



**From the report of the UN Secretary General within the framework of preparation for the WSSD:**  
«Education is now viewed as a lifelong process, that does not only need to be adjusted, but also needs to be changed and reformed. This new view facilitates realignment of education in order to focus it on how to prepare people to live their lives; to ensure employment; how to prepare them for the requirements of the rapidly changing society and technological changes».

**1. PROJECT TITLE:** SUB-REGIONAL PROJECT «IMPLEMENTATION OF THE UN DECADE AND UNECE STRATEGY ON EDUCATION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN CENTRAL ASIA».

**2. DURATION:** 3 years - 2006-2008

**3. PROJECT COVERAGE:** Central Asian subregion

**4. PROJECT COSTS:** 150 000 Euro

This project is designed to prepare the countries of the sub-region to meet their commitments under the UNECE Strategy on Education for Sustainable Development (ESD), and to incorporate the ESD into the national economic, environmental and educational policy of the Central Asian subregion.

Outputs of the project will be a response of the Central Asia to the global and regional challenges - WSSD (Johannesburg, 2002) decisions, started in 2005 UN Decade on ESD and adopted in 2005 the UNECE Strategy on ESD.

**5. PROJECT GOAL:** Promotion of ESD in the Central Asia through implementation of the UNECE Strategy on ESD, based on the principles of cross sector and interagency partnership.

**This overall goal will be achieved through the specific objectives:**

- Ensure that policy, regulatory and operational frameworks support the promotion of ESD.
- Promote SD through formal, non-formal and informal learning.
- Equip educators with the competence to include SD in their teaching.
- Ensure that adequate tools and materials for ESD are accessible.
- Promote research on and development of ESD.
- Strengthen cooperation on ESD at all levels within the Central Asian subregion and UNECE region.

## **6. PROJECT STRATEGIES AND ACTIVITIES:**

- Establishing a net of national coordination bodies and designating NFP for implementation of the Strategy in CA countries.
- Translation of the text of UNECE Strategy on ESD from Russian into five Central Asian national languages.
- Development of national action plans on the UNECE Strategy on ESD implementation in CA.
- Adaptation and improvement of national legislations of the Central Asian countries in accordance with the UNECE Strategy on ESD. Development of national policy documents specifically dedicated to ESD or incorporation of ESD issues into the national economic, environmental and educational policy of CA states.
- Incorporation of ESD issues into the national curricula at all levels - formal, non-formal and informal learning of the Central Asian countries.
- Improvement capacity and competence of educators through development of training/retraining programmes and including SD issues in their teaching.
- Development state systems of production, expertise of adequate tools and materials for ESD (textbooks, posters, video, CD, etc., including IT-educational technologies) and introduction them into educational processes at all levels - formal, non-formal and informal learning. Dissemination of best practices in Central Asian subregion.
- Development and stimulation of the state systems of scientific research in the field of ESD and introduction of its outputs into a practice.
- Development and qualitative improvement of interagency, intersectoral, and intergovernmental cooperation on ESD at all levels within the Central Asian subregion and with partners in the UNECE region.

- Conducting of the *Fifth Anniversary International Conference on ESD in Central Asia* in autumn 2006.

2. **BACKGROUND.** CAREC has launched the Environmental Education (EE) Programme at the beginning of 2003. EE Programme is a component of CA Agenda-21 development.

*Second Sub-regional Consultative ministerial meeting “EE for Sustainable Development in CA”* April 2003 (Bishkek) under CAREC and EC support started active work of EE Programme. EE Programme and Review “Status, Prospects and Ways of EE Development in CA countries” ([www.carec.kz](http://www.carec.kz)) were approved at the Bishkek meeting, and Joint Working Group on implementation of EE/ESD projects was organized.

Central Asian countries have presented *joint sub-regional position on EE and ESD* – in Kiev, in May 2003 when the first variant of the UNECE Strategy on ESD was discussed; at the same place, on the Fifth Pan-European Ministerial Conference, in Kiev, 2003 CA Governments presented the document entitled **“Invitation to Partnership for CAI Implementation”**; in Vilnius, in March 2005, when the Strategy and the Vilnius Frameworks of implementation was adopted by the Ministers of Environment and Education of UNECE region.

In 2003-2005 EE CA Programme has designed a set of educational, informational and analytical materials:

- *Textbook “Environment for future generations”* for secondary schools. Pilot stage of approbation the textbook in experimental schools in Kazakhstan is finished and then we plan to adapt and to translate the textbook into national languages of all countries of Central Asia.
- Starting from April, 2004 and up to now, there is a project being successfully implemented in CA under support of British Government and UNESCO Cluster Office in Almaty, *entitled “Posters and Video on Climate Change”* that supports development on ESD and assists to promotion of ideas of the Kyoto Protocol in CA. Within the frames of this project, there were *five teaching posters and video* on climate change in Russian language developed, and then disseminated in secondary schools in Central Asia, in 2005.
- This year we started *to adapt and translate the posters and video* into national languages of CA countries under support of DEFRA through PECE foundation in cooperation with British organizations such as “Field Study Council”, Climate Care and Norway project SPARE.

