

**The 27th Conference of the Parties of the UNFCCC (COP27)**

**Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt**

**6-18 November, 2022**

**Side Event Concept Note**

**Date:** Thursday 10 November - 11:30—13:00 – Thutmose Room (150)

**Title:** Education for Climate Change: Towards more resilient communities in different regions

**Lead Organization:** Universite Mohammed V de Rabat (UM5R)

**Co-organizer:** RAED-Arab Network for Environment and Development, Virginia Tech & Ministry of Education, Sport and Youth in Cyprus

**Background**

Many communities have increasingly being exposed & vulnerable to a variety of hazards and pressures leading to stresses & shocks that impact their everyday lives. These set back sustainable development gains, and slow down progress in achieving the SDGs and regional strategies

Climate Change (CC) is real and a rapidly evolving threat for humanity. It is one of the focus areas of Environment for Sustainable Development Decade ESD, through which concerned organizations strive to ensure that all generations understand the impact of CC, face its challenges and are better equipped to take action to protect natural resources &

Thus, it is extremely needed to create a new cohort of effective, well-developed, ethical leaders and followers, through equipping young people with the knowledge, leadership experience, skills and network they need to deliver positive change in the world as environmental / climate activists.

Education for Climate has been one of the main fields that has proven to be very important to face climate change challenges. The Arab Region has been witnessing a remarkable progress in this field, not only in the formal education but in informal and non-formal education, as well.

**Objectives**

* Build on the Climate Change Initiative for the Eastern Mediterranean and Middle East (EMME) Region (ECCI), which was a response led by the Government of the Republic of Cyprus to the growing scientific evidence that the extent of climate change and the severity of its consequences in the EMME region significantly exceeds the global average, and specifically the Task Force on “Climate Change in the EMME region: Education and Outreach.”
* Build on the outcomes of the Ninth Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference (Sustainable Infrastructure, Sustainable Tourism, Education for Sustainable Development),held in Nicosia-Cyprus, 5-7 of October 2022
* Share the work that universities like Virginia Tech are doing to promote education on climate change
* An opportunity to discuss challenges facing education for climate and available opportunities such as exchange of experience and potential partnerships between north-south the Mediterranean.
* Showcase the different minors and courses being developed to offer students opportunities to become involved and knowledgeable of the issue.
* showcase models and experience sharing on practices and various activities to apply education for climate in schools and universities.

**Expected Outputs**

* Determine how education for building capacities young people can be effective to face climate change impacts.
* Identify challenges facing the region concerning achieving progress in the field of education and climate change.
* Highlight potential partnerships and exchange of experience different regions of the world.
* Identify / highlight best practices and activities implemented in universities and schools targeting students and educators and impacting the local community at wide.

**Draft Agenda**

Moderator: Dr. Emad Adly

Opening remarks (10 min each):

* Prof Souad El Hajjaji, Vice Dean, Faculty of Sciences - Université Mohammed V de Rabat
* Virginia Tech
* Mr Neophytos Papadopoulos, Permanent Secretary of the Cyprus Minister of Education, Sport and Youth

Panel discussion (60 min)

**Panelists:**

Questions for the panel discussion (each panelist will respond to one question, and contribute to the other questions):

1. How can education strengthen youth capacities to fight against climate crises;
2. What transformations needed for being education institutions resilient and efficient organizations against climate change; Do you have any examples or good practices to share at national and regional context;
3. What challenges we are facing as a region and as countries for working more effectively with CCE in formal, non-formal and in-formal levels;
4. How the results of the scientific report of climate change education in the EMME region can be used by countries to strengthen climate change education in their education systems;
5. How the Med. Action Plan for ESD2030 can operate.

* **Ministry of Education - Egypt**
* **Ms. Aravella Zachariou, Ministry of Education - Cyprus**
* **Dr. Mahmoud Fathallah, LAS**
* **Prof. Michael Scoullos (MIO-ECSDE) & University of Athens**
* **Prof. Mohamed Ftouhi, Université Mohammed V de Rabat**
* **Egyptian Sustainable Development Forum (ESDF)**
* **Professor (tbc), Virginia Tech University**

Q&A session (15 min)

Closing remarks (5 min)