



CITY OF BERGEN

Support
Partnership and Participation
For a Sustainable Tomorrow

Partnership and participation for a sustainable tomorrow: Continuing the UN Decade for ESD

Final conference of the Comenius Lifelong Learning Network SUPPORT

**19-23 April, 2010
Bergen, Norway**

The SUPPORT network and the City of Bergen welcome education policy makers, school authorities, teacher trainers, researchers, teachers and others working for Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) to the conference in Bergen, April 19-23, 2010.

This conference builds on the activities and themes of the 3-year Comenius Lifelong Learning network project "SUPPORT: Partnership and participation for a sustainable tomorrow." Preparatory readings will be made available on the SUPPORT website (support-edu.org) including e-publications of the results of SUPPORT. Conference participants will bring to the conference their experiences in implementing Education for Sustainable Development (ESD).



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Conference target group: Education policy makers and education authorities • Local policy makers and local authorities • School leaders/ head teachers/ principals/ managers of schools • School ESD partners • Teachers (primary, secondary, vocational) • Teacher trainers • Education researchers • Inspectors

Conference language: English

Venue: Scandic Bergen City Hotel. Located in the centre of Bergen (Norway), this hotel and conference centre is easy accessible. The hotel is well equipped to handle special needs and is environmentally certified according to the Nordic Ecolabel.

Fee: The full conference fee is € 1300.00, including 4 nights accommodation and all meals from Monday dinner to Friday lunch. See information on the SUPPORT website for reduced price alternatives.

Registration: The registration is not yet opened. Please, see the SUPPORT website: <http://support-edu.org/BergenConf> for updates.

Comenius funding: The conference is listed in the Comenius-Grundtvig database, which means that those eligible can apply for Comenius funding. NB! The deadline for applying for this funding is **September 15th, 2009!** The **Reference Number is: NO-2010-041-001**

Conference host: Municipality of Bergen

Conference coordinator: This conference is the final conference of the SUPPORT project (Partnership and Participation for a Sustainable Tomorrow), headed by the Norwegian Directorate for Education and Training and coordinated by the University for Life Sciences, Norway.

Information: Information about the conference will be continuously updated at <http://support-edu.org/BergenConf>. For further information, please contact the SUPPORT secretariat: post@support-edu.org.



This project has been funded with support from the European Commission.

This publication [communication] reflects the views only of the author, and the Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein.

About the conference

Objectives

The ultimate objective of the SUPPORT project is to promote high quality ESD. Current issues and findings in ESD will be presented and discussed, thus building a shared understanding of the challenges of reorienting education policy, school development and teaching practice to develop competencies needed for sustainable development. Findings from the SUPPORT network will be presented with a view to dissemination and exploitation. Through group work and discussions, the conference participants will develop an agenda for action and priorities for the continuation of the UN Decade for ESD at levels ranging from the classroom to educational policy.

Methodology

Keynote inputs will provide current perspectives on the learning outcomes of ESD, methodologies for achieving these outcomes, and the challenge of developing effective educational policy and practice in ESD. Group work and poster sessions will provide opportunities for exchange of experience and discussion of factors facilitating or hindering the development of education systems in Europe to support high quality ESD. In particular, the conference will focus on how pupils can participate in local and global sustainability issues, how schools can collaborate with community and research, and how ICT tools can promote partnership and participation in ESD. The discussion will draw heavily on the results of SUPPORT including concrete experiences in European and other countries, a book on school collaboration in ESD and an innovative school campaign "CO₂nnect: CO₂ on the way to school," see www.co2nnect.org.

Follow-up

The results of the conference will be published and disseminated. Participants will follow up the training by integrating greater awareness and understanding of the dynamics of educational change for ESD in their own educational institutions and settings.



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Outline of the conference programme*

*Note: Programme updates will be posted at <http://support-edu.org/BergenConf>

Monday April 19th

Participants arrive. Dinner at the venue, Scandic Bergen City Hotel.

Tuesday April 20th (Day 1)

Introduction to Learning for a sustainable tomorrow: ESD and the challenge of educational change.

High level keynote inputs on current issues in ESD (to be announced)

Results of the EU Comenius Lifelong Learning network SUPPORT

School ESD examples from Bergen municipality

Poster session

Dinner at *Bryggen*, the UNESCO World Heritage Site on the Hanseatic wharf of Bergen.

Wednesday April 21st (Day 2)

Thematic breakout sessions exploring ESD topics in depth: teaching and learning methods, educational policy, schools as learning organisations and ESD research. Examples of topics: models of school collaboration in ESD • Learning outcomes of ESD and assessment of competencies • Innovative learning environments • Global perspectives in ESD • Teacher competencies and –training • Integration of ESD in education policy (curricula, teacher training, quality assurance) • School resources and support strategies for ESD • Current state of educational research in ESD • School leadership and organisational development for ESD • Lifelong learning and ESD • The role of external partners in ESD.

Presentation and discussion in plenary session.

Thursday April 22nd (Day 3)

Building on the work from Days 1 and 2, participants will form task forces to produce agendas for action and priorities from the perspective of the many diverse actors in ESD: teachers, pupils, school leaders, school administrators, teacher trainers, school partners, researchers, programme developers, educational policymakers.

Conference dinner at *Fløybanen*, hosted by Bergen Municipality.

Friday April 23rd (Day 4)

Conference reporters present the outcomes and recommendations of the conference in plenary session. Comments and discussion by invited experts. Conference closing, lunch and departure.

Further information:

website: <http://support-edu.org/BergenConf>

e-mail: post@support-edu.org .