

Contact:

Office of the Chairperson of the National Committee

Freie Universität Berlin
Arnimallee 9
D-14195 Berlin
Phone: +49 (0)30-838-55890
Fax: +49 (0)30-838-53023
arbeitsstelle@esd.unesco.de

German Commission for UNESCO Secretariat UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development

Langwartweg 72
53129 Bonn
Tel. +49 (0)228-688444-0
Fax +49 (0)228-688444-79
sekretariat@esd.unesco.de

Further information regarding the Decade in Germany, can be found on:

www.bne-portal.de/english



An Overview of Recognized Local Authorities

Large Cities (up to 1.8 million inhabitants)

Bonn

Along with the UN, about 150 NGOs dealing with sustainability are located in Bonn. Engagement in international networks and projects is implemented through exchanging of experiences and knowledge transfer in ESD. www.bonn.de

Dresden

Dresden's goal is to embed sustainability long-term in community planning and action processes, particularly in regards to the preparation of community education management. The "Lokale Agenda 21 für Dresden e.V." (Local Agenda 21 for Dresden) contributes strong initiatives. www.dresdner-agenda21.de

Frankfurt

The heart of the Frankfurt programme is the network „Nachhaltigkeit lernen in Frankfurt“ (Learning Sustainability in Frankfurt), which was founded with participation from a variety of actors from institutions, businesses, and civil society in 2008. "Umweltlernen in Frankfurt am Main e.V." (Environmental Learning in Frankfurt am Main) coordinates the activities surrounding ESD in the city. www.bne-frankfurt.de

Hamburg

In 2005 the Free and Hanseatic City of Hamburg started the initiative „Hamburg lernt Nachhaltigkeit“ (Hamburg Learns Sustainability) and has integrated this approach to sustainable development in all educational areas. City institutions, clubs, groups, businesses, and individual persons are involved in the initiative. www.hamburg.de/nachhaltigkeitlernen

Munich

Sustainable development is a theme that can be found in politics, administration, and civil society in Munich. In order to anchor sustainability in the city community long-term, Munich wants to create a „Kultur der Nachhaltigkeit“ (a culture of sustainability). The specially created club „BenE e.V.“ supports the Bavarian capital in carrying out activities. www.bene-muenchen.de



Mid-Size Cities (up to 250,000 inhabitants)

Erfurt

Through a variety of Agenda 21 projects, ESD has been integrated in many measures and structures. Administration, NGOs, actors in school-based and non-school-based education and in the business community work together in order to implement ESD. www.erfurt.de/engagiert

Freiburg

Freiburg has long felt itself especially beholden to the principle of sustainability. A "Freiburger Nachhaltigkeitsrat" (Freiburg Council of Sustainability) is in place, and consists of a board of experts, community advisors, and administrators as well as representatives of the civil community. www.freiburg.de

Gelsenkirchen

Spurred forwards by the Local Agenda 21, participation by citizens and diverse organizations and groups as well as churches and businesses stands in the centre of the sustainability process. www.agenda21.info

Heidelberg

ESD is practiced in many areas of city life in Heidelberg. The methodology comprises the entire scope of ESD. Activities are coordinated from the Agenda Office in the Environmental Office of the City of Heidelberg. www.heidelberg.de/bne

Osnabrück

Sustainability as a theme has a long tradition in Osnabrück. For at least 20 years, the Local Agenda 21 has been active in a well-connected educational landscape and the city has developed a sustainability strategy. www.bne-osnabrueck.de

Solingen

ESD plays an important role in Solingen. This can be seen by the many projects and campaigns of the "Solinger Aktionsprogramms 2013" (Solingen Action Programmes) including in the areas of environmental protection, climate protection, and resource protection, or in intercultural education. www.solingen.de/bne



Small Cities (up to 80,000 inhabitants)

Aalen

In Aalen, the Agenda Parliament consisting of lead administrators, political entities, and citizens concern themselves with ESD. They focus mainly on the areas of Local Agenda 21 and schools, as well as trans disciplinary projects in cooperation with the institution of higher learning. www.aalen.de/bne

Bad Honnef

Following the ideal "Gesund leben – Umwelt erhalten – Zukunft gestalten" (live healthy, save the environment, create the future) the city bundles its activities surrounding ESD and motivates the population to actively participate in a healthy way of life. Each year, a health congress and a sustainability conference take place in the city. www.bne-bad-honnef.de

