

## The Future Challenges of Environmental Education in Macedonia

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**Abstract:** The quality of human life and quality of human health is closely related with quality of the environmental conditions. Human beings are faced with a number of global and local dangerous like climate change and global warming, smelting glaziers, depleting ozone layer, forest destroying, desertification, etc. Environmental protection and environmental improvement is one of the strongest future challenges of the modern world. Environmental education is one of the main pillars in the complex system of environmental activities. Environmental Education improves people knowledge and awareness about the protection the environment by improvement and development skills, knowledge and expertise. Contemporary environmental education should be closely linked with sustainable development. The Republic of Macedonia, as a state with candidate status for membership in the European Union, since December 2005, has a number of obligations in many spheres. One of these spheres is the sphere of environment. The situation in field of the environmental education in Macedonia is far from satisfactory position. In primary and secondary schools there are not separate environmental courses. Particularly including the environmental education in other courses is not enough. Besides this that is lack of training for teachers from primary and secondary schools. The situation with environmental education at Macedonian universities is a little bit better. There are some environmental programs at the faculties of technical and technologies sciences, but at the faculties of social economic science, only on few faculties there are some courses dedicated to the environment. There is also a lack of university books and text books in field on the environment. The Macedonian environmental legal regulation contents provisions that stipulate supporting environmental education from the state budget and the budgets of municipalities. Opposite of the legal regulation in the practice, supporting the environmental education from central and local authorities is very poor. Following the way to become member of the EU, The Republic of Macedonia has to pay more attention to the environmental conditions. The intensive activities in field of solving the environmental problems are necessary not only because of the obligations to the Union, on the first place that is necessary for the quality of life of the Macedonian's citizens. Central and local government has to support much more activities in field on the environment. In the frame of those activities environmental education has very important role. Macedonia has to adopt National strategy for the environmental education, that shall built new environmental education. New environmental education will create new public awareness to the environmental degradation and create more responsible citizens who will better understand environmental problems. That type of education will also create professionals, who can face with the future challenges in the sphere of the environmental risks and problems. The aim of this paper is to analyze the situation in field of the environmental situation in the Republic of Macedonia and give some recommendations and give some recommendations for the future activities in this field.

**Keywords:** *Environment, Environmental education, Schools, Universities, Environmental Degradations, Future challenges,*

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