis of the situation in the EE and ESD field in Central Asia”. This second report contains the following main chapters: Information and public access to this kind of information; Knowledge system; Education, Environmental protection and the environmental management, Peace and Equality, Local context, Reforms, Culture, Interconnected issues and problems, Health protection and improvement, EE.*

CA ACTIVITIES IN THE FIELD OF ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION (4)

❑ *Kyrgyzstan Republic*

- *In 2005 the Coordinating Committee for ESD development and UN ECE Strategy on ESD implementation was created at the governmental level.*

❑ *Tajikistan Republic*

- *On the 2nd December, 2005, in Dushanbe, the National Conference on ESD took place and approved EE and ESD as a priority at the governmental level. The participants also talked about possible ways of implementing the UN ECE Strategy on ESD in the country. In Tajikistan, a process of translating the UN ECE Strategy on ESD in the local language was initiated.*

CA ACTIVITIES IN THE FIELD OF ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION (5)

□ *Uzbekistan Republic*

- *In November 2005, in order to support the UN ECE Strategy on ESD implementation, the "Programme and Concept on EE" was elaborated. In order to implement the programme a Coordinating Committee was created.*
- *In December, 2005, in Tashkent, the working meeting on EE and ESD took place during which the following was approved: creation of a republican network on EE and ESD, creation of a Coordination and Information Resource Center on EE and ESD and carrying out a Republican Conference on EE and ESD. Also it was agreed that the CA REC Branch in Uzbekistan Republic will co-ordinate the public information activities in this field*

RUSSIA ACTIVITIES IN THE FIELD OF ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION (1)

- *In 2005 a network of experts was created and elaboration of a database of experts, educational centers, NGOs in the field of EE and ESD has started*
- *RREC actively participated at the meetings of the Donors Club for elaborating recommendations in the field of education for the Meeting of the BIG Eight and for the Meeting of the Civil Eight. All the RREC recommendations were distributed in order to include them in Agenda of the Civil Eight Meeting*
- *RREC is developing the elements of the common model of the ESD Strategy for EECCA courtiers and common action plans*

RUSSIA ACTIVITIES IN THE FIELD OF ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION (2)

RREC planned actions in the ESD field

- *Creation of the data base on all stakeholders in the field by each office of the EECCA RECs (for all the EECCA countries including Ukraine and Belarus).*
- *Analyzing around 1000 key interested parties, representing the Government, NGOs, mass-media and scientific bodies; contact info on 100 donors, executive bodies involved in the EECCA Environmental Strategy implementation.*
- *Regularly informing the mentioned groups on the state and results on projects activities.*

MOLDOVA ACTIVITIES IN THE FIELD OF ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

- *The Working Group for developing National Implementation Plan on ESD was created (RECM is a member of the group)*
- *RECM offers informational support through placing on its web site information and news on donors, contests, grants programmes and internships, inclusively on ESD and EE. RECM organises seminars and trainings for different stakeholders. The information is always available and it is distributed via NGO web networks*
- *RECM receives and distributes news on international cooperation in the field of ESD.*

BARRIERS

- *ESD & EE is still not a priority in the region*
- *Lack of information and training materials*
- *Lack of cooperation between Ministries of Environment and Education*

QUESTIONNAIRE

- *Is education for sustainable development or environmental education (ESD/EE) supported by legislation and included in policy documents?*
- *Is ESD/EE managed by a specialised governmental department?*
- *Is ESD/EE co-ordinated by an inter-agency multi-stakeholder commission?*
- *For which educational levels are there ESD/EE programmes?*
- *Are there teaching materials for ESD/EE up-to-date and reflecting national environmental conditions?*

ISSUES FOR DISCUSSION

- *QUESTIONNAIRE*
- *REPORT FORMAT & CONTENT*
- *NEXT STEPS*