

**INTERNAL Mailing   enSI   Issue 29: 09.01.06**

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**Important Reminder**

**For those readers who wish to participate in the International Seminar on Networking for Sustainable Development, to be held in Norway at the end of January 2006, please contact Astrid Sandas as soon as possible**

**[Astrid.Sandas@utdanningsdirektoratet.no](mailto:Astrid.Sandas@utdanningsdirektoratet.no)**

**STOP PRESS**

**Re: UN Decade ESD, best practice presentation, 20-24 February 2006, Hanover**

The organizers of the largest European education fair, didacta, which in 2006 will take place 20-24 February in Hanover, are close partners of the German Commission of UNESCO and particularly interested in our activities to promote and implement the UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development in Germany. The German NatCom is implementing the Decade in Germany on behalf of the Federal Ministry for Education and Research. At didacta 2005, we presented the Decade in a large panel discussion which counted among its participants Professor Walter Erdelen, UNESCO's Assistant Director-General for Natural Sciences. For the 2006-edition of didacta, the organizers are highly interested in presenting the UN Decade at an even larger scale. They intend to devote a section of the fair to a presentation of national and international best-practice projects in the area of education for sustainable development. I would therefore like to ask you whether you could recommend an ESD-project from your country that could be presented from 20-24 February in Hanover. The plan is that the fair will provide each project with a small exhibition booth where German or English language materials would be displayed and where a representative of the project would be able to provide information for visitors and the media. The exhibition space would be funded by the didacta organizers, travel expenses would have to be covered by the projects themselves. We strongly support the initiative of the didacta organizers and regard it as an excellent opportunity to internationalize our common efforts towards education for sustainable development. I would very much appreciate some feedback on whether this initiative meets with your interest as soon as possible. If you decide to nominate a project, could you include a brief description – what does the project consist of? how could the project be presented at the fair? – on the basis of which the organizers could make their final selection.

Thank you very much in advance, I look forward to hearing from you.

Best regards,

Alexander Leicht

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### 1. Dates and Timings for the ENSI Annual General Meeting **INFO**

The ENSI Annual General Meeting 2006 will take place in Vienna, Austria. It will start at 9.00h on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> March 2006, and will end at noon on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> March, with Saturday's programme being devoted to project development work.

Further information regarding accommodation and registration will be sent to national ENSI representatives in the next two weeks, but this preliminary information will enable you to make travel arrangements. Participants who are not already in Vienna for the EU Presidency Conference on ESD and Global Learning are requested to arrive on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> March.

### 2. Reminder –Financial Documentation **ACTION**

ENSI members will recall the decision of the last Annual General Meeting to include all in-kind contributions ( travel accommodation, working days) as part of the annual accounts, starting with the accounts for 2005. A template was circulated in autumn, requesting feedback from national coordinators by end of January 2006. Please find attached a copy of this, for those who have not responded so far. Should you have any questions on this please contact the secretariat.

### 3. New publication from the UK **INFO**

Information from FSC Environmental Education

Email: [fscee@field-studies-council.org](mailto:fscee@field-studies-council.org)

Website: [www.field-studies-council.org/fscee](http://www.field-studies-council.org/fscee)

A new publication is now available from the United Kingdom published in 2005 by the Field Studies Council in the UK.

"Rethink, Refuse, Reduce...Education for Sustainability in a Changing World" - 116 pages

This is a new book written for practising classroom teachers with a responsibility for delivering education for sustainability - and who need some help. It offers alternative approaches to the current ways in which we teach education for sustainability - ways that the United Nations Environment Programme recently concluded weren't working. A sustainable world is possible. It must catch the imagination, and this book contains a wealth of practical ideas to help. You can get a copy of the book from FSCEE for just 10GBP plus £2.5 GBP postage in Europe and £5 postage elsewhere in the world.

Do write for your copy now to [fscee@field-studies-council.org](mailto:fscee@field-studies-council.org)

Reviews have been fantastic - here are just a two from teachers -

'What a breath of fresh air! If you have an interest at all in education for sustainability and you want to see a fresh and highly stimulating perspective on this subject, get this book. Filled with beautiful illustrations and thought provoking cartoons, I was simply blown away by the author's ability to break away from the slightly tired, traditional model we so often find posted on our classroom walls. Here is a book that gets to grips with the very real here and now issues and offers a more practical approach on a multitude of levels.

