



United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Steering Committee on Education for Sustainable Development

18th meeting, 25 and 26 May 2023

Information Paper No. 3

Proposal for building member States' capacity in organizing the process of national reporting on progress in the implementation of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Strategy for Education for Sustainable Development

Item 6 of the provisional agenda:

Planning of capacity-building activities for facilitating national reporting on implementing the new implementation framework of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Strategy for Education for Sustainable Development (2021–2030) along the four priority strands

Prepared by the Secretariat¹

¹ This information document was not formally edited

1. The coordinator of the Ad Hoc Group on Indicators will present to the Committee a proposal for (online and phase-to-phase) workshops, to be conducted by experts to help the national focal points and/or the national monitoring and evaluation groups organize their process of national reporting to ECE on progress in the implementation of the UNECE Strategy for ESD within the established reporting mechanism, updated in accordance with the priority areas of the new implementation framework 2021–2030, and based on the experience from the previous monitoring and evaluation methodology.
2. The referred information is provided below.

Proposal for building member States' capacity in organizing the process of national reporting on progress in the implementation of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Strategy for Education for Sustainable Development

Note by the secretariat

1. At the Third High-level Meeting of Education and Environment Ministries, held on 5 October 2022 within the framework of the Ninth Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference (Nicosia 5–7 October 2022), ministers and heads of delegations adopted the Framework for the implementation of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Strategy for Education for Sustainable Development from 2021 to 2030 (ECE/NICOSIA.CONF/2022/10, which recognized the importance of continuing to implement all the Strategy's objectives, stressing in particular the importance of advancing the four priority action areas outlined in the Nicosia Framework, i.e.: (a) quality education and ESD; (b) whole institution approach and ESD; (c) digital education, information and communications technology and ESD; and (d) entrepreneurship, employment, innovation and ESD.
2. As outlined in the Workplan for the implementation of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Strategy for Education for Sustainable Development from 2021 to 2025 (ECE/CEP/AC.13/2023/3), the member States should continue regular reporting to ECE on national progress in the Strategy's implementation within the established reporting mechanism, updated in accordance with the priority areas of the new implementation framework 2021–2030, and based on the experience from the previous monitoring and evaluation (M&E) methodology, while also allowing for the comparability of reporting outcomes with previous ECE national implementation reporting exercises.
3. The assistance framework might include assistance to national focal points for ESD in monitoring and evaluating the Strategy's national level implementation, including development of their respective national implementation reports (NIRs) and completion of the template for reporting provided in the document "Format for reporting on the implementation of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Strategy for Education for Sustainable Development (2021–2025)" (ECE/CEP/AC.13/2023/4), which was recently updated by the Ad Hoc Group on Indicators with the purpose of updating the existing format for reporting for the next implementation phase from 2021 to 2030 in correspondence with the four priority areas of the new framework for the implementation of the Strategy for the period 2021–2030.
4. The assistance framework could include, subject to the Steering Committee's decision, establishing a "support group" for M&E of the Strategy's implementation, comprised of Steering Committee experts and experienced national focal points who lead the M&E or reporting process in their countries. The "support group" would assist member States in realizing their M&E process through capacity-building activities, such as organizing advisory workshops (in-person and online) at the regional, subregional and national levels, with the latter particularly targeting interested countries' specific needs. Funding for organizing such workshops and provision of assistance by external experts could be provided through member States' financial or in-kind contributions.

5. The timeline for the assistance activities to be undertaken by the “support group” for M&E of the Strategy’s implementation is proposed as follows:

(a) **The first online training (a workshop) to be held on 10-11 October 2023 (two-day online workshop 2-hours each).** The purpose of the workshop will be to explain the structure and the content of the 'framework of indicators' and to provide guidance and assistance to the national working group for M&E of the Strategy’s implementation in completing the template for reporting (ECE/CEP/AC.13/2023/4), including clarifying on: ‘how to answer’ the questions provided in the template; the meaning of the official framework used to facilitate international comparisons of education systems (ISCED-levels); the use of data for UNECE and other (inter)national reporting and other issues of concern.

