

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

Call for Application for the title of an Official German Project of the UN Decade, for the renewed award of the title of an Official German Project of the UN Decade in the event of re-application and for the title City of Local Authority District of the UN Decade.

The German National Committee for the UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (2005-2014) requests all stakeholders and organisations to apply for the title "Official German Project of the United Nations Decade for Education for Sustainable Development 2005-2014" or to apply again, as the case may be.

Also all cities and local authority districts are requested to apply for the title "City", or "Local Authority District" of the United Nations Decade for Education for Sustainable Development 2005-2014.

By giving the award to projects and municipalities the organisers want to show how "Learning Sustainability" is put into practice.

Background

A) United Nations and UNESCO: Responsible bodies and objectives of the UN Decade

Following the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg, South Africa, the UN General Assembly proclaimed the years 2005-2014 the World Decade of Education for Sustainable Development. UNESCO, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, has been designated the lead agency for the Decade. UNESCO is responsible for the international co-ordination of the World Decade. In Germany the German Commission for UNESCO (DUK) is responsible for the Decade. In summer 2004 DUK appointed a National Committee for the implementation of the UN Decade in Germany.

The global vision of the UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development 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.

"This Decade is a World Decade"

With this vision, the United Nations and UNESCO have made it clear that sustainable development is relevant to everyone. It is unquestionably a necessity to develop and strengthen sustainable thinking and acting and to spread and embed these around the world. A comprehensive, global education initiative is needed to achieve this. In Germany all stakeholders and interested participants are requested to come together in an "Alliance Learning Sustainability" on the occasion of the UN Decade.

Around the world, people agree that there is no time to lose in introducing sustainable approaches and actions. Sustainable development is a process of social change that affects all people and in which all individuals must participate locally. Agenda 21 – the final declaration of the Rio Conference of 1992 – cites the "commitment and genuine involvement of all social groups" and consequently "new forms of participation" as keys to sustainable development. This orientation applies to individual citizens – in the places where they live – as well as to social institutions and to our nation's democratically legitimated bodies. But effective commitment and participation will not come about automatically. The road to sustainability passes through education, communication in society and corresponding democratic decisions. Education for Sustainable Development refers to learning in children's day-care centres, schools, universities, professional and continuing education and cultural and educational institutions outside the school system and in research

institutes, companies and administrations. Education for Sustainable Development also takes place outside educational facilities, for example in families, among friends and through the mass media and consumer advice services. Education for Sustainable Development is relevant to local authorities, associations, clubs, companies and families. It enriches individuals' lives and opens up valuable future opportunities. Sustainable development calls for a change in attitudes, opinions and behaviour across the whole of society and for future-oriented decisions on the part of responsible institutions.

Education for Sustainable Development aims at all dimensions of sustainable development, which means society, economy, politics and environment. It provides the basis for future-oriented co-ordination and coherence among the said dimensions on the level of society and among the relevant stakeholders. Standards and ideals result from the international decisions of the World Conferences and the UN as well as from their national implementation. According to the resolutions passed by the Rio Conference in 1992, the concerns and differing bases of industrialised and developing countries will be treated equally. For this reason the overall spectrum of Education for Sustainable Development is to be integrated into the UN Decade via the corresponding stakeholders and organisations.

B) A National Plan of Action

A National Plan of Action was prepared for Germany so as to reach the following four strategic objectives:

- 1. Further develop the concept of Education for Sustainable Development and broadly spread good practices*
- 2. Link individual players and stakeholders in Education for Sustainable Development*
- 3. Increase public visibility of Education for Sustainable Development*
- 4. Strengthen international co-operation*

Honouring Official German Projects of the UN Decade

Many people, institutions and organisations want to take up the challenge of the UN Decade. Those who take up the challenge should have the chance to show their commitment to the general public and to raise corresponding public awareness. The UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development therefore takes place at a decentralised level. It will be visible throughout Germany. Local activities and projects can become part of the Alliance Learning Sustainability as Official German Projects of the UN Decade. This option appropriately reflects Germany's highly diverse educational landscape, and it will promote local involvement.

Since the UN Decade officially started in 2005, the possibility exists to have suitable German projects and initiatives examined and accepted as official initiatives for the Alliance Learning Sustainability if they meet with the principles of Education for Sustainable Development. The National Committee decides on the recognition of a Decade Project. In this way initiatives or projects may become official Decade Projects. The objective is to recognise outstanding projects in the framework of the UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development and to raise public awareness of these projects all over Germany by awarding the title.

The title Official German Project or Cities and Local Authorities of the UN Decade is valid for two years from the date of recognition. The National Committee expressly requests re-applications after a period of two years. When re-applying, the applicant must demonstrate development progress as compared to the previous application.

Who can apply?

All institutions, organisations, companies and responsible bodies for projects and initiatives for Education for Sustainable Development can submit an application. Kindergartens, schools, universities, service and other companies, authorities, associations, NGOs, local action groups and individual projects, for example, can apply. Applications are particularly welcome from **practical projects**, which can be touched and copied and which can be put into practice with few resources. Big, bold expensive projects are not excluded, on the other hand such projects are not favoured over the numerous minor initiatives.

Since 2007 German cities and local authorities have had a new chance to apply for the title of City or Local Authority of the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development 2005-2014.