Review from [www.Amazon.com](http://www.Amazon.com)

Wow! I thought I knew a bit about sustainable development, but this book has taken me to a whole new level. The book Rethink, Refuse, Reduce exposes problems in current thinking about sustainable development, and suggests new solutions. The book includes a wealth of information about the subject, considering issues of consumption, trade regulations, transport and a variety of other environmental issues. Intelligently presented activities, quotes, fact boxes, discussion points, illustrations, briefing documents, and an interesting section on teaching and learning styles make this book excellent value for money. Although the book addresses complex issues, they are presented in an accessible, thoughtful language. The book dramatically departs from the standard recycling-focused environmental education approach, and suggests that much more is needed at the individual, local, national, international level. The book would be ideal for a professional development session, and includes ideas that could be adapted for the classroom, for an advanced 14-16 or post-16 audience

Review from [www.Globaldimension.org.uk](http://www.Globaldimension.org.uk)

#### **4. UNECE Steering Group Meeting in December 2005 INFO**

##### **As reported in the UNECE weekly**

At the first meeting of the UNECE Steering Committee on Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) which took place on 13-14 December 2005,

countries reported on their progress in the implementation of the UNECE Strategy for ESD and discussed challenges that lie ahead. The Committee also heard about good practices available in different parts of the region and agreed on some mechanisms to share them to make the implementation of the Strategy as practical and effective as possible. The Committee adopted a work plan that includes a reporting mechanism, a set of indicators to measure the effectiveness of the implementation of ESD. The key finding was that it is important to measure this throughout the whole implementation process, starting from the initial measures on governance up to the visible effects in society. This last issue is, understandably, very hard to identify and measure. The Committee discussed a possible proposal on ESD for the Belgrade Ministerial "Environment for Europe" Conference to be held in October 2007– a general plenary session that would address cooperation on ESD between the Environment and Education sectors and regional cooperation for the Strategy's implementation. The session could be combined with a thematic panel discussion followed by interactive debates on ESD's role in solving emerging SD-related problems. The elected chair of the Committee Mr. Andreas Karamanos, Secretary General of Education (Greece) and the Vice-Chair Ms. Violeta Ivanov, Chief of Environmental Policy and European Integration Division, the Republic of Moldova, met the challenge to lead the process together and give a good start to the implementation of this new cross-sectoral activity.

**Post script.** ENSI was invited to attend this meeting as an observer member of the Steering Group and was represented by Vice President Christine Affolter and Secretariat, Nicola Bedlington. ENSI was further nominated to be one of three observers participating in a newly created UNECE ESD bureau that will support the UNECE ESD secretariat in Geneva in implementation and will meet there on a bi-monthly basis.

The three core SEED/ ENSI publications were circulated at the meeting and considerable interest was shown by a number of countries present regarding continued cooperation.

The steering group was invited to comment on the set of indicators, prepared by the Expert Group on Indicators, by 20<sup>th</sup> January 2006. Please see attached the current version. Should you wish to submit any comments, please send these to the Secretariat and to Michela Mayer, who is a member of the Expert Group.  
[michela.mayer@invalsi.it](mailto:michela.mayer@invalsi.it)

## **5. The Second European Fair on Education for Sustainable Development , September 2006, First Announcement INFO**

The aims of the 2<sup>nd</sup> European Fair on Education for Sustainable Development are

three-fold:

- i. to provide European organisations with an opportunity to display and present their works (i.e. policies research, activities, practical projects) as they relate to education for, with and about the environment;
- ii. to foster the exchange of information, ideas and experiences acquired in the execution of projects, from successful initiatives and good practice;
- iii. to discuss the value and need for national strategies to implement education for sustainable development in European countries both in a formal and non-formal context.

Last but not least, one of the aims of the event will be to provide inputs which will be useful to UNECE as it implements the UNECE Strategy for Education for Sustainable Development.

### **Profile of Participants**

Delegates attending the 2nd European Fair on Education for Sustainable Development will come from a cross-sectorial range of areas. They are:

- i. members of government organisations;
- ii. academic and research staff;
- iii. teachers and school groups;
- iv. members of trade unions and non-governmental organisations;
- v. project officers and consultants;
- vi. other people interested in the field.

It is believed that this wide range of participants will help to spread the awareness about the UNECE Strategy for Education for Sustainable Development and contribute to the further dissemination of the UN Decade on Education for Sustainable Development.

### **Structure of the event**

The 2<sup>nd</sup> European Fair on Education for Sustainable Development will be organised in two main strands:

#### **Strand 1: the displays**

European organisations active in the field of environmental education be it a Foundation, school, university, NGO, government agency or individual practitioners will be able to put-up displays describing their works and projects and to distribute the relevant information to the participants. The displays will be the backbone of the Fair and will allow close, one-to-one contacts between the participants and the exhibitors.

#### **Strand 2: the presentations**

A set of presentations, divided into four sections will be organised, dealing with issues of strategic value in reviewing the state of art of education for sustainability today, and matters of interest in implementing the UNECE Strategy for Education for Sustainable Development. They will also allow a review of current and future action well into the UN Decade on Education for Sustainable Development.

For further info please go to [sd@tutech.de](mailto:sd@tutech.de)