

UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development

- Results and Perspectives after the first five years



Background – Stock-Taking – World Conference – The Way Ahead

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Future

PAST

Nachhaltigkeit lernen



Toffler's Experiment





Sustainable Development *is* the Future

- Sustainability means looking at the future and how to shape it
- Aspiration comes with a whole series of complex challenges
- The role of ESD is evident; we have to learn how to develop a sense for the future

- Student companies as example





:: **Background** :: Stock Taking :: World Conference :: The Way Ahead

UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (2005-2014)

Nachhaltigkeit lernen



- “The overall goal of the DESD is to integrate the principles, values, and practices of sustainable development into **all aspects of education and learning.**” (UNESCO 2005)
- “The basic vision of the DESD is a world where everyone has the opportunity to benefit from education and learn the **values, behaviour and lifestyles** required for a sustainable future and for positive societal transformation.” (UNESCO 2005)
- Coordinated by UNESCO, implemented nationally.
- German coordination by the German Commission for UNESCO on the basis of a unanimous resolution of the German Parliament.





Activities in Germany

Activities by German Commission for UNESCO/National Committee / Round Table / Working Groups:

- Provide **platform** for stakeholders and promote cooperation
- Political **advocacy** and policy advice
- Highlight **good practice** through award scheme “Official German Project for the Decade”
- **Conferences**, workshops and other events (Didacta Education Fair, EU conference, teacher training workshops)
- Promote **international exchange** on ESD





National Plan of Action

Strategic guidelines for stakeholders:

1. Further develop the concept of education for sustainable development and broadly spread good practices
2. Forge stronger links between individual players and stakeholders in education for sustainable development
3. Increase public visibility of education for sustainable development
4. Strengthen international co-operation





German Decade Projects

- National Committee awards good practice projects
- Objective: increase visibility for ESD and promote good practice
- Criteria:
 - based on broad concept of ESD
 - participatory component
 - can be replicated
 - long-term initiative
- About 1000 projects from all areas of ESD and in all kinds of educational settings
- Also: Cities for the Decade (Frankfurt, Hamburg, Bonn, among others)





Stock-Taking – Challenges in Germany



- Lack of specific national ESD policy or strategy
- Lack of ESD research and development
- Lack of funding

Often ESD is only seen as an add-on to other educational priorities. Needs to be recognized as cross-cutting.





UNESCO World Conference 2009

- 31 March – 2 April 2009, Bonn
- Organized by UNESCO and German Federal Ministry of Education and Research, in cooperation with the German Commission for UNESCO
- 900 participants from 150 countries, 48 ministers and vice-ministers
- Objectives: to highlight the contribution of ESD to quality education; to promote international exchange on ESD; to take stock of Decade activities; to develop strategies for the way ahead





The Bonn Declaration

- Was adopted unanimously in the final plenary session
- Was drafted during the Conference based on the plenary and workshop-sessions of the Conference
- Defines guidelines for further action





The Bonn Declaration – On the Relevance of ESD



- Everybody should acquire values, knowledge, skills and competencies that empowers him/her to create a decent future.
- A decade into the 21st century, the world faces substantial, complex and interlinked development and lifestyle challenges and problems. (...) We have the knowledge, technology and skills available to turn the situation around.
- ESD helps societies to address different priorities and issues inter alia water, energy, climate change, disaster and risk reduction, loss of biodiversity, food crises, health risks, social vulnerability and insecurity. It is critical for the development of new economic thinking.





The Bonn Declaration – Call for Action

- The Bonn Declaration contains a „Call for Action“ with guidelines for advancing the implementation of the UN-DESD, among others:
- A call upon member states, civil society and other relevant actors to:
 - Promote ESD's contribution to all of education and to achieving quality education,
 - Increase public awareness and understanding about sustainable development and ESD
 - Mobilize adequate resources and funding in favour of ESD
 - Re-orient education and training systems to address sustainability concerns through coherent policies at national and local levels.





The Way Ahead

... until 2014

- Increase **public awareness** and understanding about sustainable development
- Cooperate with the **private sector** more closely
- Mobilize **adequate resources**
- Incorporate SD issues into all levels of education and ESD in the **training of teachers**





Challenges lying ahead

- How can we succeed in making SD integral part of education overall?
- How can we communicate the messages of ESD better, more concisely and more effectively?
- How can we succeed in getting key actors, who are not yet involved in ESD, but strategically important, aboard?
- Is the financial crisis going to impact the ESD-agenda positively or negatively?





Thank you for your attention!



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