In addition to that, CAREC in 2004-2005 with participation of experts of CA countries, by the order and with support of the UNESCO Regional Office in Bangkok and UNESCO Cluster Office in Almaty had prepared the *Review “Situational analysis on ESD in Central Asia”*, which became a part of the **“Situational analysis on ESD in Asian-Pacific region”**. The review in Russian and English languages was published and then presented at the Fourth CA Conference on EE and ESD.

The **Fourth Conference on EE and ESD in CA** was held on September 21-22, 2005 in Almaty. Three sub-regional meetings held during 2002-2004 prefaced the Conference. The Conference included **presentation of the UNECE Strategy on ESD** and small groups discussion of priority actions on CA countries on its implementation in Central Asia as well as the list of priority indicators on ESD for the sub-region was prepared.

The final documents of the Conference included **the Statement of CA countries on ESD** and *recommendations of participants of the Conference to partners and donors on EE/ESD* (these documents are available in both – Russian and English languages at this meeting). The Fourth Conference on EE and ESD in CA had contributed to the development of EE/ESD in the sub-region, to the strengthening of interdepartmental, inter-state and inter-sector cooperation in CA.

Also the Conference proposed to prepare **CA position for presentation at the meeting of the Steering Committee** on implementation of the UNECE Strategy on ESD, i.e. to propose following: **“To consider CA sub-region as a pilot region** for implementation of the UNECE Strategy on ESD, in the view of its experience, capacity and the prepared **“Situational analysis on ESD in Central Asia”**, which can be considered as the “baseline analysis on ESD in Central Asia”, unique practice of joint decision making by the EE and ESD CA WG and the willingness to cooperate exhibited by all of the stakeholders, the states, the community and the educational sector”.

### **3. EXPECTED OUTCOMES**

- 3.1. Established national coordination bodies and designated NFP for implementation of the Strategy in CA countries.
- 3.2. Developed sustainable cooperation between the ministries of Environment and Education, scientific and educational centers and NGOs both in the CA countries. Exchange by experience between the national bodies in Central Asia.
- 3.3. The text of UNECE Strategy on ESD is translated from Russian into five Central Asian national languages.
- 3.4. Developed national action plans on the UNECE Strategy on ESD implementation in CA.
- 3.5. National legislation of the Central Asian countries is adapted and improved in accordance with the UNECE Strategy on ESD.
- 3.6. New national policy documents specifically dedicated to ESD are developed. ESD issues are incorporated into the national economic, environmental and educational policy of the Central Asian countries.
- 3.7. ESD issues are incorporated into the national curricula at all levels - formal, non-formal and informal learning of the Central Asian countries.
- 3.8. Capacity and competence of educators is developed and improved through applying new training/retraining programmes for them and including SD issues in their teaching.
- 3.9. Support in developing state systems of production, expertise of adequate tools and materials for ESD (textbooks, posters, video, CD, etc., including It-educational technologies) and introduction them into educational processes at all levels - formal, non-formal and informal learning *is provided on a regular base*.
- 3.10. Dissemination of best practices in Central Asian subregion. Provided assistance in getting the best-tested ESD textbooks and manuals translated into the national CA languages.
- 3.11. Scientific research in the field of ESD and introduction of its outputs into a practice is developed and supported by the CA states, international community, and all interested partners.
- 3.12. Developed and qualitatively improved interagency, intersectoral, and intergovernmental cooperation on ESD at all levels within the Central Asian subregion and with partners in the UNECE region.
- 3.13. *Fifth Anniversary International Conference on ESD in Central Asia* was successfully conducted in autumn 2006, and international community supported CA initiatives on ESD.

### **5. INDICATORS FOR THE PROJECT OUTCOMES AND METHODS OF EVALUATING SUCH OUTCOMES:**

We plan to use indicators on the UNECE Strategy on ESD implementation, developed by the Expert Group of UNECE, in accordance with the 6 goals of the Strategy (is attached).

#### **Sources of verification:**

1. Central Asian Joint WG on EE and ESD.
2. Ministries of Education and Science.
3. Ministries of Environmental Protection.
4. CAREC
5. Educational institutions: Universities, high schools, and secondary schools of Central Asia, participating in the project.

4. **POTENTIAL IMPLEMENTERS** – ministries of Education and Environment, Central Asian Joint WG on EE and ESD, scientific and educational organizations, educational/training and retraining centers and institutions, NGOs and public organizations in the CA countries, CAREC EE Programme.

