

# Educate for a sustainable way of life with the Earth Charter



Values and Principles for a Sustainable Future

[www.earthcharter.org](http://www.earthcharter.org)

*Which is the purpose of  
**education?***

# Topics for today:

- Comment on the political frame of ESD
- **Review the SD concept and Education for Sustainable Development**
- Know about the Earth Charter as an educational tool
- **Comment on some examples of the Earth Charter in education**
- Reflect on how to apply the ESD in the education practice and share with others.

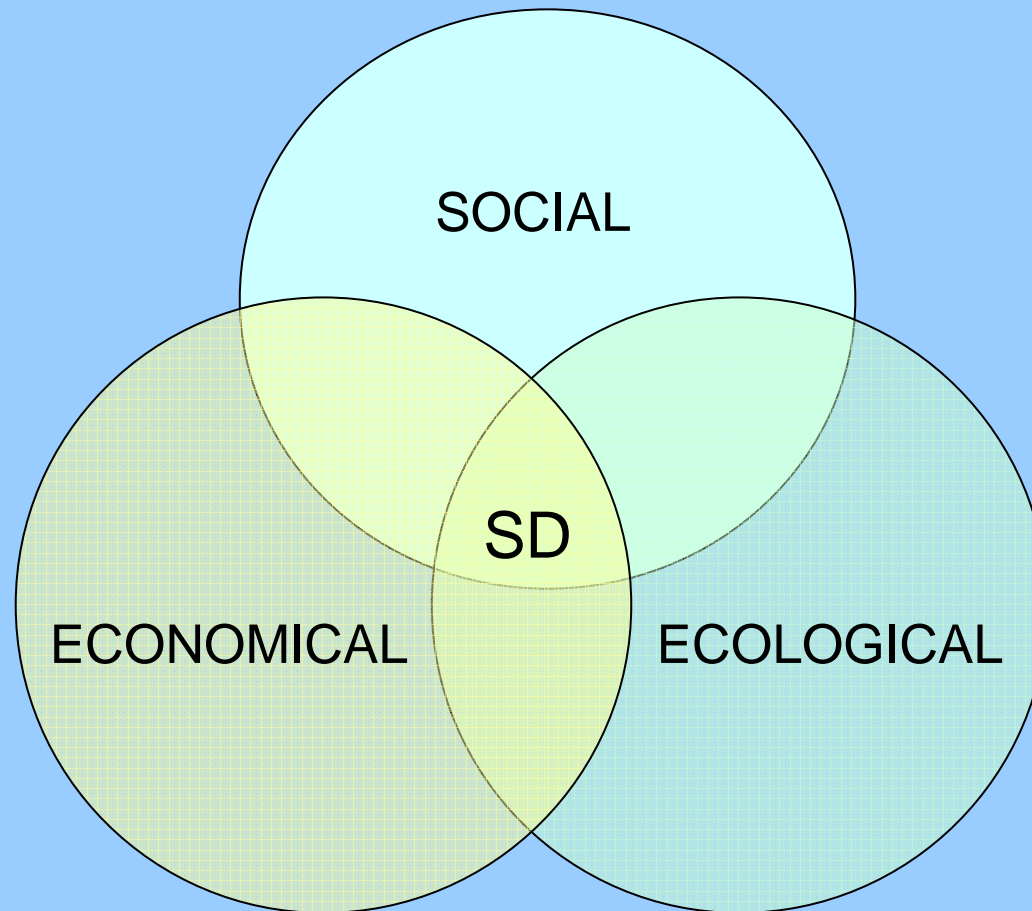
# Political Frame

- United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development – 2005 - 2014



# What is Sustainable Development?

This concept reaffirms the fact that social problems are related to the economical and environmental problems...



