

Conference on Education for All in Europe and North America

6 to 8 February 2000, Warsaw, Poland



The conference key words

EFA FORUM

The organizer of the Warsaw Conference, the International Consultative Forum on Education for All (EFA Forum for short) monitors progress and promotes action in favour of basic education. Created ten years ago in the wake of the Jomtien Conference (see below), it is co-sponsored by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the World Bank, along with a number of bilateral aid agencies. Directed by Svein Osttveit, it is based at UNESCO's Paris Headquarters.

JOMTIEN

In 1990, the seaside town of Jomtien, Thailand, hosted the first World Conference on Education for All. At the Conference, the 155 participating countries and 150 organizations committed themselves to the goal of universal primary education and the massive reduction of illiteracy by the end of the decade. That same Conference decided that in the year 2000 a general assessment should be carried out.

OBJECTIVES

The six objectives of Education for All are:

- 1- Expansion of early childhood care and development activities.
- 2- Achievement of universal primary education.
- 3- Improvement in learning achievement
- 4- Reduction of adult illiteracy
- 5- Expansion of training in essential skills
- 6- Increased acquisition of the knowledge required for a better quality of life.

THE CHALLENGE

"Everyone has the right to education", states Article 26 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, adopted in 1948. Nonetheless, today nearly one billion adults are still unable to read or write and 84 million school-age children have no access to education. Giving them this right is today a major challenge.

International
Consultative Forum
on Education for All
convened by UNDP,
UNESCO, UNFPA, UNICEF
and the World Bank

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ASSESSMENT

The Warsaw review concerns all of Europe and North America. It is based on national assessments carried out in the various countries. To date, over thirty countries have presented reports.

REGIONAL FRAMEWORK FOR ACTION

This will be discussed and elaborated at the Warsaw Conference during plenary sessions and round-tables. Based on the findings of national reports, its aim is to set new goals which are realistic, concrete and for which there are adequate means.

DAKAR

The World Education Forum will be held in Dakar, Senegal from 26 to 28 April 2000. Drawing on the conclusions of the six regional conferences, including Warsaw, it will elaborate a Global Framework for Action — a veritable blueprint for basic education in the 21st century. Some 900 people will participate in the Conference: heads of state, ministers, representatives of non-governmental organizations, education specialists and other experts from over 180 countries.