

The Importance of Education, Public Awareness and Training in Addressing Climate Change

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Origin of ESD in the UN System

- Agenda 21 - 40 negotiated issues in four sections:
 - 1/ Social & economic issues
 - 2/ Environmental issues
 - 3/ New major groups to be engaged
 - 4/ **Means of implementation**
- ESD came from the section on “**Means of Implementation**”
 - Plus part of every other chapter of Agenda 21
 - ESD is found in the UN Conventions on Climate Change, Biodiversity, Desertification, Forestry, most UN Major Conference’s Work Programmes etc.

Education FOR Sustainable Development (ESD)

ESD is the contribution of the world's:

- 1/ education systems,**
- 2/ public awareness systems,**
- 3/ training systems**

to learn our way towards a more sustainable future.

UNDES Report Findings

- 1. Education systems are addressing sustainability issues
- 2. Sustainable development and education agendas are converging
- 3. Political leadership has proven instrumental
- 4. Multi-stakeholder partnerships are more effective
- 5. Local commitments are growing
- 6. Whole-institution approaches of ESD
- 7. ESD facilitates interactive, learner-driven pedagogies
- 8. ESD is being integrated into formal education
- 9. Non-formal and informal ESD is increasing
- 10. Technical/vocational education and training advances sustainable development

Perceptions of Climate Change Understanding

- Reduced life-style, Lack of options, Restrictions
 - Human cause not really proven
- Nothing the individual can do anyway - probably hopeless, too little – too late
 - Science will fix it

Recommendations

- Create a more knowledgeable citizenry that will democratically:
 - Support enlightened legislation at all levels
 - Accept new financial restructuring
 - Support new CC friendly products through changed consumption patterns
 - Develop new status symbols and lifestyles
 - Rethink the meaning of “well-being” (the sustainable self)

Possible ways of achieving these recommendations:

- **Engaging the social sciences/humanities as an integral part of the CC strategy**
- **Creating media strategies for community leaders: media, politicians, etc.**
- **Learning from and actively engaging with the public awareness/shaping communities such as: Advertising/marketing sector, Media, Faith-based groups etc.**