(b) **In-person regional or sub-regional consultation meeting (a workshop) to be organized in January 2024.** The purpose of the ‘live’ workshop (2/3 days) for interVision with several interested national focal points and experts will be to advise on the issues referred to above, but also to discuss more in-depth about the function and composition of the national working group for M&E; developing of the M&E process on the national level and the way data can be collected to provide incentives for further research.

(c) **In-person targeted consultation meeting on the national level (national workshop) at the request of an interested member State, to be organized between the autumn of 2023 and end of April 2024.** The purpose of the targeted national workshop will be to guide the national focal points (and/or the national working group for M&E) through the process of preparing a national implementation report by advising on the process, including data collection and interpretation of the questionnaire. This type of ‘intensive’ assistance would be targeted on the country’s specific situation and will require ‘intensive’ preliminary preparations.

6. The member States/countries are invited to express their interest in receiving one, two or all of the above proposed types of assistance.

7. Costs for organizing of the above proposed consultation meetings or workshops, including the assistance of external experts, will be discussed between the UNECE secretariat and the countries, who are invited to share the costs both financially and/or in-kind (for example by hosting a meeting in an interested country and bearing/sharing organising costs).

8. Taking into consideration the above proposed timeline of the assistance framework aimed at facilitating the reporting exercise at the national level, to be provided to the national focal points for ESD and basing on the results of recent consultation with the coordinator of the Expert group on Indicators and the Chair of the Steering Committee, **it is proposed to postpone the launching of the fifth mandatory reporting cycle** which was planned initially to be carried out in June 2023 (see agenda item 5: *Preparations for the next mandatory reporting cycle (2021–2025) under the Strategy*) **for one year ahead, i.e. to 2024** and right after the nineteenth session of the Steering Committee to be held tentatively in April or May 2024, with the purpose to give the member States sufficient time for building their capacity in undertaking the process of monitoring and evaluating the Strategy’s implementation on the national level.

9. The proposed new timeline for launching and carrying out the fifth mandatory reporting cycle includes the following main steps:

- To launch the 5th mandatory reporting cycle right **after the 19th Steering Committee meeting to be held in April or May 2024** (depending on the availability of the meeting rooms in the Palais des Nations);
- The deadline for the submission of NIRs will be **30 November 2024**;
- The first draft of the progress report to be presented at the 20th Steering Committee meeting in **May 2025**;
- The final draft of the progress report to be presented at the 21st Steering Committee meeting in **May 2026**.

10. Please find also below a table with the proposed timeline for reporting, as given in the Format for reporting on the implementation of the United Nations Economic Commission

for Europe Strategy for Education for Sustainable Development (2021–2025) ² (ECE/CEP/AC.13/2023/4), which includes revised deadlines (highlighted in red) of the proposed postponed timeline for the preparation and submission of national implementation reports aiming to facilitate the reporting exercise at the national level.

<i>National preparation process</i>	<i>Suggested time required</i>	<i>Tentative timing</i>
Questionnaire to be sent to member States		June 2023
New proposed date		May or beginning June 2024
First draft of report	1 month	1–30 September 2023
New proposed date	1 month	1–30 August 2024
Multi-stakeholder consultation on draft	2 months	1 October–30 November 2023
New proposed date	2 months	1 September–30 October 2024
Final report preparation (including translation, where required)	1 month	1–31 December 2023
New proposed date	1 month	1–30 November 2024
Deadline for submission of national implementation reports to ECE		15 January 2024
New proposed date		30 November 2024
First draft of progress report for ECE region	6 months	June 2024
New proposed date	6 months	May 2025
Discussion and finalization of progress report	6 months	December 2024
New proposed date	12 months	June 2025-May 2026
Submission of final version of progress report to Steering Committee’s twentieth session in 2025		Beginning of 2025
Submission of final version of progress report to Steering Committee’s twenty first session in 2026		May 2026

² Available at https://unece.org/sites/default/files/2023-03/ECE_CEP_AC.13_2023_4_2.pdf