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**List of indicators to be used for evaluation of the project implementation:**

***Objective 1 Ensure that policy, regulatory and operational frameworks support the promotion of ESD***

- 1.1 Organization of the institutional arrangements;
- 1.2 Implementation of the policy, regulatory and operational frameworks to support the Strategy  
*Validation to be developed*
- 1.3 ESD presence in relevant National Educational legislation

***Objective 2. Promote SD through formal, non-formal and informal learning***

- 2.1 Distribution of ESD and SD themes within the school curriculum
- 2.2 Approaches to ESD in the school curriculum:
- 2.3 Inclusion of ESD in tertiary education
- 2.4 Institutions adopting a 'whole institution approach' to ESD
- 2.5 Presence of a National quality assessment involving SD.
- 2.5 Description of the Quality of ESD in the country in terms of key competencies and methodologies addressed
- 2.6 ESD strategy as a multi-stakeholder strategy
- 2.7 Volume of community based projects with ESD aspects
- 2.8 ESD in informal education

***Objective 3. Equip educators with the competence to include SD in their teaching***

- 3.1 Teacher Education and training
- 3.2 Networks/platform for ESD teachers/educators
- 3.3 Quality criteria for ESD teaching

***Objective 4. Ensure that adequate tools and materials for ESD are accessible***

- 4.1 Availability of teaching materials
- 4.2 Quality criteria for ESD materials
- 4.3 Availability of websites
- 4.4 Encouragement and investment in the development of ESD materials

***Objective 5. Promote research on and development of ESD***

- 5.1 Public support to ESD research
- 5.2 Public support to ESD research outcomes and ESD good practices exchange
- 5.3 Scholarships for ESD

***Objective 6 Strengthen cooperation on ESD at all levels within the UNECE region***

- 6.1 Support to International ESD networks
- 6.2 Participation in International ESD networks
- 6.3 Cooperation mechanism including ESD.

## **Part 2. INITIATIVES OF CENTRAL ASIA IN THE FIELD OF EDUCATION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

The First Meeting of the Steering Committee on implementation of the UNECE  
Strategy on Education for Sustainable Development.

*Geneva, December 13-14, 2005*

*Zhyldyz Duishenova,  
Kyrgyz Republic*

14 December, 14.30.

**Distinguished Chairman!**

**Dear Colleagues!**

Understanding that CA countries are responsible for implementation of the Strategy on ESD and that the main duty based on the national Governments, we would like to point out that the particularity of Central Asian is focused on the fact that *beside with the national processes of implementation of the UN Decade on ESD and the UNECE Strategy on ESD, there are some strong sub-regional processes in Central Asia.* And we do not want to lose this unique achievement of CA!

Despite our success, we have to outline that CA Programme on EE and in fact overall activity on ESD in CA depend on external funding, while the countries are not able to implement the UNECE Strategy on ESD completely. As far as the **ESD process needs financial support** that is reflected in the text of the Strategy itself, but however, it is weakly supported by donors yet, therefore, we are worried about future sustainability of ESD process in CA.

In this connection, we would like to highlight again that CA countries, as the countries with economies in transition, need some financial support for implementation of the UNECE Strategy on ESD, at least, on the first stage of its implementation. Therefore, today, at the Meeting of Steering Committee we apply to the donor community, international organizations and our partners **to support implementation of the UNECE Strategy on ESD in Central Asia**, videlicet:

1. ***To consider CA sub-region as a pilot region for implementation of the UNECE Strategy on ESD***, in view of its experience and capacity on ESD, unique practice of joint decision making by the EE and ESD CA WG and the willingness to cooperate exhibited by all of the stakeholders, the states, community and educational sector.
2. ***To assist in launching of the pilot project on implementation of the UNECE Strategy on ESD in CA***, in translation into national languages, development of national plans and national strategies of its implementation and reforming of modern educational systems with strengthening of the role and status of ESD programs and following evaluation and monitoring of the process, taking into consideration indicators of the Strategy's implementation, developed by the expert group.
3. ***To support decision of the Fourth Sub-regional Conference on EE and ESD to conduct the Fifth Jubilee Conference on ESD in 2006*** in Central Asia and to provide with assistance to the preparation of the Conference and its support in order to unite efforts, taken on the global and regional level for achievement of general ESD goals. Now at the level of the Government of Uzbekistan and State Committee of the Nature Protection is discussing the issue of conduction of the ***Fifth Jubilee Conference on ESD in 2006*** in Tashkent (Uzbekistan) in autumn 2006.

Let me express a hope that CA initiatives and proposals on implementation of the UNECE Strategy on ESD will inspire understanding and interest, will be supported by the participants of the Meeting of Steering Committee and partners; and initiate new pilot project on implementation of the UNECE Strategy on ESD in Central Asia.

