



## **The environmental education in the Bulgarian secondary school**

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The Environmental Education in the Bulgarian secondary School is only one model, taking into consideration the variety of the theme and the traditions of Bulgarian Education and Culture.

In 1997 Bulgarian MES (Ministry of Education and Science) assigned a special committee which developed the state educational requirements of the Environmental Education for all stages of secondary education and for the different school subjects. State Education requirements for Environmental Education have been developed in compliance with: the international regulations for nature preservation; international and Bulgarian legislation; Bulgarian traditions in Education; Science development and good world practices.

The leading concepts of the ecological Education are: directing of education towards sustainable ecological development of the country; Education in Nature; about and through Nature; development of plants of actions as part of the national and school strategies for Environmental Education and behavior; sound knowledge in all subjects of the natural cycle is the base of gaining ecological competences and values; the preserving of environment is not an isolated activity in itself, it is subdued to and in connection with the economic development of the country; the science of ecology in its broad sense is a science about the continuation of the progress, as regards life of our future generations.

The Environmental Education consists in the different stages of the Bulgarian secondary school:

- *Preschool and Elementary education (age of 3–6-10 )* –consist of a system of common notions of the objects, their features and characteristics; natural phenomena; ways of transformation; models of natural behavior and the child's place in the Nature;
- *Primary education (age of 10 –14)*- consist of knowledge and skills about the animated nature which lays the foundations of the ecological and health education of pupils. It is carried through all school subjects but mainly in “Human and Nature” and other interrelated subjects;
- *Secondary education (age of 14 –19)*- builds further knowledge, skills and behavior in K5 and K6 using the interactive school subject of “Human and Nature” and then more in depth in the school subjects of Physics, chemistry, Biology, Geography etc.;
- *Vocational training (age of 14 –19)*- differentiate in all school subjects which prepare specialists in any profession(for example –ecologist).

The aim of the Environmental Education in the Bulgarian school is: to build and develop students' ecological culture as a complete system of knowledge, skills and values in the spheres of science, arts, religion, tradition and customs and as model of activities for the preservation and protection of the Environment.