*Sustainable development is the one which meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.*

**World Commission on Environment and Development, 1987**

# What is Education for Sustainable Development?

*This kind of education prepares all people to confront and resolve the threats upon the sustainability of our planet.*



# Key Themes in Education for Sustainable Development



- **Overcoming Poverty**
- **Gender Equity**
- **Health**
- **Environmental Protection**
- **Rural Transformation**
- **Human Rights**
- **Intercultural Understanding and Peace**
- **Sustainable Production and Consumption**
- **Cultural Diversity**
- **Information about Technology and Communications**

# Which are the in depth abilities of Education for Sustainable Development?

## The ability to:

- Think in a critical manner
- Communicate effectively (written or orally)
- Collaborate and cooperate with others
- Approach problems with an holistic, integral or systematic vision

## Additional Abilities:

- Be life long learners
- Move from understanding to action



# The teaching/learning process for Education for Sustainable Development must be:

- Student centered
- Very contextual and flexible
- Collaborative
- Transformative
- Participative
- Multidisciplinary in its character

*'How' we educate must be as important as 'what' we teach!*

# **Why could it be a challenge to integrate ESD within the formal education systems?**

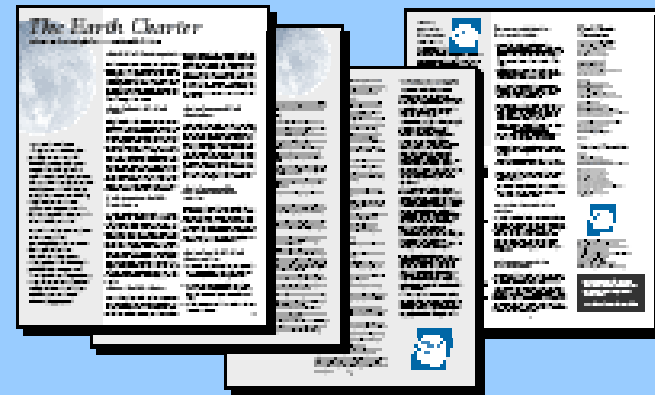
**Because the main characteristics of the formal education systems nowadays are:**

- Competitive**
- Very weak connections between themes**
- Passive learning is the norm**
- Grades are the main motivation**

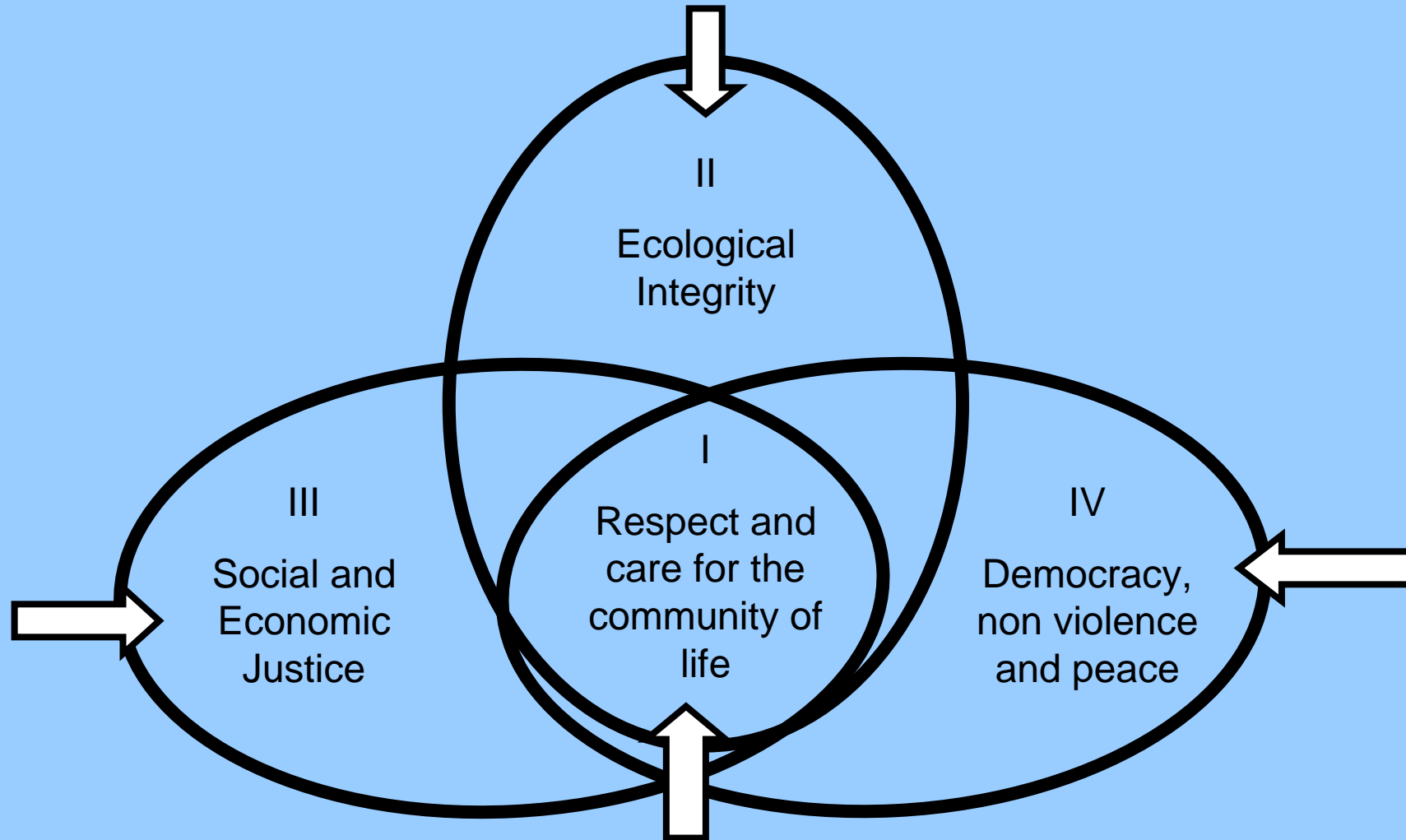
# What is the Earth Charter?

