



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization



UNESCO Institute
for Information Technologies
in Education



Teachers of the Arctic



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*Every
person – child, youth and
adult – shall be able to benefit
from educational opportunities
designed to meet their basic
learning needs.*

World Declaration on Education for All

The purpose of the project

The purpose of the project on Teachers of the Arctic is double:

- ◆ first, to modernize the Education system by training a new type of teacher – a teacher prepared to meet the challenges of minority cultures and languages and to inculcate an awareness of environmental issues in young people; and
- ◆ second, lay the foundations for what, it is hoped, will be a partnership with countries having circumpolar populations.

Given the considerable potential of ICT to alleviate some of the problems of Arctic isolation, the project will include a component in which ICT user competencies will be clarified and incorporated into the skill profile of future teachers.



Project goals

The goals of the project are consistent with the EFA's central tenet, the right to education, as well as the 2003 WSIS principles, the Second International Decade of the World's Indigenous People and the UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development. Its primary goal is to ensure that school-aged children enjoy a quality of schooling comparable to what is available in sub-Arctic settings while at the same time being more in tune with Arctic community realities.

A two-pronged approach is planned. Relying on the potential of ICT to meet management and instructional challenges, the first will be at the level of the Ministry itself. To ensure the relevance and cost-effectiveness of the education system it manages, the Ministry needs a reliable database. The project will, therefore, introduce a computer-based information management system known as EMIS. Developed and extensively tested by UNESCO over the past decade, this system has proven its worth in correcting systemic dysfunctions.

The second front is at the level of the school itself. To be sustainable, changes in the classroom must be internally driven. Summer vacation seminars, occasional visits from Ministry staff, teachers manuals – all have their role but are not, by themselves, sufficient. Needed is someone on the inside and no one is better placed to

guide the change process than the school head teacher. He/she typically:

- ◆ enjoys the respect of the community and can enlist its active participation,
- ◆ knows and enjoys the trust of the staff and students of the school; and
- ◆ being properly trained, can bring about real change by providing sustained support to classroom teachers.

With that in mind, then, the re-training of school head teachers using modern ICT technology and enabling them with mobile learning facilities and open educational resources will be the second programmatic thrust of the pilot project.

Project design

Reflecting the perceived need for a systemic approach, the project has four components:

Module 1

will, first, and with full stakeholder involvement, prepare /finalize the draft task analysis of the full range of primary /secondary head teacher responsibilities. Later, it will design and produce the training materials

Module 2

will be responsible for, first, identifying relevant resource persons and then, for planning, managing and evaluating all training

Module 3

will identify and prepare the texts and manuals needed to teach eventual life skills (e.g. animal husbandry for reindeer, environmental protection, minority languages) using mobile devices

Module 4

will function as the "programme implementation unit". As overall project Coordinator, it will also be responsible for all monitoring and reporting requirements. Substantively, it will arrange for the introduction of EMIS into the work of the Ministry's planners and statisticians

Executing agencies

The project is to be implemented by the UNESCO's Institute for Information Technologies in Education based in Moscow in close collaboration with the Ministry of Education of the Republic of Sakha (Yakutia). The project will be piloted in the Republic of Sakha (Yakutia), Russia and open for other regions and countries of the Arctic.

Project launch conference

The conference is scheduled to take place in Yakutsk from 3 to 6 August, 2010. Participants will be asked to clarify and approve the goals, activities and methods of the project. The Conference will close with project's official launching.