

SPARE Goes Global

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The school educational programme SPARE has developed a new strategy and is inviting partners in new countries. The first phase of its globalisation is an international school competition on energy efficiency and renewable energy.

In April 2006, INFORSE-Europe and SPARE held a school energy-education workshop for Eastern Europe, Caucasus, and Central Asia. The three-day event in St. Petersburg, Russia, summarised previous experiences and developed strategies for future expansion of the NGOs' activities in the field of energy education.

The SPARE educational program is designed and promoted by NGOs for secondary-school education in countries where energy and environment are not on the schools' ordinary agendas. It is used by thousands of schools in elective courses, in club activities or by integrating parts of it into the teaching of other subjects. The educational program highlights practical tasks and challenges the pupils to take measures for real energy-saving in schools and at home.

Competition

A way to attract interest for the activities is to hold school competitions. The workshop participants selected the winners of the first year's international competition. In Russia, the selection of winners has gone through several steps. In the most active places, local competitions were held to nominate participants for the seven super-regional finals, which in turn nominated candidates for the All-Russian competition. Five works from each of the 13 participating countries were submitted to the international SPARE competition. The invitation for next year's competition is available, and organisations that want to coordinate national competitions in new countries are welcome to join in these activities.

SPARE Schools

After ten years of active development, a new generation of educational materials on energy is to be produced. It will keep dissemination costs low through the use of short posters/handouts that highlight crucial points in sustainable energy development. As before, teacher training will be one of the main strategies to spread energy education. Finally, SPARE will now develop a system for individual schools to join in and register as SPARE school.



Photos from the SPARE-INFORSE workshop, in St Petersburg, and the winners of the first year's competition



What is SPARE ?

"School Project for Application of Resources and Energy" (SPARE) is an energy-education project launched by the Norwegian Society for the Conservation of Nature (FoE Norway) in 1996.

SPARE is mainly spread in the CIS countries: Azerbaijan, Armenia, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Russia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Ukraine, and Poland.

FoE Norway is member of INFORSE-Europe. In 2006, some of the SPARE activities became part of INFORSE-Europe network activities.

See previous articles in Sustainable Energy News No. 29, 2000 on activities in Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Hungary, Czech Republic, and Russia in 1996-99.

INFORSE school resource database:
www.inforse.org/europe/schools/spare.htm

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ESEEF School Project and Conference in Budapest, April 2006

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The International Conference on Energy and Education, April 6-7, 2006, Budapest, Hungary was organised by the European Sustainable Energy Education Forum (ESEEF) within the framework of an ALTENER Project. Among the partners of the Project are INFORSE-Europe member organisations such as OVE from Denmark and CLER from France.

Read more at
http://www.inforse.org/europe/conf_edu_Budapest06.htm, with links to the INFORSE-Europe school resource database, and the web site of the project: www.school4energy.net