Dinslaken

In Dinslaken, the Agenda Office promotes the building up of networks and takes part in campaigns, including international campaigns. ESD is thereby not only anchored and made available in schools but also in the general public space. www.dinslaken.de

Minden

The realisation of ESD is coordinated by the Aktionsgemeinschaft Friedenswoche Minden e.V. (Action Community Peace Week Minden). It is the germinating ground for all activities with a colorful mix of citizens from round about 25 initiatives, churches, and state institutions as well as parts of private economy with the network „Obere Altstadt Minden“ (Upper Old City Minden). www.friedenswoche-minden.de

Neumarkt in der Oberpfalz

The central theme of ESD is focused here on climate change with widespread educational and promotional programmes, as well as the carrying out of projects in the framework of global learning. For the coordination of ESD activities, the Amt für Nachhaltigkeit – the Office of Sustainability – has been created. www.neumarkt.de



Communities (up to 9,000 inhabitants)

Alheim

The Alheim model „Alheim- voller Energie!“ – Alheim- full of energy! – is made up of five large areas: social energy change, economic fortification, sustainable development for young and old, creation of an energy, health, and education region as well as a generational network. www.alheim.de

Dornstadt

Dornstadt is the home of the initiative "Dornstadter Zukunftsgestalter – Gemeinsam für Morgen!" (Dornstadt Future Designers - Together for Tomorrow) which is the core of the activities there. Art and culture projects for old and young give diverse stimulation for a worthwhile future in the community. www.zukunftsgestalter-dornstadt.de

Hellenthal

The leading goal for the community consists of the creation of a binding framework for sustainable development of living, working, and recreational qualities. Each of these fields is anchored via the model to ESD. www.hellenthal.de

Hettingen

The main area of the community of Hettingen lies in elementary education. Together with the public waterworks, educational opportunities are offered for children and teenagers. www.gemeinde-hettingen.de

Markt Eggolsheim

Through ESD, Markt Eggolsheim is leaning on educating self-aware citizens. Following a model of lifelong and spread learning, each age group is approached individually and taken seriously as an important multiplier. www.eggolsheim.de



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

German Commission
for UNESCO



CITIES AND LOCAL AUTHORITIES OF THE UN DECADE OF EDUCATION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

World Decade of the United Nations (2005 – 2014)

EDUCATION | SCIENCE | CULTURE | COMMUNICATION

Imprint:

Editor: German Commission for UNESCO
Editors: Heidi Consensus, Nadine Schinnenburg
Translation: Amanda Behning
Graphic Design: MediaCompany – Agentur für Kommunikation GmbH
Photos: Free and Hanseatic City of Hamburg (title), Stadt Neumarkt in der Oberpfalz (page 1); Stadt Bonn (page 3); Stadt Minden (page 4); Mike Krueger (page 5); Stadt Bonn (page 8, right); Stadt Frankfurt a. M. (page 8, left); Stadt Solingen (page 9, right); Stadt Erfurt (page 9, left); Gemeinde Hellenthal (page 10, right); Stadt Minden (page 10, left); Stadt Solingen (page 11, right); Gemeinde Markt Eggolsheim (page 11, left)
© DUK June 2014

SPONSORED BY



Federal Ministry
of Education
and Research



ClimatePartner
www.climatepartner.de

World Decade of the United Nations

Following the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg, South Africa, the Assembly General of the United Nations proclaimed the years 2005 – 2014 the UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development. In Germany, the German Commission for UNESCO is responsible for coordinating the implementation of the UN Decade.

Across the globe there is consensus that an urgent need exists for sustainable thinking and actions to be realized. Sustainable development is a process of social change that affects and must be actively practiced by everyone in his/her respective environment. This applies to individual citizens as much as to social institutions and democratically legitimized state bodies.

The path to sustainability takes in education, social communication processes and the corresponding democratic decisions. Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) is aimed at society, the business community, politicians and the environment. It encompasses learning to an equal degree in child care facilities, schools, and universities, vocational and continuing training, extracurricular educational and cultural institutions as well as research institutes, companies and public administrations.



Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) through Local Authorities

Local authorities are faced with diverse expectations: providing local answers to global problems while equally taking into account the social, economic and ecological interests, as well as finding viable long-term solutions on limited budgets. These actions must be created, carried out and co-developed through and with citizens.

In facing these challenges, ESD offers a great wealth of opportunities. Education doesn't just take place in a location but for a location and therefore has direct influence on regional structures. The question is foremost not "what can local authorities do for ESD" but "what can ESD do for local authorities".

