



ENVIRONMENT & INNOVATION:

Theme 2007/2009

**Climate Change:
Let's Save Energy!**

FEE – Foundation for Environmental Education

Aim and work

Foundation for Environmental Education (FEE) is a non-governmental and non-profit organization aiming to promote sustainable development through environmental education (formal school education, training of staff and general awareness raising). FEE is mainly active through five environmental education programmes: Blue Flag, Eco-Schools, Young Reporters for the Environment, Learning about Forests and Green Key.

Member organisations

FEE is an international umbrella organisation with one national member organisation per country representing FEE on a national level and who is also in charge of implementing FEE programmes nationally. FEE has 67 member organisations in 59 countries worldwide.

When a national organisation is accepted as member of FEE it becomes an "associate member of FEE". Within 3-5 years of FEE membership, the organisation must become a "full member of FEE" (which means that it has fully implemented at least two FEE programmes).

Besides the national FEE member organisations, an international institution/organisation can also become an "affiliate member of FEE" and FEE does furthermore have some individual people as an "honorary member of FEE".

History

The Foundation for Environmental Education in Europe (FEEE) was established in 1981. In the early years of FEEE, the organisation was mostly active through internal meetings, external seminars and conferences and in a number of publications.

The Blue Flag Programme was originally a French idea launched in 1985 in France. In 1987, the idea of the award scheme was presented to FEEE. This year was also the European Year for the Environment initiated by the European

Union, so Blue Flag was launched at a European level (10 countries) in a partnership between FEEE and the European Commission.

In 1987, there were only four national FEEE member organisations (Spain, France, Germany and Denmark). After the launch of Blue Flag in other six European countries, FEEE started to require organisations as members of FEEE in order to run Blue Flag. In the late 1980s and in the beginning of 1990s, big constitutional changes were made within FEEE.

In 1994, the Eco-Schools and the Young Reporters for the Environment Programmes were implemented as second and third programmes of FEEE.

The Learning about Forests Programme (2000) and the Green Key Programme (2003) were already existing programmes and were implemented as FEE (E) programmes with the use of external steering committees.

In the mid-1990s there was a growing interest for FEEE programmes from outside Europe. In a co-operation with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and World Tourism Organization (UNWTO), a manual for coastal zone management with the example of the Blue Flag was produced. With further support from UNEP, workshops were held in the Caribbean, Africa and Asia. An interest grew rapidly in the Caribbean area and solid interest was shown from South Africa.

FEEE was therefore challenged by internationalism and perhaps one of the biggest steps was taken in 2000 when it was decided that FEEE would become a global organisation with future regionalization of the organisation. In 2001, the necessary step was taken and FEEE could no longer limit itself with the inclusion of the last "E" meaning Europe, so the name is now Foundation for Environmental Education (FEE). From 2001, a number of non-European organisations joined membership of FEE.

In 2003, FEE signed a "Memorandum of Understanding" (MoU) with UNEP, which "formalizes long-standing relationship between UNEP and FEE and provides a framework for long term cooperation on areas of common interest relating to education, training and public awareness for sustainable development globally".

This MoU provides a solid basis for furthering the work already undertaken in collaboration between FEE and UNEP, in particular with regards to the introduction of FEE programmes and associated activities, particularly in developing countries and those with economies in transition.

Another MoU was signed in 2007 with the UN World Tourism Organization, where especially the tourism related programmes of FEE were recognised.

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