

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE
UNECE STRATEGY FOR ESD ACROSS THE
ECE REGION (2015-2018)



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Foreword

Education for Sustainable Development is an important area of work of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE). The decision to establish the UNECE Steering Committee on Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) was made in 2005 in Vilnius, Lithuania, by the High-Level Meeting of Ministers of Environment and Education of the region. Over the last fifteen years the Committee has become an important mechanism for developing regional policies as well as for supporting countries in promoting ESD at the national and regional levels.



The UNECE Strategy for ESD is perhaps the most comprehensive framework to guide countries in formulating their national ESD policies. It addresses ESD in a holistic and integrated way, covering all aspects of ESD at the level of formal, non-formal and informal education from early childhood throughout life; it is also the only strategy that provides countries with the tools to assess the degree of implementation of ESD in their national context, based on quantitative and qualitative indicators. The preparation of national progress reports on the implementation of the ESD Strategy by countries is a very useful tool for assessing the progress, both as a whole and in its individual aspects. It is also a means of identifying gaps, weaknesses and challenges observed in ESD, in order to assist all stakeholders involved in taking necessary measures for its more effective implementation.

This publication presents the fourth evaluation of the implementation of the UNECE Strategy for ESD. It covers the period 2015-2018 and is the product of the thorough analysis of 34 National Reports submitted by UNECE member States during this period. The evaluation gives a comprehensive and coherent picture of the implementation of ESD in the region. Additionally, it serves as a guide for the exchange of good practices, informing about innovative programs, initiatives, research, materials and tools implemented. On the basis of the analyzed national reports, the challenges, obstacles, and future of ESD in UNECE Member States are discussed and examined. The publication can be used as a reference book from which all stakeholders working in the field of ESD can draw sources and information, data, examples and programs related to ESD in the UNECE region.

The publication is the result of the cooperation of all countries that submitted their national reports. I would like to express special thanks to the Republic of Cyprus for their leadership and the generous contribution that made this publication possible.

The evaluation forms the basis of a new framework for the further implementation of the UNECE Strategy for ESD from 2021-2030, with a new cycle of actions for the UNECE Steering Committee on ESD. This new cycle is about achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, promoting quality education, creating schools as learning communities for sustainability, green transition, digital education, youth empowerment, innovation and entrepreneurship.

In the context of the multiple crises and uncertainty our planet is facing today, ESD can help to find answers how to transform our planet for the better. The UNECE Strategy for ESD, along with other policies and mechanisms at the regional and international level, can be an important vehicle for shaping a healthier, more inclusive and sustainable world.

Olga Algayerova

United Nations Under-Secretary-General

Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe

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