

Message

Through the various annual United Nations' climate change conferences, UNESCO, UNFCCC, CEE and other partner organizations have sent clear messages that education, awareness-raising and public information play an essential role in increasing the capacity of communities to counter climate change and adapt to its impacts.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Paris Climate Change Agreement unanimously recognize the importance of education and public awareness in the drive towards sustainable development.

These efforts are key to building an ever-wider circle of informed individuals able to make and take decisions that are crucial for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and the aims of the Paris Climate Change Agreement. Education, together with awareness-raising and public information to promote behavioural change, will enable communities to sustain efforts across all areas of sustainable development over the years and decades to come.

While concerted international action is crucial to reduce climate change - through stronger international legal mechanisms, greater financial resources and support to green technologies - responses to climate change start with each of us, with the ways in which we think and act, with our attitudes and behaviours.

Around the world, action on climate change has emerged often as a result of, or within, the framework of Education for Sustainable Development (ESD), a cornerstone for tackling climate change. Based on the idea that everyone has a role to play in addressing global challenges, ESD promotes the knowledge, skills, and values we need to take action for a healthier, fairer, more environmentally sustainable society.

The case studies presented here are an important proof and example of how education efforts lead to action which involves people in adapting and contributing to climate change mitigation. We hope they will inspire many more people and associations to follow a similar path.

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