

## REFEDD's contribution to the World Youth Report 2009 -Youth and Climate Change

In 2008, UNESCO and the UN decade for Education for Sustainable Development asked our network to write and introduce proposals about education for sustainable development in French higher education.

To do this review, we used an important survey that another French organisation realised in 2007 and 2008. 15 000 students in France replied to this survey, it's about 1 per cent of the French students population, a very important part.

After this poll, we introduced the first main ideas and proposals on our website, then any students could say what they thought about these different ideas. It was very important for us to ask French students about these proposals, because we wanted this work be the most representative of students' opinion.

Thanks to this important poll and this online consultation, we decided to keep only four proposals in our outcome document, in our review. The four proposals are divided in 2 kinds, the short-term implementation proposals and the long term ones.

### Short-term implementation proposals:

- First of all, we have to encourage the students to be more active in sustainable development issues. This is the reason why we would like to organise a national competition of sustainable development projects. It could be either practical or theoretical projects. We also aim to reward the involvement with European Credit Transfer System (ECTS), an important involvement SD could give as a good mark to the students who accept to give their time and knowledge for an important environmental cause.
- The second one is to offer each student in France a minimum of knowledge and skills about sustainable development, climate change, ecological crisis, and also about future green economy. It's important to insist on the solutions more than on the problem.

### Long-term implementation proposals:

- For the French students, ESD is not a specific academic discipline but it should be part of all the disciplines we learn at University. We are convinced all disciplines must involve sustainable development. It's impossible to carry on learning for instance law without environment law, or engineering without eco-conception. Ecology, environment protection and social issues should be taught in every academic discipline.
- The last one is to improve and implement all the knowledge and the skills the students could be learning on the campus. In France, notably, the campuses are old, they need to be renovated. But this renovation must be helped by these new eco-students.



With this program and its inexpensive proposals, we think we could face the economic and ecological crisis we are going through. The green business act we need to conclude with the population and the Planet requires a new generation of leaders, a new generation of workers aware of these environmental issues. The proposals we introduce to the UN decade for Education for Sustainable Development have the final goal to educate a new generation of leaders: the change's leaders.