How is the selection made?

Depending on the number of incoming applications, selections are made up to four times a year by a jury of experts consisting of 12 members of the National Committee. The notification that the project has been recognised as an Official German Project of the UN Decade will be given soon after the jury makes its decision. The jury can only recognise projects where the applicants agree to the publication of the project description according to the application documents and the expert jury's evaluation.

When must documents be submitted?

Applications can be submitted by e-mail to the following address at any time:

Heidi Consentius
Office of the Chairman of the National Committee
Tel: +49 - 030 - 838 55890; Fax: - 53023
e-mail: consentius@esd.unesco.de

[APPLICATIONS ARE POSSIBLE FROM GERMANY ONLY!]

At any time

What form does the title take?

The projects selected by the jury will receive the title "Official Project of the United Nations Decade for Education for Sustainable Development 2005-2014" for two years. Combined with the title there is a certificate, a hallmark and a flag as well as (only if the project pays for the costs) a badge. The same applies to projects being recognised a second time. Besides the hallmark and certificate, recognised cities and local authorities will receive a large flag if they pay for the cost. The recognised project or city has the right and is asked to communicate the logo and the title they have been awarded for the period of the title (writing paper, internet website, visibility in the building, etc.).

How and where will the title be awarded?

Awarding ceremonies will take place at least once a year on the occasion of the annual conference of the Round Table. Depending on the number of recognised projects we try to organize several award events in different places.

Please use the interactive form on our web-site www.bne-portal.de for the application or re-application.

Initial application for Official German Project of the UN Decade Criteria to be met

1. There must be a reference to at least one of the four strategic objectives of the National Plan of Action.
 - a) Further develop the concept of education for sustainable development and broadly spread good practices. The project develops good practice in a clearly defined sector.
 - b) Link individual players and stakeholders in education for sustainable development The project links at least two stakeholders to form a strategic alliance.
 - c) Increase public visibility of education for sustainable development The project results in increased public awareness of ESD and sustainability in a clearly defined radius and for a clearly defined target group.
 - d) Strengthen international co-operation. The project promotes international co-operation in the framework of ESD with at least one international partner.
2. The project demonstrably contributes to education in the meaning of ESD and provides the necessary competencies for active participation in a liveable present and future. The project is based on the idea of participation and achieves at least two of the three dimensions of sustainability: economic, ecological and social aspects. Reference to further aspects such as good government, cultural variety and global responsibility is also welcome.
3. Statements must be made with reference to public presentation, number of people currently reached and number of people to be reached in the future. The reach of the project must be at least nationwide.
4. The projects leads to at least one definite result or product. The expected positive effects for sustainable development (e.g. awareness raising, saving of resources) must be described ("good practice at the site").

Re-application as Official German Project of the UN Decade Criteria to be met

1. There must be a reference to a least one of the four strategic objectives of the National Plan of Action.
 - a) Further develop the concept of education for sustainable development and broadly spread good practices. The steps to be taken to transfer the developed good practice into standard practice must be made clear. With reference to the transfer of good practice, considerable progress as compared to the previous application must be demonstrated.
 - b) Link individual players and stakeholders in education for sustainable development. Measures attracting new participants to the network and the permanence of the networking are described and available for interested participants. Compared to the previous application there is an evident enhancement in the linking of stakeholders.
 - c) Increase public visibility of education for sustainable development. The project results in increased public awareness of ESD and sustainability in a clearly defined radius and for a clearly defined target group. Compared to the previous application, the public image of the project has improved and more people have been reached.

- d) Strengthen international co-operation. The project supports permanent international co-operation with reference to ESD. Compared to the previous application, existing international co-operation has been intensified or new international co-operation partners have been won.
- 2. The project demonstrably contributes to education in the sense of ESD and provides the necessary competencies for active participation in a present and future worth living in. The project is based on the idea of participation and achieves at least two of the three dimensions of sustainability: economic, ecological and social aspects. Reference to further aspects such as good government, cultural variety and global responsibility is also welcome. Compared to the initial application, corresponding progress has been made in this context.
- 3. Statements with reference to public presentation, number of people currently reached and number of people to be reached in the future must be made. The reach of the project is at least nationwide. The range has been expanded compared to the first application.
- 4. The project aims at specifying or amending the first project phase, to enhance the project with respect to effectiveness or to transfer it to another context.

Application as Cities and Local Authorities of the UN Decade

Criteria to be met

The city or local authority

1. made a decision at a political level (e.g. city council, district council) to make Education for Sustainable Development part of the municipality's mission
2. has established activities in the framework of the four strategic objectives of the National Plan of Action for Education for Sustainable Development
3. formulates objectives and measures with reference to Education for Sustainable Development for the next two to five years according to the existing educational structures
4. describes a focus area where Education for Sustainable Development is of particular importance
5. provides an evaluation of the positive effects on sustainable development resulting from educational activities, e.g. raising public awareness, changes in mobility behaviour, saving resources, international co-operation etc.)
6. formulates a progress report with reference to Education for Sustainable Development in case of a re-application after two years

For recognition as a City of Local Authority of the World Decade of Education for Sustainable Development, the activities of the city with reference to the aforementioned criteria must be far above the average compared to other cities.

Please use the interactive form on our web-site www.bne-portal.de for your application.