

**Second Meeting of the Working Group on Education for All
Deuxième Réunion du Groupe de Travail sur
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PROGRESS OF EFA FOLLOW-UP IN EUROPE

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In the Europe Region, unlike other regions, UNESCO does not have a major Regional Office. Regional activities are co-ordinated and implemented by Headquarters in Paris. The important role is assigned to the UNESCO specialized Educational Institutes : IBE, IIEP, UIE, IITE, CEPES, the new UNEVOC-Centre in Bonn and to the two country offices in Moscow and Sarajevo. Extended partnership is being developed in the EFA context with the Council of Europe, the OECD, EU, UN agencies and other IGOs and NGOs.

In the period which followed the Dakar Conference, the major attention was paid to the three European subregions, i.e. the South-East Europe (SEE), the Baltic States and the Caucasus. In SEE, UNESCO cooperates closely with the Council of Europe, OECD, UN sister agencies and with countries and organizations working under the umbrella of the Stability Pact. In particular, UNESCO takes part in the Enhanced Graz Process Task Force on Education and Youth, co-ordinated by Austria.

At the country level, in the SEE, practical steps were undertaken to assist the Republic of Moldova in the preparation of the National EFA Plan of Action and in the establishment of EFA National Forum. It was agreed on the joint financing by UNESCO, UNICEF, UNDP, WorldBank and some other partners of the National Round Table on EFA to be held from 3-5 December in Chisinau. The acting co-ordinator of the EFA was appointed.

At the request of the Minister of Education, Youth and Sport of the Republic of Serbia and after the consultations held in Belgrade last August, UNESCO will provide the Ministry of Education of Serbia with the assistance in holding until the end of the year of a series of discussions with national and international partners concerned on the establishment of the EFA Forum and the preparation of the Plan of Action. Given the active role of the UNICEF Office in Belgrade in the sphere of basic education, it was agreed in principle with the Head of the UNICEF Office, that UNICEF would play an EFA focal point role in this regard.

The next subregion which was at the focus of UNESCO's activities in Europe was the Baltic States. Last June, in Lithuania, the Constituent Assembly of the EFA National Education Forum was held under the patronage of H.E. Mr Valdas Adamkus, President of Lithuania.

The National EFA Forum was officially established and the EFA National Plan of Action will be prepared in 2002. This meeting, co-financed by UNESCO and UNDP-Vilnius, was also attended by the representatives of Estonia, Latvia and Denmark. The objective was to promote cooperation in EFA between the Nordic and the Baltic countries. Denmark is playing the role of coordinator.

In January 2002, the Baltic States EFA subregional meeting will be organized in Riga, Latvia, which will lead to the creation of the subregional EFA Forum.

Caucasus: In the Caucasus, UNESCO acted within the Resolution on the Project Caucasus, adopted by the 30th session of the UNESCO General Conference. The subregional network of the Pedagogical and Languages Universities was set up as a unique mechanism for cooperation between 3 countries: Georgia, Armenia and Azerbaijan. The second meeting devoted to the EFA DFU was organized in May 2001 in Baku, Azerbaijan. Among the decisions of the meeting was a recommendation to set up the subregional EFA Forum for the South Caucasus. Deputy Minister of Education of Georgia was proposed to be an EFA subregional co-ordinator. Moreover, a series of activities and projects were undertaken by UNESCO-Almaty Office to promote the EFA goals in the South Caucasus.

The Ministry of Education of Russia in cooperation with UNESCO-Moscow has been undertaking concrete steps to prepare an EFA Plan of Action in the context of the education modernization programme.

At the beginning of May the Nordic Conference on the Dakar Declaration and Follow-up actions was held in Copenhagen. The conference focused on what UNESCO National Commissions of the Nordic countries could do in terms of follow-up in the countries and vis a vis UNESCO.

UK UNESCO Secretariat will launch on 5 October in Birmingham six conferences and seminars in order to raise the profile of EFA overall and to encourage sharing the best practice internationally.

UNESCO plans to organize in 2002 consultations on the modes and forms of cooperation among the countries of the Europe Region in giving the concrete follow-up to the decisions of the Dakar Forum.

