

WHO WE ARE

INEX – the International Network for Educational Exchange is an Austrian non-profit organization, working in the field of Education for Sustainable Development (ESD). INEX operates based on a network structure, with a multi-stakeholder Advisory Board, an Ambassador Network and Alumni Association. INEX is working towards the attainment of the United Nations Millennium Development goals within the framework of the UNESCO Decade for Education on Sustainable Development.

FIELD OF WORK: EDUCATION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Sustainable development meets the needs of the present generation without compromising future generations' ability to meet their needs. Education for Sustainable Development is therefore seen as a tool for good governance that promotes informed decision-making and democracy embracing the values of solidarity and mutual respect. It builds the necessary capacity through critical reflection, awareness and empowerment employing new methods and tools that bring about a shift in people's mindsets towards sustainable lifestyles.

Through a holistic approach it integrates ecological, economic and social perspectives, while referring to a large number of key themes such as poverty alleviation, citizenship, human rights, gender equity, cultural diversity, rural and urban development, production and consumption patterns, corporate responsibility, environmental protection, biodiversity etc. To cover this broad range of sectors and levels it is considered a "life-wide" process.

ACTIVITIES

With a focus on multiplier training INEX develops innovative educational programs that evolve around the synergies of formal, non-formal and informal learning and operates on interdisciplinary and participatory approaches, with the integration of the educational setting, the contextual and social learning capacity being the key asset.

In the past years INEX has built a network of various types of stakeholders with an overall focus on higher education institutions and their students. With its short and medium-term learning experiences INEX has educated people from over 20 countries on the European and American continent facilitating a North-South and North-North dialogue for young change makers. Furthermore INEX has held a large number of conferences, workshops and trainings on various themes of sustainable development.

Under the patronage of the Austrian Commission for UNESCO and with support from the Federal Ministry of Science and Research INEX has developed the historically first interuniversity study program on Sustainable Development that strengthens the relationship with stakeholders while promoting ownership for solution based work. Included stakeholders comprised various departments of the city of Vienna, ten private sector organizations (such as supermarket chains, logistics companies and infrastructure providers) and local authorities.