ESD takes place in small measures in most local authorities today. Even if they are not directly defined as "ESD" measures, there are many more activities taking place that would fall into the realm of ESD than are recognized as such today. Because of this, it is difficult to realize the complete potential of these activities and they cannot develop synergy or gain traction together with the activities of other actors in the field.

It is worthwhile to discover, build, and to anchor this potential for the long term. From early childhood education to schools and vocational education on to institutions of higher education, as well as in areas of non-formal education and continuing education, and in informal learning, politics, administration and the economy, there are many fields in which action can be taken. There is no generalized approach through which a local authority can further ESD and anchor it in the community. Each local authority must discover its own methods, needs, and political as well as civil constellations in order to crystallize and implement ESD.

Cities and Local Authorities as members of the "Alliance for Learning Sustainability"

Since the official launch of the UN Decade Education for Sustainable Development in 2005, more than 1.900 outstanding projects were recognized within the framework of the UN Decade, rendered visible throughout Germany and included as official initiatives in the "Alliance for Learning Sustainability".

From 2007 onwards, German cities and local authorities have also had the opportunity to point the way on sustainability and could apply for recognition as cities, municipalities and districts of the UN Decade. So far, 21 communities have received the award.

More than six million citizens live in the 21 local authorities that have been recognized. This means that approximately 7.7 percent of the German population have come into contact with ESD.



Opportunities for Local Authorities through Education for Sustainable Development

The integration of Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) in local political and development strategies opens important opportunities and potential for solutions to pressing problems in local authorities. Through theoretical and practical knowledge, ESD enables better use of already-present potential resources such as knowledge, engagement, innovation, and willingness for solidarity.

ESD can offer contributions to future viability for local authorities in the following areas:

1. ESD improves and multiplies educational opportunities and makes these more attractive
2. ESD allows citizens to responsibly design both their own lives and the community with long-term viability
3. ESD adds to the attractiveness of the local authority as a location for living, working, and recreation
4. ESD leads to integration and an understanding of the global whole

Mayoral Declaration

In 2011 mayors of 13 recognized local authorities of the UN Decade signed a group declaration calling state and federal governments to realize the legal and financial foundations for the promotion of ESD:

"We, the undersigned mayors of the recognized local authorities welcome and support the important contribution that Education for Sustainable Development provides for the viable development of our local authorities.

The preparedness and aptitude of our citizens to co-create the future of our community responsibly is indispensable for the sustainable development of local authorities. We rely here on Education for Sustainable Development. It strengthens sensibilities for problems and global community challenges and allows all people to attain the values and competencies that are necessary for the creation of a future worth living and a positive development of community.

Education for Sustainable Development is from our perspective neither a luxury for good times nor one educational model among others. This holistic and comprehensive learning and teaching approach is the foundation for the sustainable development of our local authorities, through which all actors can effect their vision of quality of life both locally and in a global context. Education for Sustainable Development must ideally be integrated in all levels of the formal education system as well as in non-formal education and in informal learning in local authorities, and should provide citizens with life-long learning in sustainability."

What next? On the Way to the Global Action Programme (2015 – 2019)

During the 192nd session in October of 2013 in Paris, the executive board of the UNESCO made a decision on the draft of a five-year global action programme "Education for Sustainable Development". This proposal can now be submitted during the next session of the General Assembly of the United Nations. The Global Action Programme is expected to be launched at the UNESCO World Conference on ESD in November 2014 in Japan.

The binding goal of all current efforts in the field of ESD is the firm plan to move from project to structure. In order to increase the chances, the following four requirements should be met:

1. The strategic relevance of ESD for sustainable development must be further underscored in politics and public space
2. The structural and complete integration through all educational areas must remain a central goal for all actors and requires political support
3. The further development of sustainable "local educational landscapes" in which formal education is networked with informal education and learning opportunities for ESD are offered is also urgent.
4. Local authorities have a particular meaning for the systemic networking and further development of educational institutions and activities.

The draft of the Global Action Programme concentrates on five priorities in order to allow a strategic focusing as well as participation from those representing interest groups.

One of these five priorities is the local authorities (local level): in order to master these challenges, locally appropriate solutions are required. Through the networking of institutions, learning locations, and supporting partners, educational landscapes provide an important contribution to the future of the academic community. These networks possess a formidable potential for the generation of new knowledge and the search for innovative solutions.