The Earth Charter is a declaration of ethical principles for building a more just, sustainable and peaceful society in the 21 century.

A process of dialogue, alliances and activities

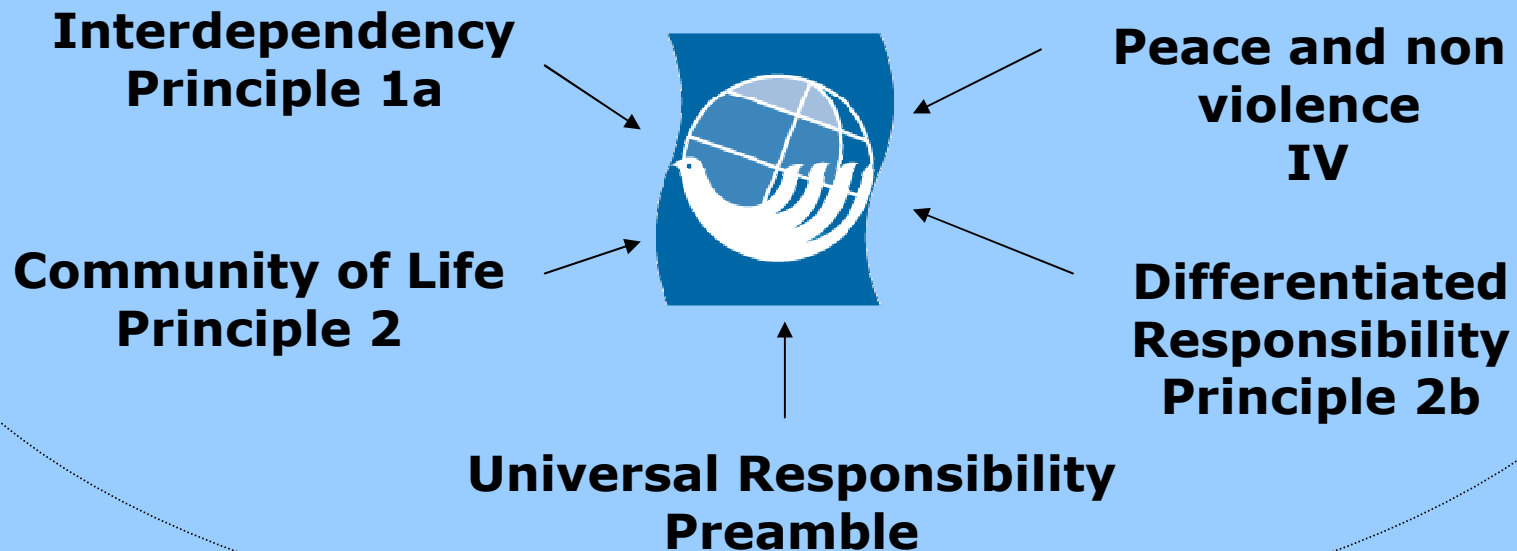


# The systemic nature of the Earth Charter

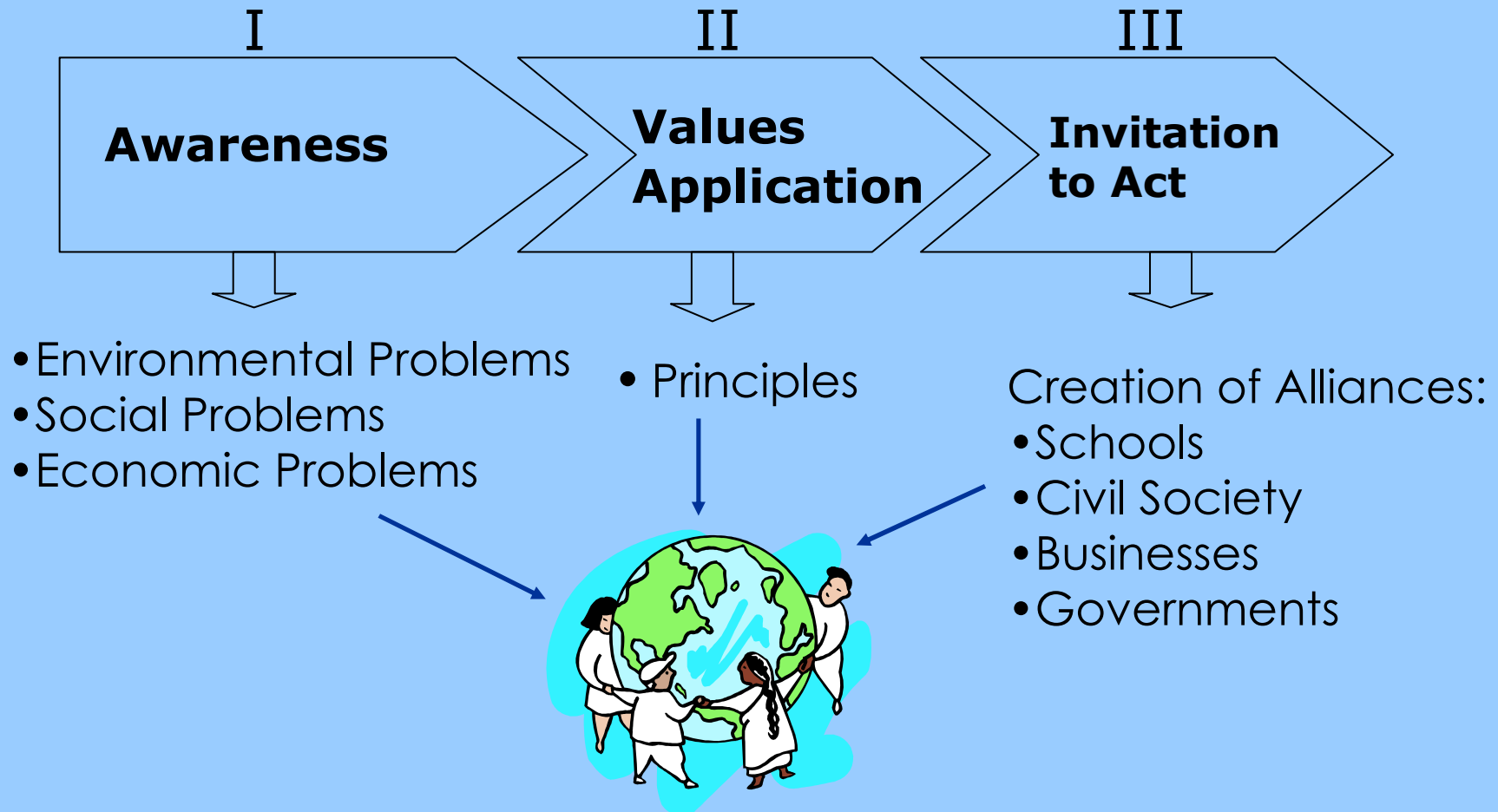


# The Earth Charter's central themes respond to the needs of our society

## Some Earth Charter's Central Themes



# The Earth Charter can advance three fundamental educational objectives

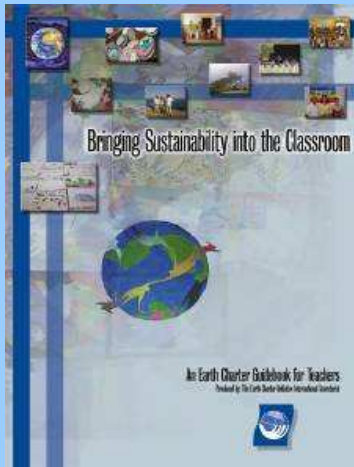


# Why the Earth Charter provides a unique framework for an education on values?

1. It offers an integrated approach
2. Articulates the principles for the promotion of a sustainable future
3. It is a pedagogical tool for a culture of peace

*An Earth Charter data base with resources is available at [www.earthcharter.org/resources](http://www.earthcharter.org/resources)*

# Examples of Earth Charter educational materials



A resource for all  
- An Earth Charter guide for Teachers



Reorienting existing Educational Programs  
- Primary schools in Costa Rica

*The Earth Charter Guide for Teachers and the Costa Rican materials can be downloaded from our webpage*

[www.earthcharter.org](http://www.earthcharter.org)



*How are some people using  
the **Earth Charter** in their  
professional lives?*

# ***Educational experiences with the Earth Charter***

- Communities of Hope Project.  
Arts Teacher: Cardielia Amézcua.  
Michoacán, Mexico.
- Environmental culture workshops through art and the Earth Charter.



