



Focus on “European heritage and environment”

“Sustainable development: form of development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.”¹

(Brundtland Report, 1987)

❑ INFORMATION

European Commission – Environment General Directorate

The Environment DG is one of 36 Directorates-General (DGs) and specialised services which make up the European Commission. Its main role is to **initiate and define new environmental legislation** and to ensure that measures, which have been agreed, are actually put into practice in the Member States.

http://europa.eu.int/comm/environment/index_en.htm

- **European Environment Agency** (EEA) aims at supporting **sustainable development** and to help achieve significant and measurable improvement in Europe's environment through the provision of information to policy making agents and the public. www.eea.eu.int/
- Pages on **EU environmental policy** www.europa.eu.int/pol/env/index_en.htm

United Nations Programme for Environment

UNEP, established in 1972, is the voice for the environment within the United Nations system. UNEP promote the **wise use and sustainable development** of the global environment by working with a wide range of partners, including United Nations entities, international organizations, national governments, non-governmental organizations, the private sector and civil society. www.unep.org/

An original youth publication on world environment «**TUNZA**» is available on this website www.ourplanet.com/tunza/issue0201en/pages/index.html

Young students can refer to «**Atlas of Student Action for the Planet**» prepared in observance of the World Environment Day (5 June 1998). The action projects dealt with a whole range of environmental issues, divided into seven categories: reduction of air pollution, energy conservation, marine or freshwater protection, wildlife conservation, community clean-ups, recycling programs, forest protection. www0.un.org/cyberschoolbus/planet/pages/index.asp

European Heritage Network

This network is a permanent information system gathering governmental services in charge of heritage protection within the Council of Europe. The European heritage Network focus is on **cultural heritage, particularly on architectural and on archaeological heritage**. Since its foundation in 1949, in Strasbourg, the **Council of Europe** has done a great deal to tighten the bonds uniting democratic Europe in the areas of all its common values. The Network exists to encourage and facilitate the starting of projects and partnerships. www.european-heritage.net/sdx/herein/index.xsp

Euromed Heritage programme II

Euro-Mediterranean cultural heritage is considered as a high priority field of action, due to the richness and needs of this domain, its visibility for a broad public and its effects on cultural tourism and creation of employment. The Programme aims at establishing an inventory and **promoting networking** of historical sites, cultural institutions and high-quality cultural tourism; support heritage policies through **exchange of experiences** (transfers of know-how and technical assistance); **dissemination of information** (multimedia techniques, awareness programmes, inventory of Mediterranean heritage, know-how, methodology and techniques) and **training** in skills related to heritage and cultural activities. http://europa.eu.int/comm/europeaid/projects/med/regional/heritage_en.htm

¹ The term 'sustainable development' was popularised by the World Commission on Environment and Development (WCED) in its 1987 report entitled *Our Common Future*. This book is also known as the Brundtland Report, after the Chair of the Commission and former Prime Minister of Norway.

UNESCO and Heritage

In order to protect **cultural diversity** UNESCO activities are taking care of the **intangible cultural heritage** as the practices, representations, expressions, as well as the knowledge and skills, that communities, groups and, in some cases, individuals recognise as part of their cultural heritage, as well as the **tangible heritage** including a wide range of sites "that bear witness to multiple cultural identities, are representative of minority cultural heritages, are of founding significance or are in imminent danger of destruction".

Intangible heritage http://portal.unesco.org/culture/en/ev.php-URL_ID=2225&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201.html

Tangible heritage http://portal.unesco.org/culture/en/ev.php-URL_ID=2187&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201.html

ESD (Education for sustainable development) www.unesco.org/education/esd/english/sustainable/sustain.shtml

❏ EVENTS

Green Week (Brussels/4 June 2004)

Fourth edition of this annual event organised by the "DG Environment" to encourage people to "think aloud" about how citizens, businesses, policy makers, NGOs, authorities, teachers, scientists and young people can really **change their environmental behaviour**. In addition to a conference programme Green Week also has an exhibition – with stands that feature best practices, projects and partnerships - and an 'Oscar' style ceremony for the handing out of environmental awards. Green Week is aimed at local, regional and national decision-makers, companies – multinationals as well as small and medium-sized enterprises – and associations and non-governmental organisations.

http://europa.eu.int/comm/environment/greenweek/index_en.htm

European Heritage Days (September 2004)

The **Council of Europe** officially instituted the "European Heritage Days" (EHD) in 1991, with the support of the **European Union**. The many aims of EHD go beyond the basic idea of promoting access to monuments and sites to bring European citizens closer to their cultural heritage. On the occasion, some 20 million citizens from widely differing cultural backgrounds are expected to visit the monuments and sites opened specially in September all over the continent. www.coe.int/T/E/Cultural_Co-operation/Heritage/Ehd/

Nobel Peace Prize 2004

Nobel Peace Prize for 2004 goes to the **ecologist Wangari Maathai** for her contribution to **sustainable development**, democracy and peace. Maathai stands at the front of the fight to promote **ecologically viable social, economic and cultural development** in Kenya and in Africa. More than simply protecting the existing environment, her strategy is to secure and strengthen the very basis for ecologically sustainable development. Peace on earth depends on our ability to secure our living environment.

❏ RESOURCES (Web, publications...)

«Choices for a greener future» - European Commission Publication (February 2002) - PDF Version www.europa.eu.int/comm/publications/booklets/move/32/txt_en.pdf

SALTO YOYTH EUROMED Reports (available upon request)

- Final Report: "Seminar to design a training module in techniques of local environment discovery" Groix – France, September 1999 (FR / EN versions)
- Training seminar final report: "How to use the local environment as a pedagogical tool" Curtea de Arges - Romania, July 2001+ video (EN version)

Greenpeace

Worldwide non-profit organisation, Greenpeace focuses on the most crucial worldwide threats to our planet's biodiversity and environment. www.greenpeace.org/international/en/

European Ramblers Association

ERA was founded in Germany in 1969 to give walkers a voice in Europe while protecting and developing Europe's cultural heritage and the environment. This organisation aims at creating and maintaining a network of trans-frontier footpaths (E-paths) as a symbol of unity between the nations of Europe as well as encouraging exchanges between walkers in order to strengthen mutual understanding between the people of Europe www.era-ewv-ferp.org/?who

International Friends of Nature

This structure, established in 1895 in Vienna, focus on Europe's responsibility for sustainable development, environmentally and socially sound tourism, sustainable regional development and active environmental education. A downloadable brochure exploring European and world info about nature, environment and heritage is available. www.nfi.at/english/index.htm