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ICT tools to facilitate collaboration and partnerships for ESD

Abstract

The concept of sustainable development is multifaceted and ESD is challenging. ESD requires knowledge and insight into several disciplines together with various types of skills and not least attitudes of solidarity with all people living today and in the future.

Mainstreaming ESD is demanding for the different layers of the educational sector; at the international policy level, the national policy level, the teacher training level, the level of headmaster of schools as well as at the teacher and student level. Although a lot of work has been done at the policy level, there is a gap between policy and practice. Although there are good examples of schools and teachers that have successfully implemented ESD, there are great difficulties with mainstreaming ESD into the majority of schools. To meet this challenge, the Comenius project “Partnership and Participation for a Sustainable Tomorrow” (SUPPORT), explored the use of ICT to support schools and teachers in their work with ESD. The SUPPORT approach to ESD revolves around the ideas of partnership and participation. To support schools in implementing ESD, SUPPORT developed a tool where schools are encouraged to collaborate and create partnership through a web based network. A campaign called “CO2nnect - CO2 on the way to school” was developed on the topic of sustainable transport. In this activity, ICT is used to reach schools globally. Over 30 000 pupils have uploaded data on the CO2nnect website since it was launched in March 2009.

The presentation will discuss how we can use ICT as a tool in ESD. Both opportunities and limitations of the use of ICT in ESD will be discussed. Examples and experiences from the SUPPORT project including *CO2nnect – CO2 on the way to school* will be reflected upon. Information about CO2nnect and SUPPORT can be found on the project website: support-edu.org, and on www.co2nnect.org.