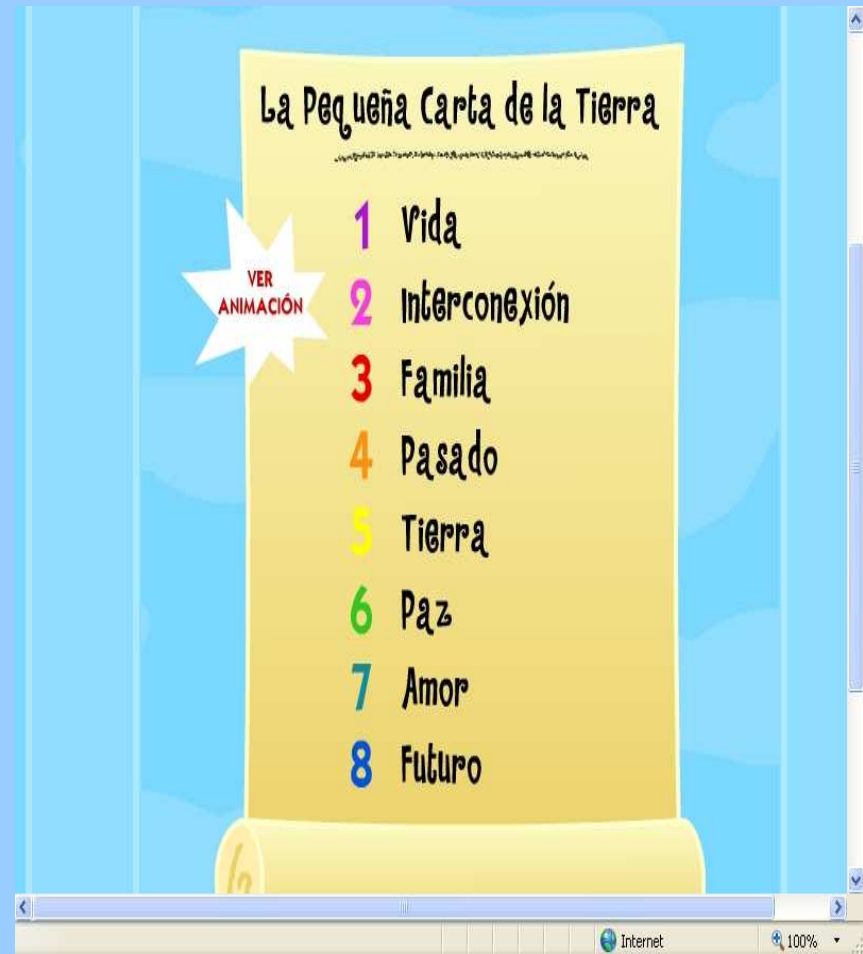
# **Educational experiences with the Earth Charter**



- Education National Institute Seychelles, Africa.
- Sustainability education courses for teachers.

# Educational experiences with the Earth Charter

- The Little Earth Charter, an online multimedia educational project in Canada.
- This is a short curriculum for teachers and parents, regarding values for sustainability ethics.



# Educational experiences with the Earth Charter

**Te llegó una Carta...  
¡Conócela!**

Este **13 de octubre**, de 9:00 a 13:30 hrs.

Unidad de Estudios Superiores  
de Salvatierra, Sala de Usos Múltiples

Unidades UG invitadas  
de Salvatierra y Celaya

**Informes** con el Coordinador del SMA  
de tu Unidad

**Confirma** tu asistencia con  
la Q. Martha Lilia Ramírez R.  
marthali@celaya.ugto.mx

**Cupo limitado**



- Environmental Institutional Program, Guanajuato University Mexico.
- Development of workshops for young students, promoters of the Earth Charter.

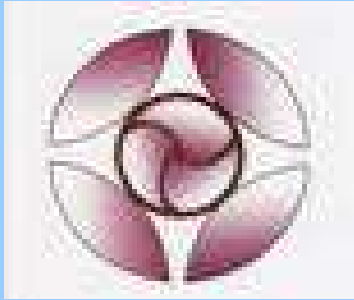
# **Educational experiences with the Earth Charter**

Support of NGOs to Universities and Schools:



FONDAZIONE  
COGEME ONLUS

- *Cogeme Onlus Foundation and the Catholic University in Brescia, Italy: A joint effort to offer courses for teachers and students.*



# FUNDACIÓN VALORES

- *Values Foundation, Spain:*

The Faculty of Education Sciences of the University of Granada has carried out a research project based on the practical interpretation of the 16 principles of the Earth Charter.



# CONCIENCIA ECOLÓGICA DE AGUASCALIENTES

- *Ecological Consciousness of Aguascalientes* and the General Secondary School N°15 in México: Elaboration of booklets for teaching ESD and the Earth Charter.



# Conclusions

- Education for Sustainable Development is about abilities but also about values
- The 'how' is as important as the 'what'
- Besides the fact that there are not many ESD material available, it is necessary to have the active participation of teachers to promote ESD in creative ways.
- The Decade offers the opportunity to advance Sustainable Development Education initiatives at all educational levels.
- The Earth Charter provides a valuable educational framework for Education for Sustainable Development

How can the principles  
of *Sustainable Development*  
and the *Earth Charter* be  
incorporated into the  
national curriculum of Italy?