**Thank you for your attention!**

## **Part 1. ACHIEVEMENTS OF CENTRAL ASIA IN THE FIELD OF EDUCATION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

### The First Meeting of the Steering Committee on implementation of the UNECE Strategy on Education for Sustainable Development.

*Geneva, December 13-14, 2005*

*Muhammedgurban Orazov,  
Turkmenistan,*

**Distinguished Chairman!**

**Dear Colleagues!**

On behalf of Central Asian Ministers of Environment and Education, let me greet the participants of the *First Meeting of the Steering Committee on implementation of the UNECE Strategy on Education for Sustainable Development* and wish them achievement of specific and significant outcomes contributing into the Strategy implementation in the region.

Central Asian countries repeatedly voiced its **joint sub-regional position on environmental education and education for sustainable development** at the Fifth Pan-European Environmental Ministerial Conference held in Kiev, in 2003; at the High Level Meeting on Education for Sustainable Development in Vilnius, in March 2005 and at the 13<sup>th</sup> Session of the UNECE Environmental Policy Committee in Geneva.

**During last recent years, Central Asia had achieved significant results in field of education for sustainable development:**

- We created and worked out the *mechanism of coordination process on EE and ESD* in CA countries, involving major parties into that process, including ministries of education, environment, institutions of science and education, community and international organizations,
- We strengthen *cooperation between the Ministries of Education and Environment, science, NGOs* through Central Asian Working Group (CA WG) on ESD activity. Today, the WG members, received a mandate from the Fourth Sub-regional Conference on ESD to report on progress achieved on ESD, take part at the meeting,
- We take an active part in *ESD processes on the levels of European and Asian regions*, we consider this as a unique opportunity of coordination and integration of national and sub-regional programs with global and regional initiatives,
- We highlight sustainability of EE and ESD process in CA and existing *good practice of conduction of the annual conferences on EE and ESD* (Dushanbe-2002,

Bishkek-2003, Almaty-2004 and Almaty-2005) and welcome its further development and support,

- CA EE Programme provides with *practical support to educational institutions, Ministries and NGOs* in CA countries, including new textbooks, educational, methodical and informational materials, trainings, projects, etc.,
- In 2004-2005 we have created the *EE Centers in Kyrgyz Republic and the Republic of Tajikistan* as a result of effective work with donors and partners, and we intend to establish EE centers in Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan with assistance of our partners,
- We strengthen and *develop collaboration on EE and ESD with our partners*, i.e. UNECE, UNESCO Cluster Office in CA, UNESCO Regional Office in Bangkok, European Commission, OSCE offices and other international organizations and embassies of donor-countries in CA countries.
- **We already have the first achievements on the way of the UNECE Strategy on ESD implementation in Central Asia:**
  - In 2005 the *Coordinating Council on ESD issues development* and implementation of the UNECE Strategy on ESD was established in the Kyrgyz Republic on the Governmental level. 18-19 October 2005 the National Conference «ESD in Kyrgyzstan: capacity evaluation and prospection» was held in Bishkek. Participants of the Conference addressed to the Government, Parliament of Kyrgyzstan and partners to support the process of implementation the Strategy in the country.
  - In November 2005 with the purpose of implementation of the UNECE Strategy on ESD *the Programme «On development EE, environmental manpower training and retraining*, and also prospects of perfection of the training and retraining system in the Republic of Uzbekistan» was developed in the Republic of Uzbekistan. For implementation of the Programme Coordinating Group was established.
  - *2 December 2005 the National Conference «ESD in Tajikistan»* was held in Dushanbe. The Conference confirmed priority of EE and ESD at the governmental level and considered issues of implementation of the UNECE Strategy on ESD in the country. In Tajikistan the Government initiatively started the process of translation the Strategy into Tajik language.

*We would like to inform You that the Fourth Sub-regional Conference on EE and ESD in CA*, in Almaty, September 21-22, 2005 included presentation of the UNECE Strategy on ESD and discussion of the priority actions of CA countries on its implementation in Central Asia. The final documents of the Conference included *Statement of CA countries on ESD and Recommendations of participants of the Conference to the partners and donors on EE/ESD*.

After the Conference, **additional support of five national seminars on ESD in CA countries** (October, 2005) on promotion of ideas of the UN Decade on ESD, UNECE Strategy on ESD, dissemination of outputs of the Fourth Sub-regional Conference on ESD was provided. The Strategy, final documents of the Conference, new educational materials were presented at the seminars; trainings for teachers were conducted as well.

Let me express a hope that these initiatives and proposals of the Central Asian on implementation the UNECE Strategy on ESD will be met with understanding and interest by members of the Steering Committee and partners.

**Thank you for your attention!**